

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: March 25, 2013

Start Time: 1:04 p.m.

Adjournment: 2:11 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

None

City Executive Staff Present:

Jill Jordon, Assistant City Manager
Forest Turner, Assistant City Manager
Keith Manoy, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation
Jody Puckett, Director, Water Utilities
Kelly High, Director, Sanitation Services

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for the February 25, 2013 Meeting

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the February 25, 2013 meeting, subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Hill

Passed unanimously

2. DART'S Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) and New 511 Website

Koorosh Olyai, P.E., Assistant Vice President, Mobility Programs Development, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, briefed the committee members on the implementation of a plan to integrate activities of various transportation providers along the critical US 75 regional corridor. The 511 system will be DFW's official traffic and travel information source. A soft roll-out of the plan is scheduled for April, 2013.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop acknowledged the length of time spent on developing the 511 system and the remarkable achievement it represents. Ms. Koop mentioned the public will be appreciative as it is a movement towards the future. Ms. Koop asked if the Dallas North Tollway will be included in the ICM program. Mr. Olyai stated DART is currently receiving the static data and are working on receiving their dynamic data, however, one issue is that the Tollway functions more as a revenue generating business and their business rules must be taken into consideration. Ms. Koop also mentioned when the Tollway shuts down it's hard to get off and get to any other road going north or south.

Ms. Greyson asked if the northern boundary is Highway 121 and mentioned that the DART stations stop at Parker Road leaves quite a length of freeway between Parker Road and Highway 121 with no rail. Ms. Greyson asked if this had been taken into account when developing the program, and whether the plan would be adjusted. Mr. Olyai clarified the northern boundary and expressed that the rail is only one component of the transportation system, and the rail system will be introduced South of Parker Road. North of Parker Road the network is only limited to arterials, frontage roads and freeways. Mr. Olyai also explained that the Decision Support System (DSS) would take this into account with consideration given to all existing facilities.

Ms. Greyson made mention of Greenville Avenue turning into State Highway 5, and asked if it paralleled Central and whether United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) had looked at using Alma. Mr. Olyai responded that the aforementioned is somewhat east, and is the only corridor (arterially) that US DOT decided to look at, as Alma is a mile away from Central Expressway, and the next north/south running street (Custer Road). Mr. Olyai also mentioned that as the program expands, there will be no limit because sooner or later the (DSS) is going to be the way our transportation systems operate. Mr. Olyai further added that among all the locations that US DOT is looking at our networks are closer to each other than anywhere else in the country.

Ms. Greyson mentioned the need to educate the public concerning ticket purchasing methods to efficiently manage additional passengers when trying to alleviate traffic congestion with the traffic diversion plan. Ms. Greyson asked if parking provisions have been established in advance. Mr. Olyai confirmed the need for public education and touched on the recent expansion of both Bush and Parker Road Stations.

Ms. Greyson referred to slide 7 of DART's ICM Briefing, and asked for further discussion concerning the gap between the travel time savings and the improvement in travel time reliability estimates, and why the results for Minneapolis were so different. Mr. Olyai expressed that as a result of the network studies conducted, before going into modeling and simulation, they learned institutionally, operationally, and technically each agency independently operated their networks very well. Therefore, in searching for areas to increase capacity, integration must be utilized to further improve traffic management efficacy.

Ms. Medrano asked for more information concerning outreach and marketing. Mr. Olyai stated that he did not anticipate a need to advertise extensively, but that some billboards within the corridor would be utilized along with newspaper articles and some collateral print material, and finished by saying, "If the system is good, it will be used."

No action was taken on this item.

3. Long Range Water Supply Plan Progress

Jody Puckett, Director, Dallas Water Utilities, provided the committee with an update to the Long Range Water Supply Plan and water supply alternatives. This plan also outlines project timelines, the current water status, and progress on the Integrated Pipeline (IPL) Project.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop thanked Ms. Puckett, and mentioned the take away from past experience is that instead of going at it alone as done in 2005, the City of Dallas will be planning as regional partners, and going forward will develop strategies that include everyone. Ms. Puckett agreed that regional planning has become an opportunity as unified voices are better heard in federal and statewide platforms, and creates a better long term plan for the region as a whole.

Ms. Jasso asked for talking points for the two areas being considered for infrastructure updates (Sulphur River and Neches River Basin). Ms. Puckett pointed out the two being discussed are only two of other areas being considered, but that is the direct partnership.

Ms. Jasso stated that Dallas did not grow very much in the last census of 2010, and asked what population numbers were being used to estimate when the City of Dallas would need to begin looking for new water. Ms. Puckett stated draft data projections were received from the Water Development Board. It is first vetted internally by analyzing Dallas proper and then subsequently all other customer cities within our service area. Ms Puckett also added that one of the items being brought back for the benefit of the committee will be those projections.

Ms. Jasso reminded Ms. Puckett to create talking points covering essential information for the upcoming discussions concerning water needs. Ms. Jasso also reiterated the need to begin planning for water needs for 2035 through 2070. Ms. Puckett agreed with Ms. Jasso's remarks, and reminded the committee that Dallas' water supply has been planned through 2035, if the drought of record doesn't exceed the plan. Ms. Puckett also expounded upon reliability to the supply as being an important factor as there have been occasions when water districts have suffered unforeseen events, and recommended taking a cautious planning approach.

Mr. Kadane asked if Lake Fastrill is still a possibility for development and what further steps will be necessary to gain a portion of the Sulphur River Basin. Ms. Puckett stated no, that in order to acquire any water rights from Lake Fastrill will require congressional action to overturn the refuge designation. Ms. Puckett also stated that Council will have a contract brought before them on April 10, 2013. The contract is to help look at the different water options available for Members of Region C that are available out of the Sulphur River Basin, which might include: lakes, river diversions, and/or diversions from existing reservoirs, and exploration of best options associated with that basin as a whole.

Mr. Kadane asked if Lake Palestine is currently available for water rights and when it would be used. Ms. Puckett responded that yes, Lake Palestine is already included as a source; however, it has been slated for future needs. Mr. Kadane questioned the future of drilling for water. Ms. Puckett responded that there is a pretty good component in our long range plan for the future of groundwater for the purposes of irrigation. Drilling would not satisfy the needs of a large city, but perhaps would help amenities such as parks.

Judge Hill asked for clarification concerning the location of the two potential reservoirs outlined on slides 14 and 20. Ms. Puckett explained the travel route as being in Northeast Texas along I-30, past Lake Ray Hubbard as if driving to Arkansas; North of Interstate 30, but south of the Red River; and explained that the reservoirs on the maps are proposed sites for future construction. Ms. Puckett further added the study also focuses on the way the basin responds from a hydrologic standpoint.

Judge Hill asked for more information on the location of Lake Palestine, and whether the City of Dallas owned the water rights, and at what cost/pay-out period would the water be pumped and how it would impact the state water planning currently being considered in legislature. Ms. Puckett explained the location of Lake Palestine and referenced the IPL Map for further details. The City of Dallas' portion of the construction contract is estimated to be at about one billion dollars over the course of 15 to 20 years, and added that the two studies in discussion today are supplements to the long range water supply study.

Ms. Greyson asked for Ms. Puckett to clarify what region the two basins were in. Ms. Puckett explained that most of the Sulphur River was considered to be partially or mostly in Region D and the other in Region I. Ms. Greyson asked if the Water Board decision is final when they intervene in an inter-basin dispute, and if they make recommendations to legislature. Ms. Puckett stated the Water Board currently makes the final decision; however, legislation itself can be pursued.

No action was taken on this item.

4. Upcoming Agenda Item

Agenda Item #28 on the March 27, 2013 Council Agenda: Authorize a contract with SAIC Energy, Environment & Infrastructure, LLC for a solid waste Resource Recovery Planning Study – Not to exceed \$215,600 – Financing: Current Funds (subject to appropriations) - Sanitation Services Department

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation

Motion was made to forward to full council for consideration on March 27, 2013.

Made by: Hill

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee