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TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

CITY SECRETARY
DALY S. TEVAG

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Meeting Date: May 27, 2008 **Start Time:** 2:10 p.m. **Adjournment:** 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry Allen, Vonciel Jones Hill, Angela Hunt, Ron Natinsky, Pauline Medrano, Caroline Davis

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

David Neumann
Dwayne Caraway

City Executive Staff Present:

Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for May 12, 2008

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the May 12, 2008 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Medrano

Seconded by: Hunt

Passed unanimously

2. DFW Airport Board Nominee Interview

The nomination for Terdema Ussery was withdrawn and this interview was not conducted.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop indicated that there would be another candidate nominated for the vacant DFW Airport Board position. She asked that the new applicant be scheduled for an interview as soon as possible so that the appointment can be completed before the July Council break.

No action was taken on this item.

3. DART Board Nominee Interviews

The Committee interviewed Edward Opka and Dr. Claude Williams as nominees for Place 4 on the DART Board. The City Council is scheduled to vote on nominees for this position on May 28, 2008.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

No action was taken on this item.

4. Fine Structure for Violation of Handicapped Parking Spaces

Presenter: Zaida Basora, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation

Ms. Basora briefed the Committee on the fine structure for disabled/handicapped parking violations. City Code currently allows this citation to be written as a criminal violation with a \$290 fine or as a civil violation with a \$95 fine. In order to be consistent with state law, staff is recommending that the civil violation be removed from the Code and that criminal fines be adjusted to \$250 plus court fees with 15% going to the CHIPS (Citizens Helping in Parking Solutions) Program. The majority of the disabled parking citations are issued by the Dallas Police Department and CHIPS.

The briefing also covered issues concerning the enforcement of a maximum time limit at parking meters. A recent survey indicated that thirty percent of occupied spaces downtown had vehicles displaying a disabled placard. Many of these vehicles are parked all day in the metered spaces that are intended to provide short-term parking. Staff recommended that City Code be modified to allow for enforcement of a maximum time limit and that a trial be conducted in a specific area of the CBD to determine its effectiveness.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Hill asked if the criminal citation for disabled parking had to be delivered to the individual who parked the vehicle. Lisa Christopherson from the City Attorney Office indicated that state law allows a parking citation to be placed on the vehicle with a presumption that the vehicle owner is responsible for the violation. Ms. Hill suggested that the City look for a way to verify the placards. She also asked if the time enforcement would be at two hour or four hour meters. Ms. Basora stated that the maximum time limit would apply to both time periods as designated on the meter.

Ms. Medrano asked how citizens would know if the meter had a two or four hour time limit. Ms. Basora explained that the time limit is posted on the meter and indicated that this information would also be included on the warning notices issued in the trial area. Ms. Medrano asked how many meters were located in the trial area and their time limits. Ms. Basora said that she would provide that information to Ms. Medrano.

Ms. Koop asked how the placards are verified. Staff does not currently have a way to verify the disabled placards because they are issued by the County and the City does not have access to their database.

Mr. Natinsky asked if the City does anything to validate the placards. Ms. Basora stated that staff checks the dates on the placards, but does not currently have access to the database that would determine whether the placard is issued to the vehicle it is being used on. Mr. Natinsky asked that staff check with other cities to find out what practices they use to validate disabled placards.

Mr. Natinsky made a motion that the Committee move forward with the changes to the City Code and the trial for enforcement of the maximum time limit. Mr. Allen seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. This item will be placed on the June 11, 2008 Council Agenda.

Mr. Allen asked how the CHIPS personnel are compensated. Ms. Basora explained that they work on a volunteer basis. Mr. Miguez indicated that he would get back to the Committee on how the CHIPS funding would be spent.

Ms. Koop requested that staff provide information on the education program related to enforcement of the maximum time limits. Ms. Medrano suggested that the educational information be given when a citizen receives a disabled placard.

5. **Code Amendments Regarding Billboard Issues Associated with TxDOT/DART Projects**

Presenters: Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Development Services
David Cossum, Assistant Director, Development Services
John Rogers, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

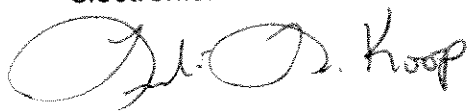
Ms. O'Donnell gave an update on issues related to the relocation of billboards caused by DART and TxDOT construction projects. The Council had an executive session discussion on this issue on April 16, 2008. Ms. O'Donnell gave an overview of the current rules and presented proposals that had been developed by the billboard industry. Staff wanted to get Committee feedback on the proposals prior to taking them to the ZOAC (Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee) and Plan Commission.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Hunt expressed her concern about compromising the distance requirement related to the Trinity. She also asked what other cities are doing in regards to billboards. Ms. O'Donnell said that she would have to provide that information at a later time.

Mr. Natinsky asked why this issue was brought before the Committee and why it appears to have expanded. Mr. Rogers explained that the changes are intended to provide some flexibility in relocating signs that would be impacted by DART and highway/tollway construction. Ms. Koop reiterated that this is an issue about the relocation of signs, not adding new signs.

Ms. Koop asked if relocated signs could be replaced with electronic signs. Mr. Rogers stated that the signs have to use original materials and could not be electronic.



Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee

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