

*COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
July 26, 2010*

Subcommittee Members: Council Member Sheryl Cole
Council Member Laura Morrison
Council Member Chris Riley

1. Citizen Communication (3 minutes to speak).

No citizens signed up to speak.

2. Presentation of City's Manager's Recommended November 2010 Bond Proposal and Transportation Bond Citizen Task Force Recommendation.

Rob Spillar, Transportation Department, provided an overview of the projects proposed for inclusion in the 2010 Bond Proposal. The presentation included a history of public input, cost, and how the projects were ranked and prioritized. He said approval would be posted for Council consideration at its August 5, 2010 meeting.

Council Member Cole said she wanted to note that although the issuance of bonds will not result in a tax impact in 2011, it could result in a tax impact in 2012, and therefore she did not want to give the impression that the City could issue debt without a future tax impact. Mr. Spillar noted that the Budget Office would provide a briefing to Council on the impact of the bond package.

Council Member Cole asked for information regarding the phasing of the boardwalk trail at Lady Bird Lake, and potential funding from the Trails Foundation. Mr. Spillar explained that the total cost of the project is \$14.4M, and will consist of two phases. The first phase, which will extend the boardwalk to an area just east of IH-35 will cost \$9M. The second phase will cost \$5.5M, and the Trails Foundation has indicated that they would contribute \$3M towards this phase. The funding includes the acquisition of real estate to provide a connection between Blunn Creek and Riverside. Should the Trails Foundation not provide funding, the Council would have to find an alternative funding source to complete the second phase.

There was discussion regarding the IH-35/51st Street Interchange, and joint partnership and funding opportunities with TxDOT and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) for several projects on MoPac and IH 35 to improve congestion for central Austin.

Council Member Riley expressed concern about a northbound lane on MoPac that is currently shared by motorists and cyclists. He questioned when improvements will be made to provide the needed bike lanes.

Rob Spillar responded that the bike lane project on northbound MoPac is in the design stage, but environmental concerns have been identified, and therefore the project is not ready for funding at this point. They are hoping that funding will be provided in 2012.

Council Member Morrison asked about the timeline for the 2 different phases of the boardwalk. Mr. Spillar responded that the first phase is about 18 months away, and they can proceed with Phase II once they receive a commitment for funding from the Trails Foundation.

Council Member Morrison noted that the boardwalk is an important, but an expensive project, and there are other projects that need funding. She said there is no question that other projects could be funded with the amount slated for the boardwalk. She questioned what the priority list would look like if the \$14M were shifted to other projects. Mr. Spillar responded that the funding would be shifted to the next list of priority projects. The intent was to focus on the "A" level projects and shifting the funding would provide funding for "B" level multi-modal projects.

Council Member Morrison noted that the Chamber of Commerce and RECA have provided a list of intersections that need improvement, and there is a need for an overall mobility approach to address those problem areas.

No action taken.