

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com. Recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the TEC Staff Coordinator at 214-670-4545.

Meeting Date: October 11, 2010 **Start Time:** 2:05 p.m. **Adjournment:** 4:14 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry R. Allen, Tennell Atkins, Carolyn R. Davis, Delia Jasso, Vonciel Jones Hill, Pauline Medrano, Ron Natinsky

Committee Members Absent:

Angela Hunt

Other Council Members Present:

Dwaine R. Caraway

City Executive Staff Present:

Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Peer Chacko, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction
Dan Weber, Director, Aviation

DART Board Members Present:

Richard Carrizales, Scott Carlson, Jerry Christian, John Danish, Pamela Dunlop Gates, Robert Strauss, William Tsao, William Velasco, Tracey Whitaker, and Faye Wilkins

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes for September 27, 2010 Joint Transportation and Environment & Quality of Life Committee Meeting**

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the September 27, 2010 Joint Transportation and Environment & Quality of Life Meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Atkins

Seconded by: Hill

Passed unanimously

2. Discussion of Other Issues - Follow-up on DART's State Fair (Texas/OU) Transit Plan

Presenter: Gary Thomas, President/Executive Director, Dallas Area Rapid Transit

Mr. Thomas provided an overview of the successful transit operations for the Texas/OU weekend at the State Fair. Transit ridership was down slightly from the number of trips last year. He indicated that DART received comments that riders were impressed with the customer service. Many DART Board members, employees and volunteers worked the platforms and answered questions to get riders to their destinations.

Discussion/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop congratulated the DART Board members and staff on developing a great transit plan.

Mr. Velasco, Chair of the DART Board, introduced the members of the DART Board and recognized Gary Thomas as the incoming Vice President of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

Mr. Allen recognized Mr. Dave Bradley, a supporter of DART in the audience.

3. Paratransit Services

Presenter: Gary Thomas, Executive Director/President, Dallas Area Rapid Transit

Mr. Thomas briefed the Committee on Mobility Management Services (formerly Paratransit Services) mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Tammy Haenftling, AVP Paratransit Management Services, assisted in answering questions.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop asked what DART expects out of the Request for Information (RFI) and would someone have to submit an RFI in order to later submit a proposal to provide the service. Mr. Thomas stated that DART expects to get confirmation as to whether the proposed new service model will work. There are cities around the United States using a form of the new service model. Most paratransit services around the country are contracted out to private operators who use a supplemental service, or independent operators, to help cover peak demand periods. DART is currently looking at a system to allow the contractor to make that decision.

Mr. Atkins asked the potential savings for the new service model. Mr. Thomas indicated that they have looked at operating savings, and expect the vendors to be aggressive on how much could be saved on an annual basis. DART's Financial Plan anticipates saving approximately \$1.5 million per year in the operating budget. He added that since the new model requires the vendor to provide the vehicles, there would be an additional \$120 million savings in capital cost.

Mr. Atkins asked if there were a "Plan B" in place if the model does not work. Mr. Thomas stated that the contract would be similar to other service-related contracts; if the contractor failed to perform, DART would have contractual opportunities to

remedy their non-performance or terminate the contract.

Ms. Jasso stated that the bulk of customer complaints she hears about are due to dispatch and scheduling issues, and indicated that she is not in support of outsourcing those functions. She asked how many of the eight vendors looking at the RFI are local to the City. Mr. Thomas stated that Yellow Cab is the only vendor local to the City, while Veolia, the current contractor, has a presence in Dallas.

Mr. Allen also indicated that he disagreed with outsourcing the dispatch and scheduling functions.

Mr. Natinsky asked about the anticipated term for the new contract. Tammy Haentfling said that the contract would be for five to seven years. Mr. Natinsky suggested that with today's technology, he is not concerned about outsourcing the scheduling services to other countries as long as there is no language barrier; however, he is concerned with the interaction of responsibility between DART and the outside contractor and how that might affect the customer.

Ms. Hill stated that she is concerned about outsourcing dispatch and asked for an explanation of the bridge between where the dispatch is located and who will explain how Dallas works. Mr. Thomas stated the bridge will be the twenty DART employees who work on the program. He also indicated that the contractor may or may not decide to have local dispatch.

Ms. Hill asked what the rider will pay for the service and who will be responsible for the \$45 subsidy per passenger. Mr. Thomas stated the passenger will pay \$3 per one-way trip and the subsidy will be paid through the sales tax that DART receives for its operating revenue.

Mr. Caraway thanked DART staff and the DART Board members for their service. He stated that he has concerns with the impact of outsourcing services because it will eliminate positions; he wants to make sure that the proposed eliminated positions are not employees only a few years from retirement. Mr. Caraway asked about the status of the unpainted fence on the Lancaster Line. Mr. Thomas stated that the fence will be painted within the week.

No action was taken on this item.

4. Future Blue Line Extension (South Oak Cliff – 3) to UNT Campus

Presenter: Gary Thomas, Executive Director/President, Dallas Area Rapid Transit

Mr. Thomas provided an overview of the planned Blue Line rail transit extension (SOC-3) to the new UNT campus.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Koop stated that UNT plans to invest \$100 million over a number of years and expects to grow to approximately 20,000 students. She suggested the DART Board members tour the new UNT campus.

Mr. Atkins stated the potential for the area is substantial; there are approximately 270 acres available for development of the campus area and the economic impact will be over a billion dollars.

Ms. Hill asked for clarification about the source of the \$120 million allocated for the future blue line extension. Mr. Thomas stated that the \$120 million will be new debt and is dependent on sale tax collections over time. Ms. Hill stated she does not want to see the South Oak Cliff line postponed if the funding source is not available. She indicated that much of the economic development in the Southern Sector is dependent on when the extension opens and South Oak Cliff needs the same priority and economic development as other areas.

Ms. Koop indicated that development in new railcars could result in significant savings for this extension and requested a briefing on the new technology for railcars at a future meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

5. Downtown Dallas 360 Plan

Presenter: Peer Chacko, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development and Construction

Mr. Chacko briefed the Committee on Downtown Dallas 360, an action-oriented plan crafted to make the vision for Downtown Dallas a reality.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Davis referenced the map on slide 11 and commented that the presentation did not highlight all the wonderful projects that are occurring in the neighborhoods adjacent to and near Downtown.

Ms. Jasso liked many of the proposals in the presentation, but stressed that the guidelines and standards needed to achieve the plan must also be available to promote similar goals in other parts of the City.

Mr. Kadane asked if there are plans to privatize the Farmer's Market. Ms. Jordan stated that there are talks underway about privatizing the Farmer's Market. He also asked about the schedule for finalizing the Downtown Dallas 360 Plan. Mr. Chacko stated that the plan is expected to be finalized within the next two months and should be valid for approximately ten years after Council approval.

No action was taken on this item.

6. Upcoming Agenda Items

Addendum Item # 1 on October 13, 2010 City Council Agenda - Aviation Department

Authorize an amendment to the Love Field Food and Beverage Concession Contract with Dallas Love Field Joint Venture, Ltd. ("Concessionaire") – Estimated Revenue: \$4,057,192

Motion was made to recommend approval of Addendum Item #1 scheduled for full Council consideration on October 13, 2010.

Made by: Hill

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

Addendum Item # 2 on October 13, 2010 City Council Agenda - Aviation
Department

Authorize an amendment to the Love Field Retail Merchandise Concession
Contract with Hudson Retail Dallas, J.V. ("Concessionaire") – Estimated
Revenue: \$1,938,799

Motion was made to recommend approval of Addendum Item #2 scheduled for
full Council consideration on October 13, 2010.

Made by: Hill

Seconded by: Kadane

Passed unanimously

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee

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