

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

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: February 28, 2011 **Start Time:** 2:09 p.m. **Adjournment:** 3:55 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Jerry Allen, Carolyn R. Davis, Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Delia Jasso, and Ron Natinsky

Committee Members Absent:

Tennell Atkins absent on city business
Vonciel Jones Hill absent on city business
Pauline Medrano absent on city business

Other Council Members Present:

Ann Margolin
David A. Neumann

City Executive Staff Present:

Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Rick Galceran, Director, Public Works and Transportation
Peer Chacko, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
David Cossum, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Alan Hendrix, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for January 24, 2011

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the January 24, 2011 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Natinsky

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

2. City of Dallas Complete Streets Initiative Update

Presenter: Peer Chacko, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction

Mr. Chacko updated the Committee on the Complete Streets Initiative outlining proposed overall approach in contrast to the current roadway design process. The presentation outlined anticipated products – a Complete Streets Vision, Design Manual and Strategic Implementation Plan including demonstration projects. A. C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager and Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Sustainable Development and Construction assisted in answering questions.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop mentioned the importance of using the (RTR) Regional Toll Revenue funds for the Complete Street Initiative.

Ms. Jasso agreed Complete Streets is not a one size fits all and mentioned the importance that we understand every neighborhood is different and every streetscape is going to be different based on the neighborhood. Ms. Jasso stressed the importance of utilizing Dallas' local experts.

Ms. Margolin asked how the program would be implemented. Mr. Chacko stated the program will include a combination of capital improvement projects and other components involving policy that will have an affect over time as developments occur. Ms. O'Donnell stated many of the regulatory mechanisms in place prohibit project implementation; however, some could be captured through Planned Development District Regulations rezoning.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the model was built to make sure we are constantly challenging ourselves on how the transportation element feeds into land use development.

Mr. Natinsky asked if the current sidewalk waiver policy will continue once the project is implemented. Ms. O'Donnell stated that realistically there will always be an issue with the waiver policy. She gave an example of 1980's Lemmon Avenue and the difference after ten-years, once landscape, trees and sidewalks policies were in place.

Mr. Neumann stated this is good forward thinking that makes sense and asked if there has been any pushback. Peer stated there has not been any pushback and everyone believes this is long over due. Ms. O'Donnell stated that project will also apply to the Twenty-Four Area Plans for the Trinity Project.

Ms. Koop stated that she looks forward to seeing the plan and it may become a template for other cities to follow. Ms. Koop also asked that the committee be briefed periodically.

No action was taken on this item.

3. 2011 Dallas Bike Plan

Presenters: Peter Lagerwey, Consultant, Toole Design Group; Peer Chacko, Assistant Director.

The Committee was provided with a brief introduction on the background of the Dallas Bike Plan by Mr. Chacko. Mr. Lagerwey gave a brief overview to the Committee outlining the Planning Process, Proposed System Master Plan, including Policy Recommendations, Implementation Strategy, and Potential Economic Benefits. Theresa O'Donnell, Director, and Max Kalhammer, Bike Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Construction, assisted in answering questions.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop thanked Mr. Kadane, Co-Chair of Bike Plan.

Mr. Neumann asked how we would minimize the potential conflict of bike vs. hike trails and assure both are supported; for example, the Kiest Park Master Plan, a new trail that will surround Kiest Park connecting with Oak Cliff.

Mr. Chacko stated there are ongoing concerns with accidents on trails involving bicyclists and pedestrians and keeping a safe balance between the two. Mr. Lagerwey stated two of the basic principals are to have good engineering and the bicyclists' right to use the trails responsibly. The hope is as more on-street-facilities are included, bicyclists will self-segregate with faster cyclists, allowing others to go slower on the trail system; however, traffic management would be required. Mr. Kalhammer added there are cost implications with designing separated facilities within parks or along corridors. However, he considers the trail system to be an essential part of the Dallas bikeway system.

Ms. Davis asked for clarification on the diagram shown on page 17 and if the lines were based on committee or neighborhood recommendations. Mr. Lagerwey stated they identified the system, geo-coded, and later held two public meetings. Ms. O'Donnell stated the system would not be cost prohibitive, but there would be a phased implementation process.

Ms. Jasso requested a copy of the proposal map for the Oak Cliff area. She also asked that the existing bicycle companies organically grown in North Oak Cliff be included in the process and involved in potential outreach programs.

Mr. Natinsky asked for clarification on the build-out cost. Mr. Chacko stated the plan looks at the cost of installing signs and striping in a manner that would last five-seven years. Mr. Natinsky also suggested more coordination between existing projects with the Public Works Department. He mentioned a press release for a \$4 Million street project on Frankford Road between Coit Road and Waterview Street. Mr. Hendrix stated that they have looked at other bond program projects that have been implemented to see if they are in sync with the recommendations for the bike plan. Mr. Hendrix also stated Frankford Road is in the alignment.

No action was taken on this item.

4. The Better Block Project

Presenters: Jason Roberts, Community Organizer and Andrew Howard, Street Space Collaborative

Jason Roberts and Andrew Howard briefed the Committee on the Better Block Experience which included samples of street transformations, extending parking lanes by creating café seating, businesses in vacant store spaces based on community needs, green space, and European-style bike lanes.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Jasso mentioned she hopes the Complete Streets Initiative will remove some of the barriers to allow creativity which will encourage and not discourage street transformations.

Ms. Davis stated she was impressed with the presentation and the minimum amount of funds needed in creating the Better Block Experience. Ms. Davis asked Ms. Jordan to include the Street Space Collaborative Team as part of Martin Luther King Design Study.

Mr. Neumann mentioned one of the concerns with the Bishop Davis Neighborhood was what happens to Davis Street once the rezoning is completed. He stated the presentation shows that Davis Street will be a great corridor for not just entertainment but also the neighbors that live in the surrounding area. Mr. Howard stated experiencing the Better Block transformation may have helped move the zoning change forward.

No action was taken on this item.

5. Information Item

DART Board Appointment Timeline

No action was taken on this item.

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee