

## TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) meetings are recorded. Agenda materials and audiotapes may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Public Works and Transportation TEC Staff Coordinator at 214.670.4545.

**Meeting Date:** January 11, 2010    **Start Time:** 11:45 a.m.    **Adjournment:** 1:49 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry Allen, Tennell Atkins, Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Delia Jasso, Pauline Medrano, Ron Natinsky, and Vonciel Jones Hill

**Committee Members Absent:**

None

**Other Council Members Present:**

Dwaine Caraway, Ann Margolin, and David Neumann

**DART Board Members Present**

Scott Carlson, John Carter Danish, Pamela Dunlop Gates, Angel Reyes, Robert Strauss, William Tsao, William Velasco, Tracey Whitaker, and Claude Williams

**City Executive Staff Present:**

Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager

### TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes for December 14, 2009**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Approval of the minutes was considered after the Committee/DART Board Discussion. Motion was made to approve the minutes for the December 14, 2009 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Natinsky

Passed unanimously

2. **Committee/DART Board Discussion Related to Current and Future Rail/Bus Transit Projects and Operations Affecting the City of Dallas**

**Presenter:** Gary Thomas, Executive Director/President of DART

Mr. Thomas gave a brief presentation highlighting the construction status of the Green and Orange LRT lines, plans for future rail transit expansion including the second LRT line through downtown (D2), and the decision to purchase natural gas powered buses.

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Ms. Koop thanked the DART Board Members for attending and congratulated Mr. Velasco on his appointment as Chair of the DART Board.

Ms. Koop suggested that Dallas Council members look at the 2030 system plan and take into account the location of future rail transit lines when making land use and zoning decisions.

Ms. Koop asked the DART Board to comment on ways that the Council can help provide direction on DART issues.

Mr. Velasco asked the Committee to summarize their position in regard to the D2 Project. Ms. Koop stated that the Committee had evaluated the four final alignments, and had decided to support the alignment that provided direct service to the new Convention Center hotel. She asked DART staff about the status of the alternatives analysis and when the City Council should take an official position on a preferred alignment. Mr. Thomas indicated that DART is in the final phase of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). Mr. Steve Salin, with DART, stated that the next step will be to formalize the draft EIS in February or March, then the DART Board will hold a public meeting and ask the City of Dallas to review the document and pass a resolution supporting an alignment.

Ms. Jasso reminded everyone that Oak Cliff wanted to be certain that rail transit planning efforts provided an optimum way to provide streetcar service between downtown and Oak Cliff. Mr. Neumann agreed with Ms. Jasso about streetcar service to Oak Cliff. He also stated that he is supportive of the second downtown LRT alignment that connects with the Convention Center hotel.

Mr. Natinsky commented that in regards to the Convention Center LRT alignment, DART and the City of Dallas need to approach it as a partnership. The City needs to help DART find ways to get the project done.

Mr. Caraway stated that he supports DART and asked DART to make it a priority to identify creative ways to upgrade the Lancaster LRT corridor so that it would be comparable to more recent LRT lines.

Mr. Atkins thanked Mr. Thomas and Ms. Gates for meeting with him. He said that there are community concerns as to whether the LRT extension to the new UNT campus should be on the east or west side of the police station. Mr. Atkins stated that the residents were looking at the east side. Mr. Thomas said that this Blue Line extension is scheduled to open in 2018 and that there would continue to be meetings with the community to talk about the alignment. He indicated that grade separated rail-street crossings are normally based on traffic warrants, but in this case the topography may dictate that a grade separation be provided.

Ms. Davis asked if DART has plans to look at clean energy gas for bus operations. Mr. Thomas stated that the Board had approved the purchase of natural gas powered buses.

Mr. Neumann asked how far south the West Oak Cliff line would be extended. Mr. Thomas stated that the 2030 Plan calls for the line to go to Red Bird Lane near I-20.

Mr. Tsao noted that DART will be making major revisions to its bus service plan in order to complement the new LRT transit lines.

Mr. Velasco said that he would like to see more planning effort regarding development around new LRT stations. He indicated that Garland and Irving seem to be ahead of Dallas. Ms. Koop said that the Committee will put transit-oriented development on a future Committee agenda. She asked staff to provide copies of the forwardDallas! Plan for the DART Board members.

Mr. Carlson described the status of DART's project to rehabilitate and use the Monroe Shops.

No action was taken on this item.

**3. Lobbyist Registration Ordinance**

**Presenter:** Tom Perkins, City Attorney

Tom Perkins briefed the Committee and DART Board on the Lobbyist Registration Ordinance.

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

No action was taken on this item.

Linda L. Koop, Chair  
Transportation and Environment Committee

