

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

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Meeting Date: February 13, 2012 **Start Time:** 1:03 p.m. **Adjournment:** 2:44 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice-Chair), Sandy Greyson, Vonciel Jones Hill, Delia Jasso and Pauline Medrano

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

Ann Margolin

City Executive Staff Present:

Jill Jordan, Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Peer Chacko, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Alan Hendrix, Assistant Director, Public Works
Zaida Basora, Assistant Director, Public Works
Beth Ramirez, Assistant Director, Street Services
Jody Puckett, Director, Dallas Water Utilities
Terry Lowery, Assistant Director, Dallas Water Utilities

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. **Approval of the Corrected Minutes for January 9, 2012**

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the corrected minutes for the January 9, 2012 meeting subject to any further corrections. No further corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Greyson

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

2. Approval of Minutes for the January 23, 2012 Meeting

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the January 23, 2012 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Jasso

Passed unanimously

3. Dallas Bike Plan Implementation

Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Sustainable Development and Construction provided the Committee with a review on the Adopted Dallas Bike Plan Implementation Strategy and its current status; Opportunities and Constraints through 2011-2012 Street Restriping Program, Priorities and Funding Options; and Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process Requirements. Peer Chacko, Assistant Director; Keith Manoy, Program Manager; and Max Kalhammer, Senior Planner, were available to answer questions.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Jasso stated after going through the public hearing process for Bishop Avenue, which will be complete April or May, 2012, most of the concerns from the neighborhood association were speed and loud music. Ms. Jasso also distributed pamphlets she, Ms. Hunt and Medrano received while attending the Texas Trails & Active Transportation Conference (Texas Bike/Pedestrian Summit) February 1-3, 2012 in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Kadane asked for a status on the funding for the Bike Plan Implementation and why the City of Dallas did not receive the TIGER III Grant. Mr. Chacko stated the grant application process is very competitive and the City was fortunate to receive a significant amount of grant funding in the TIGER I Grant.

Ms. Medrano asked for a status on the Southern Sector (Wonderview Area) Project shown on slide 8. Ms. O'Donnell stated progress on the project has slowed; however, she would research and provide the Committee with an update.

Ms. Greyson stated she would need more information on the funding for the Bike Plan Implementation prior to making any decisions.

Ms. Margolin mentioned the concern she hears from District 13 regarding bike lanes is much more of a fear of new cyclists on the street for the first time not aware of safety. Ms. Margolin asked if there are plans for educating bicyclists. Ms. O'Donnell stated there are programs in the Bike Plan to address bicycle safety and awareness.

Ms. Koop stated she would like to focus more on the area shown on slide 5, Prioritization Near Term (2013-2014) for the bike-lanes. Ms. Koop also stated determining if it is a shared or buffered-lanes should be addressed in the bike plan now or during the Thoroughfare Plan process. Ms. Koop asked if the projects shown on slide 20 will need Thoroughfare Plan amendments and, if so, can we move them forward as demonstration projects if funding is available. Ms. O'Donnell stated she believes we can; however, due to the timing of the striping projects, we would want to initiate the Thoroughfare Plan amendments as soon as possible. Ms. O'Donnell also stated if we need to bridge the gap we can designate a demonstration project.

No action was taken on this item.

Ms. Koop requested a briefing to the Committee on the funding for the Dallas Bike Implementation Plan at the March 26, 2012 meeting.

4. Solar Energy

Kris Sweckard, Managing Director, Office of Environmental Quality, provided an overview to the Committee on the Types of Solar, Solar Potential, Solar in Dallas, Case Studies, Costs, and Funding Opportunities. Zaida Basora, Assistant Director; and Jesse Dillard, Energy Manager, Public Works, were available to answer questions.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Medrano stated she would be interested to know what other entities are doing regarding solar energy.

Ms. Jasso asked if the bidding process had started for the repairs to the convention center roof and how would the city impact the process to make it one of our first large projects. Ms. Basora stated the bids have not been issued and the Public Works Department will meet with the consultant to address how to incorporate solar panels prior to issuing bids for construction.

No action was taken on this item.

This item was briefly discussed; however, due to time constraints, Ms. Koop requested the Solar Energy Briefing be placed on the April 23, 2012 Committee meeting agenda.

5. Water Conservation Program: Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICI) Water Audits and Rebates

Jody Puckett, Director, Dallas Water Utilities, provided a briefing to the Committee on the background and implementation of additional programs for industrial, commercial and institutional customers; and upcoming contract for ICI Water Audit Consultant and Rebate Program.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop mentioned that the ICI program is similar to the North Texas Council of Government's Transportation Program which tries to get the dirty cars and diesel engines turned over by providing incentives to owners to go 50/50 and offer grants.

Ms. Hill asked if this program will deter hotels from placing drinking water at each place setting during large events regardless if the patrons wants water or not. Ms. Puckett stated the Dallas City Council would need to approve an ordinance prohibiting hotels from placing drinking water at each place setting. Ms. Koop stated the City recently initiated a program with the hospitality industry encouraging and educating them on ways to reduce water usage; and many have sign up for the program. Ms. Koop also asked Ms. Jasso to address the issue with the Convention Center.

Mr. Kadane asked for more information on funding implementation of the programs outlined on slide 12. Ms. Puckett stated it is an expense that goes with the program and is covered in the current Dallas Water Utilities' budget which was received from the Water Conservation Strategic Plan; and since some programs will need approval by City Council, it may be more beneficial to implement the programs on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Greyson asked if a business requests an audit are they free to later reject the recommendations. Ms. Puckett stated the business would have to accept the recommendations in order to receive the rebate and it has not been the City's experience for companies to reject the recommendations.

Motion was made to recommend authorizing a service contract for water consumption audits and a resolution to implement the rebate program. Full Council consideration scheduled on February 22, 2012.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Hill

Passed unanimously

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee