

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

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Meeting Date: February 23, 2009 **Start Time:** 2:07 p.m. **Adjournment:** 3:50 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: Hill

Seconded by: Natinsky

Passed unanimously

2. Regional Coordination of For-Hire Transportation Services (Taxicabs, Limousines, Shuttles)

Presenter: Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Mr. Morris briefed the Committee on the status of Regional Vehicle for Hire Initiatives. The common goals of the initiatives are to ensure seamless service, provide higher quality of service, improve air quality, improve image to increase demand for services, and to provide region-wide service.

Mr. Morris gave a brief overview of the recent initiatives: (1) Regional Coordination; (2) DFW Airport Taxicab Taskforce; (3) Regional Vehicle-for-Hire Study; (4) North Texas Green and Go Program; and, (5) Certified Tourism Ambassador Program.

The next steps in the process will be to resolve the dispatch issues, develop a consensus on a Preferred Regional Organizational Structure and determine responsibilities, create a Regional Implementation Plan, and have the cities within the region approve.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Davis asked who would be doing the regional oversight of the Vehicle-for-Hire Program. Mr. Morris stated that he believed the regional oversight of those rules should probably be Dallas, Fort Worth, and DFW Airport working together and setting what those standards should be. Working together would allow for one set of rules rather than three separate sets of rules that the cab companies have to abide by. Ms. Davis asked what Mr. Morris was hoping that this would do long term. Mr. Morris stated that in the long term that every citizen within the region could get somewhere when they had to. Secondly, the cities should be able to come to an agreement on the specifications so that taxicab companies would only need to meet one set of rules. Third, the cab companies would not have to go to 8 or 10 places to get a permit, they would only have to go to one place and that permit would be good in any part of the region. Fourth, a central dispatch system would reduce emissions in the region. This would allow for better customer service for the region, the taxis, improved technology to help with operations and reduced emissions. Revenue would be shared across the region from permitting.

Mr. Natinsky asked staff if historically our revenues have exceeded our costs of regulation. Mr. Miguez stated that in recent years our revenues have exceeded our direct expenditures slightly. The most recent fee study, done two years ago, indicated that while we were recovering a little more than our direct costs, we weren't recovering all of our costs.

Mr. Natinsky asked Mr. Morris if a metropolitan licensing/inspecting authority was being proposed. Mr. Natinsky asked how the number of taxis in any given area would be controlled. Mr. Morris stated that the key is to establish a central dispatch. The laws of supply and demand would then take over and equilibrium would occur with the appropriate number of cabs being in the right areas of town. Mr. Natinsky asked if NCTCOG have had conversations with the industry about this. Mr. Morris stated that although some conversations had happened with the industry, this had not yet fully been presented to them.

Ms. Hill stated that she supports the computerized dispatch system in every cab but isn't sure how we get to that point. Ms. Hill also stated that there should be one standard and one location for regional permitting. The owner cities should have the authority on that issue. Dallas and Fort Worth should be doing that but with the cooperation of smaller cities. Mr. Morris stated that this should be done by Dallas, Fort Worth and DFW Airport. Enforcement could then be done by the smaller cities as well.

Mr. Kadane asked if every cab company in the Dallas/Fort Worth area would have access to the computerized dispatch system that we are suggesting implementing. Mr. Morris stated that he believed there would be interest, but they would not know for sure until they met with them. However, based on past conversations with those cab companies, he believes that the cab companies would be in favor of implementation.

Mr. Kadane asked if the rules that govern taxicab companies come from the State. Mr. Miguez stated that they come from ordinances that the Cities have enacted. All three cities have very similar rules and it would be a matter of all three entities sitting down and discussing the differences that each have and coming up with an agreement on what those rules should be and bringing those back to the governing bodies for enactment. NCTCOG would then go back to the smaller cities and have them adjust their rules to match. Mr. Kadane asked if limousines and shuttles would have the same requirements. Mr. Morris stated that although their specifications might be different, they would be part of this program as well.

Ms. Medrano stated that a resolution on the dispatch system would have a safety impact on the cab drivers and passengers.

Ms. Koop asked for stakeholder involvement to be wrapped up by spring 2009. Mr. Morris stated that communication would be wrapped by spring and they would this item bring back to the committee by June before any movement forward.

No action was taken on this item.

3. Program Management Service Contract – Love Field Modernization Program

Presenters: Dan Weber, Director, Department of Aviation
Diego Rincon, Assistant Director, Department of Aviation

Mr. Weber briefed the Committee on the Dallas Airport System Program Management Services. The purpose of the briefing was to update the Committee on the Love Field Modernization Program and to discuss the Dallas Airport System Capitol Development Program and the need for Program Management Services.

Mr. Weber gave a brief overview of the schematic design work that was completed in February, 2009 and the design development phase that will begin in March of 2009. A resolution will be brought to the City Council in April 2009 for the new Passenger Facility Charge Application to the FAA.

Mr. Weber stated the need for Program Management Services for the Love Field Modernization Program and listed the scope of the services to be performed such as: managing multiple project design teams, managing the overall project schedule, cost reporting, quality control, equipment procurement and to help manage the move-in phase of the project.

The procurement process for a firm to provide program management services began in the summer of 2008. Two firms tied with the highest scores: URS Corp and DMJM. A second interview of each firm was conducted and URS Corp was ultimately selected as the highest ranked in January of 2009.

Mr. Weber presented the contract structure and fee. The next steps are to recommend the City Council to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with URS Corp. This item is to be brought before the full Council on February 25, 2009.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop asked if the airport would be wired for internet access or if wireless internet could be made available at Love Field and if there would be a check in service for the People Mover. Staff stated that these services are being considered in the Modernization Project.

Mr. Natinsky asked if there were elements in the Program Management contract that would give incentives for the manager to save the City money. Mr. Weber stated that incentive fees have not been considered for the Program Manager. Mr. Miguez stated that this is not a strategy that the City has utilized in previous City projects.

Ms. Davis suggested that media screens be utilized in the Airport lobby. Mr. Miguez stated that this is an item that is being considered.

Ms. Hunt suggested that we look at a contractor that is known for keeping costs down such as the firm that the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts used. Mr. Miguez stated that this was one of the considerations in choosing the firm for these services. Ms. Hunt asked for more information on this company's past airport projects such as which airports they did, what the budget was, and what they kept them at. Mr. Miguez stated that he would provide that information to Ms. Hunt. Ms. Hunt asked staff to look at what incentives the Dallas Center for Performing Arts provided to their company to maintain the budget. Ms. Hunt asked that this presentation be presented to the neighborhoods in her district that surround Love Field. She would like for that to happen sometime in April.

Motion was made to move this forward for Council approval on February 25, 2009.

Made by: Natinsky Seconded by: Medrano Passed unanimously

4. Water Conservation and Drought Plan Update

Presenter: Bobby Praytor, Interim Assistant Director, Dallas Water Utilities

Mr. Praytor updated the Committee on the Water Conservation and Drought Plan. The purpose of Mr. Praytor's briefing was to seek committee support for the award of a professional services contract to assist the city in updating the 2005 Five-year

Strategic Plan on Water Conservation, the State mandated 2005 Water Conservation Plan, and the State mandated 2005 Drought Contingency Plan. This is to be brought before full Council February 25, 2009.

Mr. Praytor gave a brief overview of the three plans, the program milestones, the public awareness campaign, and community outreach efforts.

The proposed contract will have a consultant chosen through a selection process with a proposed contract amount of \$609,400. The sub-consultants used will receive 55% of the contract and will be minority owned businesses.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

No questions were addressed to staff

Motion was made to move this forward to Council on February 25, 2009.

Made by: Allen Seconded by: Natinsky Passed unanimously

5. Alley Briefing

Presenter: Joey Zapata, Interim Director, Code Compliance

Due to time constraints, this item was not briefed.



Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee