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**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

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Meeting Date: December 08, 2008 **Start Time:** 2:05 p.m. **Adjournment:** 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry R. Allen, Vonciel Jones Hill, Pauline Medrano, Angela Hunt, Ron Natinsky

Committee Members Absent:

Carolyn R. Davis, Absent on city business

Other Council Members Present:

David A. Neumann

City Executive Staff Present:

Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager
Jill Jordan, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for October 27, 2008

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the October 27, 2008 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Medrano

Passed unanimously

2. DART D2 LRT Alignment and Streetcars in Central Business District

Presenters: Jay Kline, Director of Program Planning, Dallas Area Rapid Transit
Steve Salin, Assistant Vice President, Dallas Area Rapid Transit

Mr. Kline gave the Committee a status report on the planning for a downtown streetcar system. He defined this effort to include development of a governance plan for owning and operating a streetcar system, a financing plan, and route system that complements existing and planned light rail transit. His presentation included a review of the alignment alternatives being considered. Streetcars will be discussed

in more detail at the Committee's joint meeting with the DART Board on January 26, 2009.

Mr. Salin briefed the Committee on the alternatives analysis for the second light rail alignment in the CBD. His presentation included a virtual tour of alternatives that are being considered with a discussion of their potential costs, economic development potential and ability to serve the new Convention Center Hotel.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop stated that it was important for the City to partner with DART to develop our streetcar system. She indicated that a West Dallas rail alignment was on DART's 2030 System Plan for light rail, but that a streetcar might be a better alternative. Ms. Koop asked about the cost per mile for streetcars. Mr. Kline suggested that the cost is roughly \$15 to \$25 million per mile. Ms. Koop asked staff to give the Committee an update on the status of the planned extension of the McKinney Avenue Trolley into downtown.

Ms. Hunt stated that economic growth around streetcar lines is significant and suggested that this should factor in deciding where to locate streetcars. Ms. Hunt asked if a local government corporation (LGC) could be used as a governance mechanism. Ms. Koop stated that would be possible, but that a new transit authority wouldn't be created due to restrictions from the Regional Transportation Council.

Mr. Neumann indicated his support for development of a streetcar system and asked how North Oak Cliff could fit into the streetcar plan. Mr. Kline stated that there would be options, but that DART was focused primarily on the downtown area initially. As the study begins to narrow the options for the core system, staff would also look at how extensions could be added to serve other areas.

Ms. Koop asked DART to research options, and specifically asked if several small circulators connected to the LRT lines, rather than long streetcar lines going out as spokes, could be a better approach for Dallas.

Mr. Kadane asked if the D2 LRT line could be done by 2014. Mr. Salin stated that if all the funding can be identified, it can be completed by 2014. Mr. Kadane asked when this would be brought back to the Committee. Mr. Salin stated that the draft EIS would be completed in the spring of 2009 and the final EIS early 2010 when preliminary engineering is complete. He indicated that DART expected to be back to the Committee in May 2009 with a recommended plan.

Mr. Natinsky asked if the newly built townhouses near Farmer's Market would be removed for the new LRT. Mr. Salin stated that this was the case for one of the proposed alignments. Mr. Natinsky suggested that DART consider staying underground in order to not disturb this new development, and stated that he was

not in favor of taking out new development. Mr. Natinsky also stated his opposition to the proposed moving walkway to connect to the new Convention Center Hotel. He preferred that the hotel be served as directly as possible.

Mr. Allen asked about level of funding yet to be identified for the project. Mr. Salin stated that only \$200 million is currently unidentified, but they hope to work that out before DART returns to the Committee with a recommendation in May 2009.

No action was taken on this item.

3. Alternative to People Mover at Love Field

Presenter: Dan Weber, Director, Department of Aviation

Mr. Weber briefed the Committee on a review of alternatives for connecting the DART Love Field LRT Station and the Love Field terminal with a lower cost solution than the recommendation presented at the September 22, 2008 TEC meeting. The three alternatives reviewed were: (1) a single lane shuttle, building both tunnels; (2) a single lane bypassing shuttle in a single tunnel; and, (3) a single lane shuttle in a single tunnel.

Staff recommended that the City begin schematic design for the single lane bypassing shuttle option to keep the project on schedule and to refine cost estimates. A supplemental agreement to develop the schematic design will be developed for Council consideration in April 2009. It is anticipated that staff will report back to the Committee on the project budget, schedule, and financing in November 2009.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop asked if the schematic design is finalized in 2009, when would the construction be complete. Mr. Miguez stated that staff is still projecting 2014.

Mr. Natinsky asked if it would be cost efficient to bore the two tunnels at the same time and reserve one for future use. Mr. Miguez stated that this would be examined as an option in the schematic design phase.

Mr. Allen asked about the sources of funding for the project. Mr. Miguez stated that most of the funding would come from users of the airport with a portion coming from DART and RTC commitments. Mr. Miguez stated that staff feels fairly confident that this plan is affordable. He added that staff still wants to look into providing a single off-site facility for car rentals which could provide a significant revenue source to help offset the costs of this project.

Ms. Koop asked that this item be brought back to the Committee at the joint meeting with the DART Board on January 26, 2009.

No action was taken on this item.

4. The Path to 2060: Dallas' Water Plan Update: Reuse Partnership with North Texas Municipal Water District

Presenters: Jody Puckett, Director, Water Utilities

Ms. Puckett provided a summary of the contract between Dallas and the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) for the temporary pass-through of water through Lake Ray Hubbard, the water swap of Dallas' permitted reuse from its Central and/or Southside Wastewater treatment plants in return for NTMWD's permitted reuse discharges in Lake Ray Hubbard. The Committee was asked to support the approval of the contract with NTMWD at the December 10, 2008 Council meeting.

Ms. Puckett also asked the Committee to consider an engineering services contract with the firm of CH2M Hill for the Lake Ray Hubbard Indirect Recycled Water Phase I Flows Transfer Project. This contract will allow detailed analysis of alternative pipeline, intake structure, and pump stations to determine the most beneficial locations for each. This item is being prepared for a January 2009 Council Agenda.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Hill asked if the permits were already in place for the water swap agreement. Staff confirmed that reuse permits are in place.

Ms. Koop asked if the wetlands that we are using have already been built and if they are part of the Trinity River Project. Mr. Miguez stated that they have already been built but they are not part of the Trinity River Project. The wetlands being used belong to the North Texas Municipal Water District.

Motion was made to move these items forward to full Council December 10, 2008 and in January, 2009.

Made by: Hill

Seconded by: Natinsky

Passed unanimously

5. Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant – Dewatering Facility Improvements

Presenter: Jody Puckett, Director, Water Utilities

Ms. Puckett briefed the Committee on a project to design a new dewatering facility at the Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant. The facility separates water and solids generated during the wastewater treatment process and provides for the disposal of

solids on dedicated land disposal field.

The Committee was asked to support the approval of a supplemental agreement for additional engineering services for the project that will be presented to City Council December 10, 2008.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Natinsky asked if the facility is actually in worse shape than it appears to be in the presentation. Ms. Puckett stated that it was in bad shape and would cost more to repair than to build a new facility. Mr. Natinsky asked if the new facility would be more efficient than the existing one. Staff confirmed that it would be more efficient.

Motion was made to move this item forward to full Council December 10, 2008.

Made by: Natinsky

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

6. Items for Discussion

• **Status of Dallas Bicycle Plan Update**

Mr. Brunk gave a brief summary of the status of this project. The Regional Transportation Council will provide \$300,000 and the City of Dallas \$75,000 to do an update of the 1985 Bicycle Plan. The project is scheduled to begin in May 2009. The Council expressed their excitement about this project. Ms. Hunt stated that the community is excited as well.

• **Dallas Morning News Article from 11/26/08 – Carona and Watson: Time for Texas to face transportation woes**

This topic was not discussed and no action was taken.

• **Fort Worth Star-Telegram Article from 11/29/08 – Former Governors say Oklahoma should sell water to Tarrant**

This topic was not discussed and no action was taken.

Linda L. Koop (NB)

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee