

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

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Meeting Date: September 22, 2008 **Start Time:** 2:03 p.m. **Adjournment:** 4:08 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

None

City Executive Staff Present:

Ramon Miguez, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for September 8, 2008

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the September 8, 2008 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Hill

Seconded by: Medrano

Passed unanimously

2. LBJ Freeway/Managed Lane Status Report

Presenter: Robert Brown, Deputy District Engineer, TxDOT

Mr. Brown briefed the Committee on the development of the LBJ Freeway project and described the benefits of the current improvement plan. LBJ will be fully reconstructed between US75 and I35E including the addition of six managed lanes, and express lanes will be added on I35E down to Loop 12. The project will be implemented through a development agreement with a private sector consortium and will be paid for through a commitment of \$700 million in public funds and tolls collected on the managed lanes. It is anticipated that the contract will be approved in January 2009 with the five-year construction period starting about six months later.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop stated that the below grade managed lanes were a good design that was responsive to the community's desire that the project be "no higher" and "no wider" than the current facility. She asked for some further explanation of congestion pricing on the managed lanes. Mr. Brown explained that the tolls would be increased during high demand hours, and reduced during non-peak hours. The tolls would be adjusted to maintain a minimum speed of 50 mph. Tolls would be discounted for high occupancy vehicles to encourage carpooling and mass transit.

Ms. Koop asked if any of the revenue comes back to the region. Mr. Brown said that once the project's toll revenue goal is met, revenues above that level would be shared between the region and the private developer. The region could receive up to 75 percent of the excess revenues. Ms. Koop asked that TxDOT provide the revenue sharing schedule.

Ms. Hill asked for further explanation on the entrances and exits to the managed lanes. Mr. Brown used slide 12 to show the access points to the managed lanes. Ms. Hill asked if the new facility would have more or less entrances/exits to the free lanes. Mr. Brown stated that there would be two less entrances, but the same number of exits.

Ms. Hunt asked if there was a cap on the toll charges for using the managed lanes. Mr. Brown stated that there was a \$0.75 per mile cap, but that it could be increased depending on traffic speeds in the managed lanes. Ms. Hunt asked how long the contract runs. Mr. Brown stated that it was a 52 year contract from the date of execution. Ms. Hunt was also interested in the revenue sharing aspects of the project and indicated that she felt the excess revenues that come back to the region should be used to promote public transportation.

Mr. Kandane asked if the current number of free lanes would be maintained. Mr. Brown stated that there would still be eight free general purpose lanes. Mr. Brown also stated that sound walls to protect neighborhoods would be constructed first on the project. Mr. Kadane asked if surveys or studies had been done to see if this would actually relieve traffic congestion. TxDOT indicated that the capacity increases are needed because the facility currently carries about 250,000 vehicles per day and is forecast to carry 400,000 vehicles per day.

Mr. Allen asked why this phase of the LBJ project doesn't extend all the way to Skillman where DART has a station. Mr. Brown stated that the funding was unavailable to extend this project that far east of US75. However, he indicated that TxDOT is interested in working with the City and County on an early implementation project in the Skillman/Audelia area.

Ms. Davis asked if the tolls would change for different types of cars. Mr. Brown stated that trucks with more axles would be assessed a higher toll and HOV would be given a discount, but all other passenger cars would be assessed the same toll. Ms. Davis recommended a public information campaign to make sure that everyone was notified about the toll costs. Mr. Brown stated that an educational campaign would be done as a part of the project and that there would be signage so that drivers did not inadvertently get on the managed lanes when they were anticipating being on free lanes.

Mr. Natinsky expressed support for the project, but was concerned TxDOT may not have structured the financial penalties to discourage the private operator from charging unnecessarily high tolls to collect more revenue and assuming that a fine is just part of the cost of doing business. Mr. Brown indicated that they would provide an answer to this question.

No action was taken on this item.

3. People Mover Feasibility Study Recommendations at Love Field

Presenters: Dan Weber, Director, Aviation Services

Mr. Weber briefed the Committee on the results of the People Mover Feasibility Study that identified a transit connection between the Love Field terminal and the DART's Love Field LRT Station at Burbank and Denton. He indicated that a second briefing would be scheduled for the October 13, 2008 meeting to report on the financial analysis of the proposal. The study recommended an automated people mover that would have an elevated station connection with the DART LRT line and an underground station entering the terminal lobby area. The estimated capital cost of the system in 2010 dollars would be \$330 million and would serve about 2,175 daily riders.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Hunt stated that she was surprised by the high cost of the project. She asked about the ridership demand stated in the presentation. Mr. Weber stated that the number of riders listed in the presentation was the total of those anticipated to use the system in the future. He indicated that the ridership numbers were developed before the increase in fuel costs and would be considered conservative. Ms. Hunt believes that the proposed cost is enormous and that we should look at alternatives to the People Mover solution.

Mr. Natinsky asked about the timeframe to implement a People Mover. Mr. Weber stated that the project could be designed and constructed in six years. Mr. Natinsky asked if the station area at Denton Drive could house retail vendors. Mr. Weber said this was being explored. Mr. Miguez suggested that there could be other benefits

that could be obtained from a People Mover solution. For example, a consolidated car rental facility could be developed at the DART station reducing congestion in the terminal area, opening up airport property for development, and providing an additional revenue stream to pay for the People Mover.

Mr. Allen stated that he was concerned about the return on investment from this project. He asked if the Five Party Agreement requires the People Mover be built. Mr. Bob Simms from the City Attorney's Office stated that the agreement allowed for the People Mover to be built, but does not require it.

Ms. Koop and Mr. Natinsky expressed their support for moving forward on the People Mover project. Ms. Koop noted that this is an investment that will serve the airport for 50 to 100 years.

No action was taken on this item.

4. Air Quality 101

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

Mr. Griffin gave the Committee a high level overview on air quality issues. He discussed air quality standards, ground-level ozone, DFW non-attainment areas, state implementation plans, and City of Dallas initiatives.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Hill asked if educational programs were put in place to help builders become green contractors. Mr. Griffin indicated that such a program was currently being developed.

Ms. Koop gave a further explanation of carbon credits.

No action was taken on this item.

5. Sidewalk Improvement Program Briefing

Presenter: Alan Hendrix, Interim AD, Public Works and Transportation

Due to time constraints, this item was not briefed.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

No action was taken on this item.

Linda L. Koop

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee

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