

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com. Recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the TEC Staff Coordinator at 214-670-4545.

Meeting Date: April 12, 2010 **Start Time:** 2:04 p.m. **Adjournment:** 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Tennell Atkins, Carolyn R. Davis, Delia Jasso, Ron Natinsky, and Vonciel Jones Hill

Committee Members Absent:

Jerry Allen absent on City Business
Sheffie Kadane absent on City Business
Pauline Medrano absent on City Business

Other Council Members Present:

Ann Margolin

City Executive Staff Present:

Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for March 8, 2010

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the March 8, 2010 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Atkins Seconded by: Jasso Passed unanimously

2. North Central Expressway Landscaping

Presenter: Rick Galceran, Director, Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Galceran provided an update on TxDOT's plan to modify landscaping on North Central Expressway between Woodall Rogers and LBJ Freeway, and explained the landscape and hardscape options available to the City. Mr. Bill Hale, District Engineer, and Mr. Pat Haigh, District Landscape Architect, attended the meeting representing TxDOT's Dallas District Office.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop asked Mr. Bill Hale, TxDOT, to address the budget and describe which options are feasible. Mr. Hale stated that TxDOT's maintenance is very limited. Central maintenance is currently funded by the department's Green Ribbon Program. If the City supports any of the first three options, landscape maintenance will be turned over to the City.

Ms. Koop stated that the number of mowing cycles had been four in urban areas and three in rural areas. She asked if the Commission had reduced the number of mowing cycles to three per year everywhere. Mr. Hale confirmed that the number of mowing cycles had been reduced to three per year; however, he indicated that TxDOT is considering changing to a performance-based contract in Dallas County.

Ms. Koop asked about the estimated cost of the hardscape option. Mr. Pat Haigh stated that the hardscape cost is approximately \$6 million based on an estimate of the cost of a similar screen on another project. Ms. Koop noted that the tight transportation funding situation would make it difficult to find \$6 million for a hardscape project.

Ms. Davis asked who is responsible for the landscape maintenance on I-20 and asked for clarification on the mowing cycles. Mr. Hale stated that TxDOT is responsible for I-20 maintenance. Mr. Haigh explained the procedures and schedule for the three mowing cycles.

Mr. Natinsky stated that it's unfortunate that the City is in this position because no one envisioned that the plants would be removed from Central. He asked if the plan was for TxDOT to replace landscaping in window boxes, medians and bridges with plants with no more cost to the City. Mr. Haigh stated that TxDOT has Green Ribbon Program funding to install the plantings, but did not recommend replacing the plants in the window boxes. The City would be responsible for ongoing maintenance. Mr. Natinsky asked if there were any restrictions preventing the City from entering into a private sector partnership to "adopt" landscaping. Mr. Hale stated that a partnership program would be possible and TxDOT would work with the City if that were an option.

Mr. Atkins asked how much funding was available from TxDOT. Mr. Hale stated that the Green Ribbon Program has \$950,000 available to replace plant material and pay for maintenance through the next fiscal year. Mr. Atkins asked that TxDOT give some consideration to the maintenance schedule at US 67/Camp Wisdom Road and Hampton Road/I-20.

Ms. Jasso asked for clarification of the \$150,000 maintenance cost. Mr. Haigh stated that the \$150,000 was a revision of the \$300,000 annual cost for Option 3 in the briefing.

Ms. Hill asked if the \$950,000 had been approved by the legislature. Mr. Haigh said that the funding was currently available. Ms. Hill asked if the City did not decide to use the \$950,000, would it be allocated on other projects. Mr. Haigh stated that if the City did not utilize the funds, TxDOT would look for other projects that that would have a partner to provide maintenance.

Ms. Koop asked Ms. Jordan to include the \$25,000 supplemental maintenance cost for additional mowing cycles in the upcoming budget. Ms. Koop suggested that the existing plants in the window boxes remain to see if the plants survive through the summer.

Ms. Margolin asked how long the \$950,000 would be available to the City. Mr. Hale stated that the funds would be available for two years.

Motion was made to utilize the existing Green Ribbon funds and proceed with the North Central Expressway Landscaping Plan, which will include removal of the existing plant and rock material between Mockingbird and Woodall Rogers, except for the removal of the window boxes, making the entire area ready for soil and plant material to be installed during the fall and winter of this upcoming year, continue a 90-day maintenance period, and extend the ongoing maintenance period from the 90-day maintenance period until the end of September 2011.

Made by: Hill

Seconded by: Natinsky

Passed unanimously

3. Neighborhood Markets

Presenter: Jack Ireland, Executive General Manager, City Manager's Office

Mr. Ireland briefed the Committee on stakeholder input for "Neighborhood Markets" and staff's recommendations for allowable product types and a permit process. The stakeholder groups consisted of market organizers, vendors/growers, and neighbors.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Jasso updated the Committee on research of how other cities are handling markets. She said that Arlington, Coppell, Denton, Fort Worth, Frisco, Garland, Grapevine, Keller, Lewisville, and McKinney do not have permit fees for non-hazardous foods. Ms. Jasso recommended going with the \$25 permit fee and not charging the \$125 semi-annual or \$250 annual fee, then revisit the process after this season.

Mr. Atkins asked if the \$16,500 in fee revenue would cover the City's cost to implement the program. Mr. Ireland stated that when looking at the fees staff assumed that there would initially be six markets around the City which would bring in about \$16,000 in revenue to partially offset the cost of a Farmers Market employee to process applications and visit farms/vendors. Mr. Atkins asked if the entire amount of expenditures would be covered by the fees or would the City need to look for ways to cover the gap. Mr. Ireland indicated that Downtown Farmers Market currently has expenses greater than their revenue and is supported by the Dallas Convention Center.

Mr. Atkins asked for some clarification about the inspection process. Ms. Janel Leatherman, Marketing Manager for the Farmers Market, explained that their inspectors would check a farm to make sure, for example, that quantity of a crop being sold at a market is being produced at the farm.

Ms. Davis asked where the existing neighborhood markets are located. Mr. Ireland

stated that he is aware of markets at Bolsa on Davis Street, Celebration Market on Lovers Lane, Milestone Culinary Arts Center on McKinney Avenue, Mockingbird Station on Mockingbird Lane, North Havens Garden and White Rock Local Market on Buckner Boulevard.

Ms. Davis had concerns with vendors only being allowed to sell handcrafted items as opposed to purchasing wholesale items and later reselling them. She asked if the City's inspector found issues, would they force the vendor out of business. Mr. Ireland stated that their purpose would be to review applications and make sure that if someone says they are selling handcrafted jewelry, the inspector would want to make sure that the vendor is truly making it themselves and not buying and reselling. The idea is promote the locally homemade items.

Mr. Natinsky asked Mr. Ireland if he believed that moving forward with the neighborhood markets would take away business from the Farmers Market. Mr. Ireland indicated that the potential exists for that to happen because of the difference in fees.

Mr. Natinsky asked if the market organizers would be responsible for making sure that all City ordinances and rules/regulations are followed. Mr. Ireland stated that by the City taking applications from the market organizers and the vendors, we are assured that the rules and regulations will be followed. Mr. Natinsky added that he would not be in support unless the City gets full cost recovery for the permit process.

Ms. Hill stated that she has concerns with the neighborhood markets competing with the downtown Farmers Market. Ms. Hill asked if the recommendations for neighborhood markets were the same as for the Farmers Market. Mr. Ireland stated that the recommendations were the same for the grower and non-grower permits; the difference would be for the organizer permit. Ms. Hill suggested that if the fee structure is different for the neighborhood markets from the downtown market, she did not see how it could not detract from the downtown market. Ms. Hill also stated that she did not agree with the Convention Center supplementing the cost of the program.

Ms. Davis stated that she did not agree with the City requiring neighborhood markets to have higher standards than the Farmers Market. She added that the Farmers Market needs to be cleaned up.

Ms. Jasso stated that the neighborhood markets are attractive and well-organized with energetic and enthusiast people who want to sell locally-made products.

Motion was made to approve the recommendations, which will includes a \$25 annual organizer permit fee, no cost annual permit for farmers/growers; and non-grower vendor annual permit of \$250, with a review process scheduled for January 2011.

Made by: Jasso

Seconded by: Davis

Failed – 2 in favor
and 4 opposed

Motion was made to approve staff's recommendations.

Made by: Hill

Seconded by: Atkins

Motion died for lack
of majority

Ms. Koop asked staff to bring this item back to the Committee with recommendations regarding cost recovery, parking issues, number of neighborhood markets, and information on the Farmers Market cleanup process.

4. Air Quality Standards and Clean Construction Pilot Program

Kris Sweckard, Managing Director, Office of Environmental Quality

Due to time constraints, this item was not briefed.

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee

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