

MINUTES
STREETS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007
5:00 P.M.
DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS SERVICES CENTER
TRAINING ROOM (2nd FLOOR)
1901 SOUTH ALAMO

Commission Members Present: George Britton, Darryl Byrd, Christine Castro, Esther De Leon, Ed Estrada, Mike Gallagher, Ted Guerra, Judy Hanson, Jim Hunley, Juan Mancha, Ray Martinez, Dolores Mendez, Amy Putney, Alonso Rangel, Tony Reyes, Larry Romo, Evanleen Schmueckle, Ken Thomas, Lila Theis, John Kunderer, Angie Ruiz, Susan Wright, Mike Villyard, Rick Idar, Adelita Huron

Commission Members Absent: Carlos Richardson, Ann Gamble, Richard Lafoil, Terrell McCombs, Ralph Gomez, Timothy Henson, Mike Phillips

Staff Present: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Richard Perez, City Councilman; Trey Jacobson, Mayor's Office; Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works; Jason Cosby, Assistant Director of Public Works; Peter Zaroni, Director of Management and Budget; Edward Benavides, Executive Assistant; Lori Houston, Special Projects Manager; Robert Perez and Ron Campos, Sr. Management and Budget Analysts; Kent Hickingbottom, Capital Programs Manager; Christie Chapman, Special Projects Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Darryl Byrd, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.
Roll call was taken.

2. Co-Chairman's Welcome – Darryl Byrd

(a) Introduction:

Co-Chair Darryl Byrd announced if the Committee would like to bring additional Streets and Sidewalks projects to the table, they would also need to bring suggestions of projects that need to be removed from the recommended list. He indicated there will be time to discuss changes to new and/or existing project recommendations.

Mr. Byrd announced he would like to get to the decision making process as soon as possible. He encouraged the Committee to be efficient and attempt to do some work today. Mr. Byrd stated everyone on the committee will have an opportunity to speak after citizens have been heard and staff presentations have been made.

3. Citizens to be Heard

Mr. Mel Feldman – Made comments regarding there not being enough waste baskets provided to residents in the city. Also stated Public Works is the most under funded department within the city. Mr. Feldman also stated City Council term limits need to be extended to full-time positions. He also spoke about public transportation not being utilized enough in the city.

Ms. Lynn Hickey- On behalf of the University of Texas San Antonio Ms. Hickey addressed the Committee to gain support for an athletic park near Hausman Rd. and Loop 1604.

Mr. Bill de Valcourt- Mr. de Valcourt stated City Master Plans are an idealistic planning tool. He suggests putting more money in street projects than spending money on bike lanes. He indicated bike lanes are not necessary when it comes to fixing streets. Nobody uses bike lanes and they cause trouble because they have the right-of-way when exiting off-ramps.

Mr. Walter Thorman (President of Oak Park Neighborhood Association) – Addressed the Committee regarding the dangerous intersection of N. New Braunfels and Nacogdoches Rd. Mr. Thorman has talked to City Engineers and was told the only way to fix the problem is to acquire “right of way rights” within a Bond Program. He would like the Committee to please consider funding for at least the problem of switching lanes, which is the most dangerous aspect of the project needed. Sidewalks are also needed on N. New Braunfels.

Mr. William Schiller- Would like to see N. New Braunfels Ave. on the Bond Program list of street projects. Mr. Schiller stated this street has been addressed in the last 50 years. Everyone in that area pays a lot of taxes and deserves to have this street improved.

Mr. Russell Ehlinger (Southwest Independent School District) – Stated the Southwest Independent School District was experiencing tremendous growth. He also stated Old Perasall Rd. near Hillside Acres Neighborhood needs sidewalks and Old Perasall Rd. at Medial Creek gets flooded often.

Mr. Tomas Guerrero- Addressed the Committee regarding Sealy Rd. and St. Cloud St. not having any sidewalks though later he found a sidewalk buried under weeds. He stated people with wheelchairs must use streets because there are no sidewalks. He has written letters to the Council District 7 Councilman, City Manger, and Tom Wendorf regarding this problem.

Mr. Royce Hill- Stated Country View Rd. has not been paved. There is a subdivision that was put in and now the neighborhood floods. He wants a paved street. People will not build houses there anymore because of the flooding. He will be back at the next Bond meeting to take up drainage issues.

Ms. Stephanie Dwyer- (picture handout) Speaking on behalf of Ridge Haven Homeowners Association. Ms. Dwyer would like for Street Project 1037 to include Dezevala Rd. to be widened from 2 to 4 lanes. The residents are requesting a treatment to enter and exit the neighborhood safely. An acceleration lane was made some time ago for the residents to enter and exit safely. However, now traffic gets backs up. She is requesting for Public Works to keep this on the recommendation table for the improvement. There have been quite a few accidents at this intersection.

4. Presentations and Discussion

(a) Peter Zanoni, Director of Management and Budget

Mr. Zanoni briefly reviewed follow-up material to be covered in more detail by Mr. Tom Wendorf from the previous Bond Committee meeting to include updated quad sheets and project lists (streets and drainage), TXDOT Bridge Replacement Program information, data regarding leveraged dollars associated with recommended Bond Projects, and the criteria within a street project.

(b) Sheryl Sculley, City Manager

Ms. Sculley briefly reviewed the percentages and rough proportionality reflecting the ammended recommended projects for streets and sidewalks and drainage projects. Ms. Sculley also reviewed the Proposed Rolling 5-Year Infrastructure Management Program by Council District, as requested at the previous meeting.

(c) Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works

Mr. Wendorf reviewed a revised list of all recommended Streets and Sidewalks projects, Drainage projects and associated costs. Mr. Wendorf also reviewed all changes to the revised recommended projects. Tom indicated he met with the County regarding adding the Frio Rd. Project into the county bond program.

Mr. Wendorf continued with his presentation and reviewed a typical street project timeline. In the presentation Mr. Wendorf indiacted the cumulative time to produce a typical project is 34 months, assuming there are not any issues to slow it down. If approved, the projected completion timeline for the Bond projects is May of 2012.

Mr. Wendorf defined what public infrastructure was in relation to the components of street projects. Mr. Wendorf cited several examples and pointed out the issues and how planning was necessary for the project to work as efficiently and effectivley as possible.

Mr. Wendorf reviwed the bridge replacement program while acknowledging a map hanging on the Board Room wall the committee may review. Mr. Wendorf also reviewed TXDOT's Off-System Bridge Program (bi-annual inspection of

bridges). Mr. Wendorf stated the program components are determined on a state-wide basis and addresses the worst bridges first. He reviewed the components of the score system used by TXDOT for bridge replacement. The score must be an 80 or less in order to be considered for placement in the program or the bridge must be functionally inefficient. Additionally, the score must be less than 50 to be considered for a complete replacement. Mr. Wendorf completed his review of the Bi-Annual TXDOT bridge Study.

Mr. Wendorf was asked by Co-Chairman Byrd if he would like to make comments on the N. New Braunfels issue brought to light by a citizen. Mr. Wendorf stated the City has significant needs and the City is trying to address all issues, however the recommendations are as stands. He will try to do more to include the project within the 5-Year Rolling Infrastructure Plan as time moves on.

Mr. Byrd stated he would open discussion regarding existing recommendations and new recommendations as well. He also stated the total amount of money of \$300M will not change and the Committee needed to remember to stay within those parameters. Mr. Byrd stated if there are projects Committee members would like to replace, they may remove the project from the recommended list and the committee will see where they are at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Wendorf reminded Committee Members new projects will require a level two cost analysis to be moved forward.

Mr. Byrd also reminded Committee Members the City 5-Year Rolling Infrastructure Plan will address local residential streets, and he would like the Bond money to cover larger streets/highways that are traveled most often.

5. Questions/Comments from Committee

(a) Questions were taken from Committee Members at this time. (See Attachment)

6. Adjournment

Darryl Byrd made closing comments. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm