

2009 AUG -6 PM 2:13

**SPECIAL CALLED TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) meetings are recorded. Agenda materials and audiotapes may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Public Works and Transportation TEC Staff Coordinator at 214.670.4147.

Meeting Date: June 1, 2009 **Start Time:** 4:01 p.m. **Adjournment:** 5:36 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry R. Allen, Vonciel Jones Hill, Pauline Medrano, Angela Hunt, Carolyn R. Davis

Committee Members Absent:

Ron Natinsky, Absent on City Business

Other Council Members Present:

None

City Executive Staff Present:

Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Regulation of Vehicle Immobilization (Booting) on Private Parking Lots

Presenter: John Brunk, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Brunk updated the original Committee briefing on this issue from March 23, 2009. The report included the results of a public meeting held on April 20, 2009 that included input from the parking industry, business and community interests.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Davis asked if the booting company would be allowed to collect outstanding parking fees for the parking lot operator. Mr. Brunk answered that they would collect those fees from the citizen who had been booted. They would collect the outstanding parking fees and the boot fee, and then pass the parking fees back to the parking lot operator.

Ms. Davis asked if there would be a licensing fee charged for booting company operators. Mr. Brunk stated that the recommended annual fee is \$900 for the company license and \$15 for the operator permit.

Ms. Davis asked if a video was required in the booting process. Mr. Brunk stated that the staff recommendation did not include a requirement for video; instead staff recommends that a receipt for payment be required in order to boot.

Ms. Hunt asked what the consequences would be if a company did not satisfy service requirements such as posting of signs, acceptance of credit cards, 24-hour availability, and arriving within 30 minutes. Mr. Brunk stated that a citation could be issued, the company could be suspended, and if there is a pattern of non-compliance, their license could be revoked. Ms. Hunt asked how much the citation was for non-compliance by the booting company. Mr. Brunk stated that the fine would be up to \$500. Ms. Hunt asked how many citations a company could receive before license revocation. Staff indicated that the number of citations before revocation was at the discretion of the Department of Public Works and Transportation. Ms. Hunt stated that she wanted something more specific in the ordinance.

Mr. Allen asked how a receipt from a parking lot machine would stop someone from coming and going, or possibly giving that receipt to someone else. Mr. Brunk stated that it would not prevent those activities. Mr. Allen asked why the video audit program, that is currently in place, isn't being addressed in the ordinance. Mr. Brunk explained that staff feel that the audit procedure was not foolproof, and therefore, did not provide enough protection for the consumer. Mr. Allen stated that a receipt was also not foolproof.

Mr. Kadane asked if booting would be required before towing. Mr. Brunk stated that either towing or booting was an option for the parking operator. Mr. Kadane also stated that he felt the \$100 booting fine was excessive and would rather see it at \$50.

Ms. Medrano asked how large the signs were required to be that notifies a patron that the lot either tows or boots. Mr. Brunk replied that the proposed ordinance as well as pending state law would require 18 inch by 24 inch signs with white lettering on a red background. Ms. Medrano asked if there were a certain number of signs required. Mr. Brunk stated that a sign would be required at each entrance to the lot as well as some internal signs. Ms. Medrano asked if the pay box was required to have a sign posted. Mr. Brunk stated that was not required.

Ms. Hill asked if a receipt is required for the booting, would it also be required for towing. She also asked for a description of how the pay boxes and video audit procedure works. Mr. Brunk stated that a receipt is not required for a tow. Mr. Brunk gave a brief description of the electronic pay boxes and reviewed the video audit procedure provided by Hawkeye Enforcement.

Mr. Allen asked how long it takes to go through the audit/booting process. Staff indicated that it takes approximately twenty minutes. Mr. Allen stated that he would support the inclusion of the video audit procedure in the ordinance as an alternative to providing a receipt.

Ms. Hunt stated that she has concerns about allowing a video audit system to document proof of payment. A receipt should be given to the person parking in the

lot so that it can be readily determined that payment was made. Power should not be given to the booting company or the parking lot operator. Ms. Hunt favored the requirement for an attendant or electronic pay station.

Ms. Davis indicated that she felt video audit procedure should be incorporated with the parking receipt requirement.

Ms. Hill clarified with Mr. Allen that he supported a video procedure or a receipt, but not both. Ms. Hill asked about the range of costs for the electronic pay stations. Mr. Brunk said that the pay stations ranged from \$3,000 to \$15,000 depending on the features included.

Ms. Hill agreed that there should be sanctions if an operator does not meet the service requirements, and stated that she favored the sanctions growing if there were multiple violations by the same operator.

Motions were made to (1) follow staff recommendation with the addition that the video audit process be included in the ordinance as an option to a receipt (made by Mr. Allen), and to (2) follow staff recommendation with instructions to staff to codify the license suspension/revocation criteria to eliminate staff discretion (made by Ms. Hunt). Both motions were withdrawn in favor of scheduling a future briefing on this item for the Committee.

A second special meeting was requested. Staff will coordinate with Ms. Koop's office to address this request. Ms. Koop asked that parking industry and business/community interests be asked to prepare comments for this meeting.



Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee

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PUBLIC WORKS

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) meetings are recorded. Agenda materials and audiotapes may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Public Works and Transportation TEC Staff Coordinator at 214.670.4147.

Meeting Date: June 8, 2009 **Start Time:** 2:03 p.m. **Adjournment:** 4:16 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry R. Allen, Vonciel Jones Hill, Pauline Medrano, Angela Hunt, Carolyn R. Davis

Committee Members Absent:

Ron Natinsky, Absent on City Business

Other Council Members Present:

Tennell Atkins

City Executive Staff Present:

Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager
Jill Jordan, Assistant City Manager
Dave Cook, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for May 26, 2009

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the May 26, 2009 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Hill Seconded by: Medrano Passed unanimously

2. Taxicab Issues Status Report – Temporary Modification of Insurance and Age Limit Requirements

Presenter: John Brunk, Assistant Director, Public Works and Transportation

Due to a conflict of interest, Ms. Koop was not present in the room when this item was briefed.

Mr. Brunk briefed the Committee on the formation and work plan for the Taxicab Task Force. He also presented a proposal to provide a one-year reduction of liability

insurance requirements from \$500,000 CSL to \$100,000 CSL, and an extension of the taxicab age limit from five to six years for currently permitted vehicles.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Allen asked what savings the cab companies would receive with the proposed reduction in insurance requirements. Staff indicated that insurance quotes were not available, but the savings could be as much as forty percent. This savings would allow the companies to make service improvements such as computerized dispatch systems. Mr. Allen asked how staff came up with the recommendations. Mr. Brunk stated that staff met with taxicab drivers and representatives from the smaller companies who indicated that the economic recession would likely put them out of business without some regulatory relief. Staff formulated these recommendations based on the issues identified by the taxicab companies. Mr. Allen stated that he was not in favor of lowering any standards.

Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Allen that he was not in favor of lowering standards. Mr. Atkins asked if the City regulated the amount of liability insurance required for taxicab companies. Mr. Brunk stated that City sets the amount of liability insurance required and it is the same for all companies regardless of size.

Ms. Hill asked if these temporary changes might influence the considerations of the task force. Mr. Brunk indicated that the proposed changes had been implemented by previous Councils in similar economic circumstances. The fact that they are temporary in nature would let the Task Force know that the changes were only to address the immediate need; the Task Force should focus on what is best for the long run. Ms. Hill stated that she didn't feel that she had enough information to make a decision.

Ms. Davis stated that she feels that the taxicab companies should maintain an amount of insurance that protects them and whoever they are transporting in the taxicab. Ms. Davis asked why the City of Dallas set the insurance limit at \$500,000. Mr. Brunk stated that the City Council set the limit as a policy decision intended to ensure that there is adequate coverage to protect the public.

Ms. Medrano stated her concern was that this was being done without the input of the Task Force. Ms. Medrano asked when the Task Force would be meeting and how often. Mr. Brunk stated that the first Task Force meeting would be in July 2009.

Mr. Allen stated that he would like for the Task Force to review this proposal and come back to the Committee with recommendations within ninety days.

Mr. Atkins suggested that the Task Force meet as quickly as possible and include DFW Airport.

Ms. Davis asked if Council members would be allowed to come to Task Force meetings. Mr. Brunk indicated that the Task Force meeting would be open to anyone.

Ms. Hill stated that she was not in favor of adopting these changes today, but instead to allow the Task Force to meet and get their input.

Motion was made to deny staff recommendation and for the Task Force to discuss the proposals and bring a recommendation back to the Committee within ninety days.

Made by: Allen

Seconded by: Hill

Passed
Vote: 5 For, 1 Against

3. Streetcar Planning Briefing

Presenters: Keith Manoy, Program Manager, Public Works and Transportation
Jay Kline, Assistant Vice President, Dallas Area Rapid Transit

Mr. Kline provided background on previous streetcar studies, discussed the organization roles of DART and the City of Dallas, and reviewed initial streetcar alignment options. Study recommendations will be presented to the Committee and DART Board in early fall 2009.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop asked staff to work with the Committee in establishing the membership for the working committee that will guide the development of the streetcar program.

No action was taken on this item.

4. FY 2009-10 Clean, Healthy Environment Key Focus Area Preliminary Ranking of Bids

Presenter: Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager

Mr. Miguez gave a brief overview of the Clean, Healthy Environment Key Focus Area preliminary rankings. He explained the services that were currently shown as funded, and the higher/lower priority services that fell below the funding line.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Kadane asked if \$9.9 million was the amount funded for Neighborhood Code Compliance. Mr. Zapata confirmed that number and indicated that this level of funding would result in the loss of about twelve Code Compliance Officers. Mr. Kadane stated that he would like to see those twelve positions retained.

Ms. Hunt stated that the City should be working with the County to take over about \$4 million health care program costs.

Ms. Hill said she was delighted to see that the Boarding House Inspection Teams would be retained. She urged staff to identify funds to retain the Community Prosecutors. Ms. Hill stated that she also wanted to find money to assist Senior Citizen Programs and People Helping People Programs.

Ms. Davis would like to see all of Neighborhood Code Compliance funded. She asked Mr. Zapata to provide a status report on the equipment that was approved for purchase by the Council. Ms. Davis agreed with Ms. Hill that she would like to see the Senior Services Programs funded. She asked staff to provide information on the amount that has been funded in the past for People Helping People.

Ms. Koop asked the Committee to provide suggestions for new revenue sources as well as ways to save money. As examples, Ms. Koop suggested installing meters in the parking lot in front of Pioneer Plaza, using closed captioning instead of live signing at Council meetings, and using part of the City's Emergency Reserve Fund.

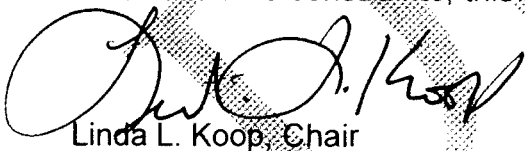
Ms. Medrano asked if it would be possible to charge utility companies for emergency vehicles that are required to respond to downed power lines, etc. She also suggested that private organizations be brought in to sponsor some of the recreation centers or programs.

No action was taken on this item.

5. Community Gardens

Presenter: Eric Griffin, Interim Director, Office of Environmental Quality

Due to time constraints, this item was not presented.



Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee