

**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: May 24, 2010 **Start Time:** 2:05 p.m. **Adjournment:** 3:59 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice-Chair), Jerry Allen, Tennell Atkins, Carolyn R. Davis, Delia Jasso, Pauline Medrano, Ron Natinsky, and Vonciel Jones Hill

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

Ann Margolin

City Executive Staff Present:

A. C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for May 10, 2010

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the May 10, 2010 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane Seconded by: Jasso Passed unanimously

2. FY2010-11 Air Monitoring and Compliance Contracts with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Presenters: Errick Thompson, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation and David Miller, Public Works and Transportation

The Committee was briefed on federal, regional, and local air quality standards, as well as current and proposed contracts with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for 2010-11. Staff is recommending Council action on four contracts for 2010-11 fiscal year.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop said that she wanted to explore other funding sources for the monitors to reduce or eliminate the City's cost, including potentially the North Central Texas Council of Governments. She asked if smaller cities were paying for monitors, or are they funded through cost-sharing partnerships or some other mechanisms. Mr. Thompson stated that with the exception of the three in Dallas, one in Rockwall, three in Tarrant County, and one in Parker County, they are all monitored and operated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The City of Fort Worth has a similar program to Dallas.

Ms. Koop asked what criteria was used to determine the number of monitors. Mr. Thompson stated that he did not know the criteria, but would research and report back to Ms. Koop.

Mr. Atkins asked if trucking was part of the registered five classes of facilities based on their potential to emit pollutants. Mr. Thompson stated that because trucking is a mobile source and not regulated, trucking distribution does not currently fall under the five classes.

Ms. Jordan stated that the federal government reserves the right to regulate trucks and automobiles. The City only has the authority over land use decisions, such as a truck stop where vehicles are congregating.

Mr. Natinsky asked if advanced monitoring would cause difficulty in meeting the State Implementation Plan for air quality. Mr. Thompson stated that it is possible, but advanced monitoring could work either way; more advanced equipment might also help demonstrate progress.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the four contracts for fiscal year 2010-11 and forward them to the full Council for consideration on June 23, 2010.

Made by: Natinsky

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

3. Proposed Five-Year Water Conservation and Drought Plan Updates

Presenters: Jody Puckett, Director, Water Utilities and Carol Davis, Program Manager of the Conservation Division

Ms. Puckett provided an update to the Committee on water conservation and drought planning efforts. Staff requested support on adoption of the 2010 Water Conservation Five-Year Strategic Plan, and the state-required 2010 Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Updates.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Kadane asked the status of the pipeline labeled "Proposed DWU/TRWD Integrated Pipeline" on slide 40 of the presentation. Ms. Puckett stated this pipeline project with the Tarrant Regional Water District would be briefed to the Council in the near future.

Mr. Atkins asked if the leak detection and repair program in effect this past year would be extended. Ms. Puckett stated that there is currently a small leak detection

program and it takes them approximately three to four years to go through the entire city. She indicated that there could be some benefit to adding additional leak detection and repair crews to help repair problems sooner.

Mr. Atkins asked staff to describe the public awareness efforts for the water programs. Ms. Davis stated that the minor plumbing/home repair program does ongoing targeted educational programs to various groups. The overall public awareness campaign kicked off April 1, 2010 to encourage water conservation. Ms. Puckett specifically mentioned the television spots targeting and encouraging repairs.

Mr. Atkins asked how much the Integrated Pipeline Project with the Tarrant Regional Water District was going to cost. Ms. Puckett stated the partnership would cost the City in excess of \$800 million by the time the project is completed.

Ms. Jasso asked what type of agreements would be brought forward on the Integrated Pipeline Project. Ms. Puckett stated that there is a water supply development agreement in place, which is an interlocal agreement. One part of that agreement is a water finance agreement on how to fund the construction of the project.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the Proposed Five-Year Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan and forward it to the full Council for consideration on June 9, 2010.

Made by: Jasso

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

4. Central City Long Range Transit Planning

Presenters: A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager and Peer Chacko, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction

Mr. Gonzalez briefed the Committee on current transportation planning and related projects affecting the Central City, including reviewing a proposed approach to address emerging issues and to integrate planning efforts.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop stated that the RTC has discussed high speed rail and higher speed rail and how it could serve Union Station in downtown Dallas.

Ms. Margolin asked how the ongoing operation and maintenance of a street car system would be funded assuming that we could find the funds to build it. Mr. Gonzalez stated that funding for operations and maintenance would be a part of the planned financial analysis.

Ms. Jasso stated that we need to include the neighborhoods around Downtown in our street car planning process. She stressed that it is critical that the TIGER grant is a success.

Mr. Atkins emphasized the importance of serving the Farmer's Market when developing the street car plan.

Ms. Koop stated that the extension of the McKinney Avenue Trolley on the east end Main Street Garden to the Farmer's Market would be ideal.

Mr. Kadane asked Mr. Gonzalez if he were optimistic that the City would receive the Urban Circulator Grant. Mr. Gonzalez stated that there is at least an indication that the City may receive the grant, based on the level of questions we are getting about the application.

No action was taken on this item.

5. 2010-11 Preliminary Bid Rankings – Clean, Healthy Environment Key Focus Area (KFA)

Presenters: Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Financial Services and Jack Ireland, Executive General Manager, City Manager's Office

Ms. Chipperfield and Mr. Ireland answered questions regarding their briefing on the rankings for services related to the Clean, Healthy Environment KFA.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Atkins asked what the dollar value would be for the property value decrease of 3.5% for tax year 2009 listed on slide 6. Ms. Chipperfield stated that it would equal \$26 to \$27 million. He also asked for clarification on the \$53 million reduction in property tax shown on slide 8. Ms. Chipperfield stated that is forecasted amount of property value lost for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Atkins asked for clarification on the proposed "transportation user fee." Mr. Ireland described this potential revenue source that is currently used by the City of Austin. There would be a charge to transportation-related charge to every property owner in the City based on the type of property.

Mr. Atkins asked how much property tax was deferred for homestead exemptions in fiscal year 2009-2010 and why the deferred exemption was being considered for fiscal year 2010-2011. Ms. Chipperfield stated that last year the homestead exemption amounted to an average of \$6,000 per homeowner. If the homestead exemption was increased for the over-65 and disabled, the total estimated revenue lost would be approximately \$2.6 million. Ms. Chipperfield stated that the deferred period had expired and Council would need to take action.

Ms. Davis stated that she disagrees with the garage sale permit fee and asked how much money is generated from the automated red light enforcement traffic cameras. Ms. Chipperfield stated that she would research how much money is generated by the cameras and get back with her.

No action was taken on this item.

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee