

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

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**Meeting Date:** January 12, 2009 **Start Time:** 2:10 p.m. **Adjournment:** 3:57 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, Carolyn R. Davis

**Committee Members Absent:**

None

**Other Council Members Present:**

Dwaine R. Caraway, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

**City Executive Staff Present:**

Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**1. Approval of Minutes for December 8, 2008**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the December 8, 2008 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Natinsky

Passed unanimously

**2. East Corridor: An I-30/US 80 Design**

**Presenters:** Tim Nesbitt, Project Manager, Texas Department of Transportation  
Matt Craig, Civil Engineer, Half Associates  
James Frye, Landscape Architect and Urban Designer, HNTB

Mr. Nesbitt provided an overview of the East Corridor Project, and then handed off the briefing to Mr. Craig and Mr. Frye to discuss the functional design of the roadway and the urban design concepts, respectively. Mr. Nesbitt emphasized that funding has not yet been identified so there is currently no timeframe for constructing the project.

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Ms. Hunt asked about the relationship between this project and the Pegasus project in terms of schedule and design. Mr. Nesbitt stated that the roadway designs for the two projects are compatible. He indicated that neither has a schedule yet, but that the Pegasus project would have to be built first to allow for construction of the East Corridor project. Ms. Hunt stated that she supports the landscaping elements that are proposed for this project and stressed that it was important to choose plant materials that are well-suited to our region.

Ms. Hill asked if the funding for the Pegasus project had been identified. Mr. Nesbitt stated that funding had only been acquired for the portion of the Pegasus project that involves I-30 over the Trinity River between Sylvan Avenue and the Mixmaster. Ms. Hill asked where the additional needed funding would be found. Mr. Nesbitt stated that the source of the funding would be primarily federal funds. Ms. Hill asked if funding for the East Corridor project would be from the same source. Mr. Nesbitt stated that was correct, although there would also be opportunities for city, county, private funding and possibly tax-increment financing district funding. He stated that in 2006 prices, the East Corridor project was estimated to cost about \$1.6 billion.

Ms. Hill also asked about the use of fixed concrete barriers for the HOV lanes and its effect on entrances and exits. Ms. Hill suggested that there be more entrances and exits than on I-35E (South) HOV lanes. Mr. Nesbitt stated that there would be fixed HOV barriers but that the entrances and exits would be based on the major traffic destination demands.

Mr. Kadane asked how much of this project would be funded by TxDOT and how much would be private partnership funds. Mr. Nesbitt stated that TxDOT and the federal government would fund the basic skeleton of the project.

Ms. Davis asked if this project would be coordinated with the Fair Park Master Plan and if community meetings would be held as was done for the Fair Park plan. It was confirmed that both would be done. Ms. Davis asked if 2006 bond program funds would be used for this project. Staff stated that any City funding would have to come from a future bond program.

No action was taken on this item.

**3. Update on Railroad Quiet Zones**

**Presenter:** John Brunk, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Brunk updated the Committee on the Railroad Quiet Zone Plan that had been

presented to the TEC in February 2007. Mr. Brunk gave an overview of the Federal Railroad Administration process for establishing quiet zones and a status report on the City's quiet zone studies.

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Ms. Davis asked if there were already quiet zones implemented in the Fair Park and MLK Station areas. Mr. Brunk stated that there were currently no quiet zones within the City of Dallas, but that he would meet with Ms. Davis to discuss potential locations in her district. Mr. Brunk stated that the quiet zones relate mainly to freight corridors and do not apply to DART trains. Ms. Davis was concerned with Union Pacific RR crossings at Spring, Sycene and Hatcher.

Mr. Kadane asked if quiet zones would be possible on the KCS line through East Dallas if funding can be identified. Mr. Brunk confirmed that a quiet zone could be implemented in that corridor, but that there would be design challenges at several of the crossings. Mr. Brunk stated that about \$1.8 million in federal funds have already been ear-marked for this corridor, but the City needs to provide a local match of \$450,000 in the next bond program.

Ms. Medrano asked how far the quiet zone would run on Market Center Boulevard. Mr. Brunk stated that the quiet zone must be a minimum of one-half mile, so the quiet zone at Market Center would be in effect one-quarter mile on either side of the street.

No action was taken on this item.

**4. Water System Leak Detection Program**

**Presenters:** Charles Stringer, Assistant Director, Dallas Water Utilities  
Randy Payton, Program Manager, Dallas Water Utilities

Mr. Payton briefed the Committee on the City's new Water System Leak Detection Program. He went over the history of the program, the current focus of the program, and its achievements.

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Ms. Davis asked what happens once a leak is determined and can DWU's equipment be used to determine the severity of the leak. Mr. Payton explained that once a leak is reported, DWU responds within 24 hours. A pro-active survey assessment is preformed, but this is used to pinpoint the location of the leak. After the location is determined, it is marked on the pavement and other utilities are notified before any digging is done.

Ms. Davis asked who determines which areas need attention for the next year's work plan. Mr. Miguez stated that DWU looks at their records to assess the age of pipes in the City, what materials were used for the pipes, and what other issues there have been with pipes in each area – all that information is used to design a work plan for the upcoming year. Ms. Davis asked how long pipes last and if outdated pipes had all been replaced in her district. Mr. Miguez said that the life span for pipes varies depending on a number of environmental factors. He said that staff would get information to Ms. Davis about pipes in her district after the meeting.

Mr. Kadane asked if certain areas of the City have more trouble with pipes than others. Mr. Miguez indicated that there are challenges all over the City. Mr. Kadane asked if leaks detected through this program were waiting to be repaired or had already been repaired. Mr. Payton stated that leaks are generally repaired within fourteen days of detection.

No action was taken on this item.

*Linda L. Koop* (initials)

Linda L. Koop, Chair  
Transportation and Environment Committee

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