

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

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Meeting Date: May 13, 2013

Start Time: 1:02 p.m.

Adjournment: 2:32 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 A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Keith Manoy, Assistant Director, Public Works
James Martin, Director, Code Compliance Services
William Finch, Director, Communication & Information Services
Justine Tran, Assistant Director, Communication & Information Services
Jody Puckett, Director, Dallas Water Utilities
Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Peer Chacko, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Frank Camp, Interim Managing Director, Office of Environmental Quality
Rocky Vaz, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes for the April 22, 2013 Meeting, and the May 1, 2013 Special Meeting**

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for both the April 22 and May 1, 2013 meetings subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Hill

Passed unanimously

2. 2013 West Nile Virus Response Plan (WNVRP)

James Martin, Director of Code Compliance Services, presented an update of the 2013 West Nile Virus Response Plan. Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager, was also present to answer detailed questions concerning the plan.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop asked for a detailed explanation of the process followed once a mosquito trap is found to have positive results. Mr. Martin explained that the Department of Code Compliance follows protocol; the end point being truck mounted spraying (adulticide) within 24 hours. Mr. Zapata also addressed a specific case mentioned by Ms. Koop and further explained that Dunk tablets are used to prevent the mosquito breeding process (larvicide). Dunk tablets are used for occasions when standing water cannot be easily drained, but for larger bodies of water mosquito fish and mineral oil products are more effectively utilized. The 2013 WNVRP involves checking for breeding and does not wait for mosquito traps to test positive, but includes taking preventive measures against the larvae as well.

Ms. Jasso asked concerning the current Texas Legislature for addressing vacant properties with standing water. Mr. Zapata explained the new law is pending, currently a search warrant is acquired for the property in question, the problem is verified, treated, and a yellow placard placed in a prominent area for notification purposes and continually monitored thereafter. Mr. Zapata also asked that the 311 System be utilized by the citizens of Dallas to report standing water complaints. It was also mentioned that Dunk tablets and mineral oil can be purchased at larger hardware stores, but more importantly, standing water should be drained if possible.

Ms. Medrano asked Mr. Zapata for a refresher on regional partners involved in this effort. Mr. Zapata explained that the City of Dallas reports in to Dallas County, as they are responsible for gathering trap data and medical notices from local doctors concerning human cases. The county reports the information to the state and ultimately to the federal level.

Judge Hill urged her colleagues to utilize the 2013 WNVRP Presentation at community meetings.

Ms. Greyson asked what community outreach events would be used to educate the public and disseminate Dunk tablets. Mr. Zapata explained the topic would be addressed at the usual community city events and other events put on by neighborhood and business groups.

No action was taken on this item.

3. E-Pay Redesign – Dallas Water Utilities Online Payment

William Finch, Director and Justine Tran, Assistant Director, Communication & Information Services, briefed the committee regarding the redesign concept for the Dallas Water Utilities online payment website. The team has been working to improve the end user experience by making the website user friendly, organized, and quick to complete.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Kadane expressed the importance of keeping the user name and password simple.

Ms. Greyson asked if the site would allow customers to apply for security alarm permits online, and when this feature is estimated to be ready for customer use. Mr. Finch explained that ultimately the redesign goal is to simplify conducting business with the City of Dallas electronically as a whole. Upon completion of the project, "Dallascityhall.com" the main internet page will also be redesigned.

Ms. Medrano made mention of combining water bill statements for multiple accounts belonging to one owner in one mailing. Ms. Puckett, Director of Dallas Water Utilities, was on hand to explain the matter from a billing standpoint and suggested those clients have their accounts consolidated and/or use the online payment system as another conservation method.

No action was taken on this item.

4. High Speed Rail In The Dallas – Fort Worth Region

Tom Shelton, Senior Program Manager, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), updated the committee on the investigations his office along with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has been undertaking with High Speed Rail. The presentation focused on current Regional Transportation Council (RTC) policy, RTC/NCTCOG role in State-wide studies, as well as the evaluation process and criteria, and various “Families” of Alignment/Station options.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop mentioned the City of Dallas will continue working through the Council of Governments and the subcommittee to receive information concerning High Speed Rail. Ms. Koop also discussed how the private sector has taken most of the lead to determine alignments based on appropriate business metrics.

Mr. Kadane asked Mr. Shelton to continue to bring updates to the Regional Transportation Council.

No action was taken on this item.

5. Downtown Dallas Shuttle

Todd Plesko, Vice President, DART – Planning and Development, briefed the committee regarding the joint venture between the City of Dallas, DART, and Downtown Dallas, Inc. (DDI) to develop a circulator for downtown Dallas. The shuttle would serve the primary markets that are not pedestrian accessible, or that are not on the rail line such as: the tourist and convention visitor markets, downtown employee market, and local residents.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop thanked Mr. Manoy, Assistant Director, Public Works, for his hard work on this project, as well as Ryan Evans, Assistant City Manager.

Judge Hill suggested that a nominal fee of one dollar should be charged rather than offering a free shuttle. Mr. Plesko advised Judge Hill that the suggestion would be taken into consideration. Judge Hill also mentioned that the lighting at the Convention Center station was lacking and that the issue should be resolved before August, 2013. Mr. Manoy mentioned that the situation is currently being evaluated and a project completion date will be provided to her as soon as possible.

Ms. Medrano asked why the two proposed routes for the downtown circulator did not include the Latino Cultural Center, the gateway to Deep Ellum, and finally the Farmer’s Market. Mr. Plesko mentioned that these areas were discussed in great depth during the planning phase; the McKinney Avenue Trolley would soon expand passed the Klyde Warren Park. As various projects are completed, resources will be reallocated to define the markets mentioned. In particular, plans are currently being developed for the Farmer’s Market.

Ms. Jasso asked for further explanation concerning the planned routes for the Bishops Arts District. Mr. Plesko explained that he has been working with the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce to develop effective routes for the area.

Ms. Greyson brought forth further discussion concerning Route 49 stating that there are several museums to the south of the West End that are tourist generators and would like to tweak this route to include Young Street and/or Jackson Street. Mr. Plesko mentioned the direction of traffic in the area streets would need to be studied and a decision made as to which streets to convert to allow for two-way traffic which would better accommodate this inclusion. Mr. Plesko stated DART would further investigate the options discussed.

No action was taken on this item.

6. Upcoming Agenda Items

(Action / 5 Minutes)

- Draft Agenda Item #19 on the May 22, 2013 Council Agenda: Authorize an amendment to the five-year, three-month enterprise agreement for Microsoft software through the State of Texas Department of Information Resources with Dell Marketing, LP to add Microsoft Office 365 Subscription Services to allow for cloud email and cloud computing - Not to exceed \$3,175,565, from \$2,796,674 to \$5,972,239 - Financing: Current Funds (subject to annual appropriations)
- Draft Agenda Item #34 on the May 22, 2013 Council Agenda: Authorize "Partial Rescission of Notices of Restriction" on Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Wetlands for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Financing: No cost consideration to the City

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to recommend approval and move these items forward for full council consideration on May 22, 2013.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Jasso

Passed unanimously

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee