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TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

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Meeting Date: September 8, 2008 **Start Time:** 2:08 p.m. **Adjournment:** 3:18 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry R. Allen, Vonciel Jones Hill, Angela Hunt, Ron Natinsky, Pauline Medrano

Committee Members Absent:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Absent on Personal Business
Carolyn R. Davis, Absent on City Business

Other Council Members Present:

None

City Executive Staff Present:

Mary Nix, Director, Sanitation Services, for Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for August 26, 2008

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the August 26, 2008 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Hill Seconded by: Natinsky Passed unanimously

2. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Amendments to Chapter 4 of the Code of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Rules and Regulations

Presenters: Allen Parra, Vice President of Operations, DFW Airport

Mr. Parra briefed the Committee on the proposed change to Chapter 4 of the Airport's Rules and Regulations that would establish a ratio at DFW Airport of one taxicab and one taxicab driver per 31,000 origin and destination passengers for public convenience and necessity. This would effectively reduce the number of permitted taxicabs at the airport from 2273 to approximately 800.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Kadane asked how the determination would be made as to which of the current 2273 permitted taxicabs would retain their permits when they were reduced to 800. Mr. Parra said that a task force which includes taxicab companies and driver representative was developing a recommendation on how to make the reduction.

Mr. Natinsky stated that he was in support of this effort. He asked how these numbers compare with other airports. Mr. Parra indicated that the number of taxicabs being proposed was comparable to other like-sized airports. Mr. Natinsky asked if any preference would be given to green taxicabs in the assessment of which taxicabs are allowed to retain their permits. Mr. Parra stated that this is one of the criteria being considered by the task force.

Ms. Medrano suggested that the airport would need to reassess the number of taxicabs needed when the DART Orange Line opens for revenue service.

Ms. Hill asked how the reduction in taxicabs would affect the rates for a trip from DFW Airport to downtown Dallas. Mr. Parra stated the reduction would not have a direct impact on taxicab rates and that the City is ultimately responsible for setting those rates.

Motion was made to move this item forward for full Council consideration on September 10, 2008.

Made by: Natinsky Seconded by: Hill Passed unanimously

3. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Amendment to Chapter 2 of the Code of Rules and Regulations of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Board

Presenters: Larry Brandenburg, Police Captain, DFW Airport - Public Safety

Mr. Brandenburg briefed the Committee on changes to Chapter 2 of the Airport's Rules and Regulations affecting employee parking areas, air operations areas, the civil fine schedule, and amending Appendix I to add certain streets.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to move this item forward for full Council consideration on September 10, 2008.

Made by: Allen Seconded by: Hill Passed unanimously

4. Central Expressway Landscaping

Presenters: Bill Hale, District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation

Mr. Hale briefed the Committee on the TxDOT-Dallas District budget constraints with regard to landscape installation and maintenance. He stated that TxDOT had delayed implementation of the native grasses trial, but would be installing plants at the test site within the next month. It would take about a year to determine if the plants could survive without irrigation. He recommended that TxDOT move forward with installation of a hardscape treatment in the median of Central Expressway between Woodall Rodgers and Mockingbird Lane while awaiting the results of the native grasses test. He reiterated that TxDOT is willing to install any hardscape or landscape treatments on Central Expressway, but will require a City funding commitment for the maintenance of landscaping.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Hunt was very disappointed that the test of native grasses had not started in February of this year as originally planned by TxDOT. Mr. Hale explained that the delay had occurred because TxDOT's contractor had not been able to get the plantings done before April, so the plants would not have an opportunity to get established before the summer months. Ms. Hunt expressed a strong preference for landscaping in the median of Central Expressway and felt that the installation of hardscape elements was taking this project in the wrong direction. Given the high cost of installing the hardscape, she suggested that the Committee support waiting for the native grasses test to be completed, rather than install any hardscape at this time.

Mr. Kadane agreed with Ms. Hunt and asked when these plants would be installed at the test site. Mr. Hale stated that it would be done within a month.

Ms. Hill expressed concern about the likelihood that the native grasses test would be successful. She asked if the money set aside for the hardscape installation on this project would be reserved for Dallas or if this money would go for projects elsewhere if the City opts out of the installation at this time. Mr. Hale indicated that the TxDOT Dallas District gets about \$680,000 per year for their landscape programs. Funds would be set aside in the following year to do this project if the City chooses not to do it this year.

Mr. Natinsky asked if the Park Cities section of Central Expressway would be treated in an equitable manner. Mr. Hale confirmed that there would be no difference between the Dallas and Park Cities areas.

The Committee supported Ms. Hunt's suggestion to delay the installation of hardscape treatment on Central Expressway and monitor TxDOT's native grasses

trail over the next year. If the test is successful, the City would consider partnering with TxDOT to maintain landscaping in the median.

No further action was taken on this item.

5. Renewable Energy Leasing Project

Presenters: Jody Puckett, Director, Water Utilities

Ms. Puckett briefed the Committee on the Renewable Energy Leasing Project at the Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant and how that project will help reduce the City's electrical costs and further our goal of becoming a greener City. The project will involve leasing with a private company to build, operate and maintain a cogeneration facility that will produce electricity from biogas produced at the treatment plant.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Kadane asked if the lease would come back before the Committee before it is taken to full Council. Ms. Puckett stated that unless there are major changes in the project, it would be taken directly to Council in October 2008.

The Committee supported moving forward on this project.

No further action was taken on this item.

6. Upcoming Agenda Item

Eastside Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Construction Management

No action was taken on this item.

Linda L. Koop

(103)

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee