

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2011

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

Call Meeting to Order

1. **Citizen Communication (3 minutes to speak).**

Scott Johnson, part of the cycling community. Have lived in Austin for 21 years and has concerns of cyclist breaking laws. The City has been too leant in wrapping up the permitting process for petty cab drivers and bike messengers when they break the law on a regular basis at stop signs. Scott, would like for council to consider that some cyclist do care and they obey the law. Council should penalize those that do not follow traffic law.

2. **Approval of minutes from the August 1, 2011, regular subcommittee meeting.**

Minutes approved by a vote of 3-0.

3. **Staff Update on Bruning Avenue**

Gary Schatz, Assistant Director, Austin Transportation Department, provided an update on the temporary closure on Bruning Avenue. This is still a work in progress. Austin Water has an on-going project they are implementing and we want to make sure they are completely out of the way before we begin our data action activities. We believe conditions have normalized to the point where we can provide a snapshot of what is going on, the community has expressed concern (queues and delays) about the signal. The City considers the temporary closure of Bruning to improve efficiency to corridor.

The next steps are December, 2011, additional data collection (considering status of AWU construction project). On November, 2011, installation of ITS control for 51st and Airport as well as a working group meeting. December, 2011/January, 2012, additional data collected and January, 2012, working groups and community meetings.

Council Member Riley, questioned if the Water Utility construction project was underway? Yes. Since when? The first week of September, 51st street

was closed for about 3 weeks. There were other street closures in that area as well. The closure for Bruning was the 1st week of June thru September.

Bob Breeze, Hyde Park Association, still in opposition of this closure. Issues from his observation are 51st and Duval intersection. 53rd and Clarkson are problematic. Cars have to make an “s” turn in order to get through the light. Individuals on bicycles have been clipped going through this intersection. Also, Caswell and 51st people are attempting to cross the street but can’t see due to the “s” turn at the intersection.

Council Member Riley, asked Bob Breeze what intersection he was referring to? Mr. Breeze stated 53rd and Clarkson, Duval on the north end. The reason bicyclists are being clipped because it is a very confusing intersection.

Rick Black stated he lives on Evans and Bruning behind the Snappy Mart and has lived there for 7 years. He is affected by these intersections on a daily basis and feels with these closures things have improved. On Bruning and North Loop it’s not pretty but it does flow better and he really hasn’t noticed any back-ups.

Jamie Bonner, works for HSR, there is an extensive amount of cars and bicycles cutting through their parking lot which is unacceptable. Their office contacted police through none-emergency and they stated they were aware of a road closure for that area. This office has lost customers due to the fact they can’t get to the building and employees are late due to traffic which cuts down on productive.

Council Member Morrison asked Mr. Schatz was City staff aware of these concerns. Mr. Schatz, stated prior to the closure Mr. Spiller met 1/1 with the owner. City will look at the street next to them to open to provide modification to this situation.

Suth Johnson, resident of Hyde Park has done a lot of observation and was told the reason for the closures of this area were for safety concerns. There has been increased traffic on 51st and really doesn’t understand how this has provided safety to that area. Really feel these closures have made it worst within those school zones.

4. Staff Update on Open Space Requirement

George Zapalac, Planning and Development Review, provided an update on the open space recommendations. The Planning Commission has provided recommendations of exclude University Neighborhood Overlay and work with Downtown stakeholders on affordability issues. At the last meeting

CPTC asked that we provide information to the Green Roof Advisory Group and they provided recommendations of, In CBD & DMU, all of required open space may be located above ground level, in other districts up to 30% of open space may be above ground level, up to 50% of open space may be above ground level if 50% of space designed as Green Roof. Open Space above ground level must be screened from adjacent single-family uses. Also, additional staff recommendations were to allow credit for personal open space in CBD of 25% for large sites and 50% for small sites (less than ¼ blocks).

Charlie Betts, representing the Downtown Alliance Group, asked Council to consider the exempting the CBD and DMU zoning from this ordinance. Reason there is very few open space 800 feet from the park. Also, very few projects that have met this ordinance goal. If it's not a problem why write another ordinance.

5. Staff Update on Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan

Garner Stoll, Planning and Development Review Department. Provide you with an update of the process, introduction to the draft Comprehensive Plan, Review of the Plan and task force review. Two years ago you approved a Citizen participation plan to reach out to the community and get as many people as possible involved. The broad public participation total is 14,844 In addition to that the total for the working groups participation are 471 members of the public, 7 topical working groups, 6 meetings and 2 surveys and 6 panel discussions. We have contact team meetings to discuss relation of neighborhood plans & Imagine Austin. Imagine Austin Release Party held on Saturday, October 1, 2011, 160 surveys completed and 150+ new email sign-ups/new contacts. Also, 500 packets were handed out. The Public Review Draft was released for Task Force early September non-policy changes incorporated.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.