

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

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Meeting Date: January 25, 2010 **Start Time:** 2:03 p.m. **Adjournment:** 3:34 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Jerry Allen absent on City business

Other Council Members Present:

None

City Executive Staff Present:

Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2010**

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the January 11, 2010 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Atkins

Passed unanimously

2. **City of Dallas Environmental Outreach Efforts**

Presenter: Helen Dulac, Cease the Grease, Dallas Water Utilities

Ms. Dulac provided a briefing on the activities of the City's Environmental Outreach Committee (EOC) including its guiding principal and goals, membership and public education programs.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Davis asked why Code Compliance was not a partner in the Trash Attack Program. Ms. Dulac stated that Code Compliance is not generally a part of EOC; however, they would approach Code Compliance about getting more involved in EOC activities. She

indicated, however, that there are other programs, such as Storm Water Management, that have an anti-litter component.

Mr. Natinsky asked if there was an outreach effort for school districts other than DISD that have schools within the City of Dallas, such as Plano ISD, Richardson ISD, and Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD. He stated that the majority of the kids in North Dallas do not attend DISD schools and that equal effort should be made to educate those teachers and students. Ms. Koop agreed with Mr. Natinsky, stating that Richardson ISD schools are located in her district. Ms. Dulac agreed that the EOC needed to target programs to those school districts. She did say, however, that many of the EOC members participate in the Cottonwood Festival through the Richardson ISD and that Science Day at the Dallas Zoo is open to all teachers in North Dallas.

Ms. Jasso suggested that the EOC work with businesses and get the permitting departments to help educate them.

Ms. Koop asked the EOC to include an education program about the hazards of blowing leaves into the storm water system. Mr. Atkins stated that this issue also includes lawn care services. Mr. Natinsky stated that he has brochures on the program and would provide Committee members with copies. Ms. Dulac stated that there is an existing program administered through Storm Water Management that includes distributing the message through homeowner associations. Ms. Koop suggested a public service announcement to get the message out on the hazards of blowing leaves into the storm water system.

The Storm Water Management mascot, "Trinity Trudy," and the Water Conservation mascot, "Blue Dew," were introduced to the Committee. Ms. Koop commented on the importance of the mascots, especially for children.

No action was taken on this item.

3. Street Cut Standards and Implementation

Presenter: Rick Galceran, Director, Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Galceran updated the Committee on street cut policies and practices.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop stated that Atmos Energy has a timeframe to get all street cut repairs completed. However, she indicated that most of the citizen complaints received are related to the length a time it takes to complete a street cut.

Mr. Atkins suggested taking a "before and after" photo prior to making a street cut. Mr. Atkins asked if the street cuts performed several years ago were monitored. Mr. Chris White, Supervisor for Street Services, stated that there is a five-year warranty on street cuts. When a maintenance issue comes up on a street cut that is older than five years, it is handled by Streets Services.

Mr. Atkins asked if the Water Department uses City personnel or independent contractors to repair cuts related to water main breaks. Mr. Galceran answered that the Water

Department repairs street cuts with a temporary patch, and then a contractor makes the permanent repair. Mr. White added that the City's contractor provides the five-year warranty for the repair.

Ms. Medrano asked about the requirements if a contractor made a street cut in error, and if inspections are made prior to the repairs. Mr. Galceran stated that all cuts are subject to the same requirements and that records are kept to track exactly who makes a street cut in a specific location. Ms. Medrano asked why no fees are required for a permit. Mr. Galceran indicated that the fees are covered under the franchise agreement with the utilities. Mr. Natinsky also expressed concern that a fee was not charged for a street cut permit.

Mr. Natinsky asked if there are procedures for using steel plates over repairs and commented that he had not seen contractors post signs near street cuts. Mr. Galceran stated that there are specific procedures required for the contractors. Ms. Koop suggested that the Committee provide Mr. Galceran with a list of specific locations where contractors are not following the street cut ordinance and/or are working without appropriate signage.

Mr. Natinsky asked Ms. Jody Puckett, Director of Water Utilities, what is required when new construction connects to a water main. Ms. Puckett stated that a private contractor or developer will obtain a permit to make the connection. They do not pay a street cut fee, but will pay a water connection fee, and make repairs consistent with the street cut ordinance.

Mr. Natinsky asked if the City had issued fines for street cuts and what happens if someone is fined multiple times. Mr. Galceran stated that future permits would be denied.

Mr. Natinsky asked staff to provide additional information on 1,803 "other" permits reported on page 12 of the presentation.

Ms. Hunt said she is convinced that street cuts are a source of potholes, and asked if there is a tracking system that allows staff to identify if a street cut repair had been done previously at the location of a pothole location. Mr. White responded that if a street cut is repaired according to the City's requirements, it will not become a pothole. He also confirmed that records are kept on the location of street cut repairs, and that if there are any problems during the five-year warranty period, the contractor who made the original street cut repair will be required to fix it.

Ms. Hunt asked what percentage of street cut repairs become potholes. Mr. White stated that there were not very many and reiterated that when the standards are followed utility cuts will not become a pothole. Mr. Galceran stated that he did not have a specific answer, but would look into Ms. Hunt's request.

Ms. Hunt asked about the status of tracking GIS coordinates to identify who is responsible for street cuts. Mr. Galceran stated that each individual department is responsible for identifying coordinates.

Ms. Hunt asked if there was a way to require contractors to place a permanent stamp in the street cut to alert the public as to who is responsible for the repairs. Ms. Jordan mentioned that a few years ago the City had looked at the possibility of adding some type of marking at the location of a street cut, but found that it would be difficult to identify when there were two or more cuts in the same area.

Ms. Davis stated that she liked the idea of training the utilities about the City's street cut repair requirements. Mr. White said that he conducted classes over the past year with all the franchise utility companies.

Mr. Kadane asked if Dallas Water Utilities or the Streets Department would be responsible for street cut repairs resulting from a water main break. Ms. Puckett stated that if Dallas Water Utilities makes a street cut they are responsible for the repairs in coordination with the City's contractor.

No action was taken on this item.

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee

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