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**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

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**Meeting Date:** February 9, 2009    **Start Time:** 2:05 p.m.    **Adjournment:** 4:07 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

**City Executive Staff Present:**

Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**1. Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2009**

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the February 9, 2009 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Medrano

Passed unanimously

**2. Billboard Relocation Code Amendments**

**Presenter:** David Cossum, Assistant Director, Development Services

Mr. Cossum briefed the Committee on proposed Code amendments related to the relocation provisions for billboards impacted in land acquisition by a governmental entity. Mr. Cossum gave an overview of the current rules and presented proposals that had been developed in cooperation with the billboard industry, and reviewed by the Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee.

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Mr. Kadane asked for clarification of the allowable sign height when the freeway main lanes are at a lower grade than the service roads. Mr. Cossum stated that the sign can be no more than 42½ feet above the grade of the main lanes. The City Attorney's Office confirmed that even if the highway is below grade, the height requirement is measured from the freeway main lanes.

Ms. Hunt indicated that she supports the proposed Code revisions with the exception of the relocation of signs in relation to the Trinity River. She stated that the Trinity River is one of our greatest scenic assets and it would be a mistake to allow signage even by specific use permit. Ms. Hunt asked if the 2000 foot distance listed in the ordinance is measured from the levee, which Mr. Cossum confirmed. Ms. Hunt asked that the specific use permit clause related to distance from the Trinity River be removed from the ordinance.

Ms. Koop agreed that we did not want to adversely affect the Trinity River Corridor, and suggested that there was also a need to be careful not to impact other arterial thoroughfare corridors as they come into the City. Mr. Cossum stated that when a billboard is relocated, it must be relocated within the original corridor.

Ms. Davis asked if this proposal was specifically for the Trinity River or for all signage. Mr. Cossum explained that the proposals are intended to apply to all signage that needs to be relocated due to governmental action. Ms. Davis suggested to Mr. Miguez that billboards around the Trinity River and on Industrial Boulevard should be brought before the Trinity River Committee.

Mr. Natinsky asked for a map of LO, MO and GO zoning districts. Mr. Cossum stated that he would provide the requested map. Mr. Natinsky asked if the proposals cover video boards. Mr. Cossum stated that the amendments would not allow video boards because enhancing the signs is not permitted.

Motion was made to recommend adoption for this ordinance with the exclusion of the specific use permit being used for the Trinity River Corridor.

Made by: Hunt                      Seconded by: Hill                      Motion was withdrawn

Motion was made to delay action on this ordinance and ask staff to research and develop responses to the issues raised by the Committee. This item will be brought back to the Committee at a later date.

Made by: Hunt                      Seconded by: Medrano                      Passed unanimously

### **3. Nonconsent Motor Vehicle Tows – Potential Code Amendments**

**Presenters:** John Brunk, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation  
Gary Titlow, Program Manager, Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Brunk briefed the Committee regarding potential changes to Chapter 48A of the City Code regulating vehicle tow services. The changes to the Code are being suggested to improve the City's ability to protect the public's interests relating to nonconsent tows from private property.

#### **Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Ms. Davis asked if the proposed changes would put towing companies completely out of business. Mr. Brunk stated that changes are intended to further define the rules that companies must follow to do business within the City of Dallas. Ms. Davis suggested that the City provide a program to educate tow companies on our City Code regulations.

Mr. Natinsky asked if staff had shared the proposed changes with the towing industry. Mr. Brunk stated that the suggestions contained in the briefing had not been shared with the industry yet.

Mr. and Mrs. Messina, from the Southwest Tow Operators Association were introduced to the Committee. Mrs. Messina indicated that the State is helping with the education of tow operators by requiring them to take a certification exam before they are licensed. The Southwest Tow Operators Association is also working with tow companies to help them comply with the new requirements. Mr. Natinsky asked how many tow truck operators are members of their Association. Mrs. Messina indicated that about 10 percent of all operators statewide are members – 44 locally and about 500 statewide. Mr. Natinsky asked staff to work with the Southwest Tow Operators Association on the City's update to the Code.

No action was taken on this item.

### **4. Emergency Wrecker Ordinance and Fee Update - Amendments**

**Presenter:** John Brunk, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation  
Gary Titlow, Program Manager, Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Brunk briefed the Committee on ordinance revisions to Chapter 15D of City Code concerning emergency wrecker services. The purpose of the briefing was to seek the endorsement of the Committee before presentation to the full Council on February 11, 2009. Code revisions were coordinated with the Dallas Police Department and the Greater Dallas Emergency Wrecker Association. The recommendations incorporated changes in State law, a rapid response program for freeways, and a rate increase.

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:**

Mr. Natinsky asked why a rate increase is being proposed for emergency wrecker services, but not for nonconsent towing services. Mr. Brunk stated that there are specific rules in City Code on how a rate change for motor vehicle tow services is initiated and studied. The rate change must be requested by licensed tow companies that represent more than 50 percent of the tows over the past year. Although rate increases have been requested, the applicants have not met all required criteria necessary to have a rate study initiated. Mr. Natinsky asked why we were only asking for \$121 for a light duty tow when the average among urban areas is \$133. Mr. Brunk stated that these numbers were based on the change in the Consumer Price Index since the last rate was set in 2001.

Ms. Medrano asked what would be the effective date for the rate increase. Mr. Brunk stated that the effective date would be February 16, 2009, if approved by City Council.

Several Committee members suggested that instead of modifying the code to restrict cutoff shorts and sandals in the dress code for drivers, the Code should specify what drivers are required to wear.

Ms. Koop directed staff to put a process in place to consider rate increases on a more regular basis.

Motion was made to move this forward to Council with the recommendation that rates be increased to \$130 for a light duty tow, \$200 for a medium duty tow, and \$450 for a heavy duty tow; and direction to staff to develop revised wording for the dress code to be considered at a future Committee meeting.

Made by: Natinsky

Seconded by: Allen

Failed – 2 in favor  
and 3 opposed

Motion was made to move this forward to Council with the original staff recommendation on rates, and direction to staff to develop revised wording for the dress code to be considered at a future Committee meeting.

Made by: Medrano

Seconded by: Hunt

Passed unanimously

**5. Alley Briefing**

**Presenter:** Joey Zapata, Interim Director, Code Compliance

Due to time constraints, this item was not briefed.

**6. Upcoming Agenda Item**

Ferric Sulfate Water Treating Chemical Contract  
Dallas Water Utilities/Business Development and Procurement

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

*Linda L. Koop* (RB)

Linda L. Koop, Chair  
Transportation and Environment Committee

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