

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

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Meeting Date: June 11, 2012 **Start Time:** 1:00 p.m. **Adjournment:** 2:05 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

None

City Executive Staff Present:

Jill Jordan, Assistant City Manager
Peer Chacko, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Rick Galceran, Director, Public Works
Zaida Basora, Assistant Director, Public Works

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for the April 23, 2012 Meeting

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the April 23, 2012 meeting, subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Jasso

Passed unanimously

2. Green House Gas Emissions

Frank Camp briefed the committee on the Green House Gas Emissions, which included Types of Greenhouse Cases, U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Change Agreement, Results of the 2010 Greenhouse Gas Inventory on Emissions from City Operations and Community Sources, New City Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target, Current City of Dallas Initiatives for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Future City Initiatives to Lower Community-wide Emissions. Jill Jordan, Assistant City Manager and Nicole Cooper, Office of Environmental Quality, assisted in answering questions.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop reminded the Councilmembers that during Mayor Laura Miller's tenure that Mayor Miller signed the Mayor's Protocol to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Ms. Koop stated the city has made significant progress and more initiatives will be outlined in the Solar Energy briefing. The City of Dallas was at one time the largest purchaser of alternative fuel and we have the largest alternative fuel fleet in the United States. Ms. Koop also mentioned the fueling pumps for electricity located in the horseshoe outside of City Hall. Ms. Koop stated her preference is to continue working towards rationing the ability to have lower green house gas emissions in the future and maintaining the 33% reduction from 1990 levels for City Operations.

Ms. Jasso asked for a confirmation on the reduction in electricity for the Dallas Water Utilities from 2005 to 2010, outlined on slide 14. Ms. Jordan stated the Dallas Water Utilities Department participates in the renewable energy purchase. Ms. Jasso also asked for a status on community reductions. Ms. Jordan stated Public Works is working with a new task force, lead by Zaida Basora, dealing with the 2nd phase of the green building ordinance; continued work on ForwardDallas!, based on which are seeing an emphasis in Economic Development programs focusing on transit-oriented development; and on a smaller note, continuing to look at electric charging stations.

Ms. Hill asked the cost of setting a new reduction goal for City Emissions at 35% below 1990, outlined on slide 21. Mr. Camp stated 35% was suggested as an example. Ms. Jordan stated this is a small goal and by making it 33% - 35% the City is acknowledging that we will continue to work on buildings and fleets.

Ms. Hill also asked if there are federal funds for energy conservation. Mr. Jesse Dillard, Energy Manager, Public Works, stated the funding issues will be addressed in the Solar Energy briefing.

No action was taken on this item.

3. Solar Energy Update

Zaida Basora, Assistant Director, and Jesse Dillard, Energy Manager, Public Works, updated the Committee on Solar Energy, which included Feasible Projects, Convention Center, Solar Farm(s) and Dallas Police and Fire Stations. The update also included a summary of the benefits such as, Environmental Stewardship, Texas Natural Resource, Market Pricing, Revenue Opportunity, Proven Useful Life of 50+ years, Low Maintenance, ERCOT Reserve Capacity, and Reduction Escalation of \$74 M Electricity Budget. Jill Jordan, Assistant City Manager, assisted in answering questions.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop stated there are three City Case Studies, Convention Center, Solar Farm at Dallas Water Utilities, and Police and Fire Stations. Ms. Basora confirmed that the electricity generated for the Convention Center is just used for the convention center, and the same will apply to police and fire stations. Ms. Basora also stated the intent is that as the models are finalized, before issuing the RFQ, the Committee will be briefed prior to moving forward with a particular project.

Ms. Basora stated the Solar Bonds/Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds, are not the typical general obligation funds. There are other funds for energy efficient projects, and the City anticipates using that as part of the funding for the solar farm or to supplement the 2006 bond funding that is currently used for the fire stations that will be under construction. Ms. Koop stated she is not familiar with those funds and requested additional information. Ms. Koop asked if it will reduce the effective bonding capacity to the City or will they re-pay, similar to water utility bonds. Ms. Koop also suggested an additional case study on geothermal wells, prior to the next briefing to the Committee on solar energy.

Ms. Jasso stated she is very committed to the Convention Center and making sure the study gets done. Ms. Jasso asked the time-frame between completing the study and awarding the contract. Ms. Basora stated the intent is to brief the Committee September/October 2012 on the proposal for the Convention Center. Ms. Jasso also asked why the decision was made not to include the Convention Center roof in the three case studies. Ms. Basora stated the investment versus the payback time and the actual solar power that we would receive did not warrant moving in that direction.

Ms. Jasso stated that anything the City does solar-wise to attract a convention into the City of Dallas are things we can talk about, be proud of, and encourage conventions to come to Dallas because we are looking at energy efficiency.

Mr. Kadane asked what type of maintenance is included in maintaining the solar farms. Mr. Dillard stated some considerations are how clean the panels are. The particular panels the City is considering will have motors with retractable panels.

Ms. Hill stated she did not realize the funding sources were connected to both the Solar Energy and Green House Gas Emissions briefings. At the request of Ms. Hill, Mr. Dillard confirmed that the Economic Development Administration is in the Commerce Department. Ms. Hill stated the grant opportunities are different than the energy efficiency block grants and asked if the Commerce Department funds under Economic Development Administration are available, can those funds be used for the 35% reduction, outlined on slide 21 of the Green House Gas Emissions briefing. Ms. Jordan confirmed that if the funds are available they can be used for the 35% reduction. Ms. Hill also asked the status of the City of Dallas becoming its own electric provider. Ms. Jordan stated there are obstacles; however, it is part of the City's Strategic Plan.

Ms. Koop mentioned in 2011 there may have been some type of legislation in the State Legislation that may have precluded the City's ability to become an electricity provider.

Ms. Medrano asked for details on the covered plaza as a possible photovoltaic farm location outlined on slide 4 and if other cities are using the same approach. Ms. Basora referenced slide 5, which showed an example of the extension of the convention center. Ms. Jordan stated this technology is used for carports, or police stations with covered sheds with solar panels on top.

Ms. Greyson stated these are great ideas and she is looking forward to the next briefing.

No action was taken on this item.

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee