



COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, June 30, 2014 at 301 W. Second Street, Room #1101, Austin, Texas.

Subcommittee Members in Attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Cole (Chair)
Council Member Morrison
Council Member Riley

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Cole called the Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 5, 2014 – Approved the June 30, 2014, minutes on a 2-0 vote with Council Member Riley off the dais.

3. BRIEFING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF IMAGINE AUSTIN RELATED TO “PRIORITY PROGRAM #1: INVEST IN A COMPACT AND CONNECTED AUSTIN”

Mr. Kit Johnson, City Architect, Public Works Department, Jim Robertson, Manager, Development Services, Planning and Development Review Department (PDRD) and Stevie Greathouse, Principal Planner, PDRD. We are already two years in implementing the Imagine Austin Plan. One of the key components of that is internal alignment. Part of the Imagine Austin is to have eight priority programs which are: 1) Invest in Compact & Connected Austin; 2) Sustainable Water; 3) Workforce Development; 4) Green Infrastructure; 5) Creative Economy; 6) Household Affordability; 7) Healthy Austin and 8) Align Code.

The Compact & Connected (C&C) mission is to convene, connect, inform and create. The focus areas compact and connected training, CodeNEXT input, complete streets, place making coordination and connecting partnering. The

team is basically trying to find out what is going on around the City and connect.

Mr. Jim Robertson, discussed what Compact & Connected really means; we need to coordinate the physical form of Austin, how it's organized and how it is built with our transportation network. The mixing uses vs. separating uses, compact infill development, convenient access to employment center, complete streets, daily necessities in walking range, inter-connected street network, multiple transportation options and centers and corridors.

Ms. Stevie Greathouse, discussed what the C&C team has been up to and how they are trying to move the C&C forward. Basically, the team is all about communicating and connecting trying to bring the City together that are involved in different projects vision. The C&C Professional Development Course has prepared staff to work across departments to achieve a more C&C connected. There is a plan to provide course to the public; there has been a C&C training to staff, CMO and others. The departmental & agency initiatives: inquire, track, and receive project updates from member departments and other organizations including TxDOT, Capital Metro and Austin Water.

The recommendations are hoping to find others to serve as C&C ambassadors, consider taking C&C course, CIP strategic plan: invest in C&C; establish consistent dedicated funding source for street reconstruction to free up bond programs for strategic C&C investments; complete streets: make our public realm great, use city fees and zoning to shape and incentivize C&C development and lead by example.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, asked about people serving C&C ambassadors, what do you in vision them doing?

Ms. Greathouse, stated sort of what they current C&C team is doing. Basically, understanding the concepts, how to build a C&C Austin and work through the work groups and really advocate on behalf of the Imagine Austin vision.

Council Member Riley, asked about the recommendations in regards to City Facilities. Are you stating that we should take a look at City buildings and consider if there are any opportunities for redevelopment of those properties in line with the principals of Imagine Austin?

Ms. Greathouse, stated that is definitely part of it. In communication with the Strategic Governance Team they were also interested in ways in making some of the more undesirable uses to be better neighbors and fit in.

Council Member Riley, if the course was available to any city employee?

Mr. Robertson, stated that is has primarily been offered at the Director, Assistant Director and the Division Manager level. Currently, in a brainstorming phase on how to move it forward. There is no designating staff for this program.

Council Member Riley, asked if there were examples from other cities that have managed to come up with a funding source for street reconstruction?

Ms. Greathouse, stated that when she was working in Portland, Oregon they received a cut of the state gas tax.

Council Member Riley, stated if there are other cities that have managed to figure that out especially in Texas that would be great to know about.

Council Member Morrison, asked if the course was seven hours as previously stated?

Mr. Robertson, stated actually the first two courses, during the summer and Fall of 2013 were about 30 hours, which requires a lot of reading. It is very intense. As we worked to get on the City Manager's calendar it was brought down to two 3 1/2 hours sessions. We did not give quizzes to the City Manager's office.

Council Member Morrison, asked if the level of effort and resources of the other teams were up to speed as whereas to presenting 30 hour courses?

Mr. Paul DiGiuseppe, stated none of the teams have presented 30 hour courses, but an interesting idea that their needs to be some training with the other departments.

**4. BRIEFING ON THE SOUTH CENTRAL WATERFRONT
“DRAFT” VISION FRAMEWORK PLAN INITIATIVE DETAILING
THE RESULTS OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS.**

Mr. Alan Holt, Principal Planner, Urban Design Division of Planning and Development Review Department, briefed Council on the South Central Waterfront 97 acres. To establish a vision and provide recommendations to guide public and private development over the next 20-plus years.

Mr. Holt explained the bone structure and skin condition of this area, the 1985 Town Lake Corridor Study (2000 ROMA Report), 2012 SDAT: District Framework First to include the increase public access along the shore, increase pedestrian connections to the shore, improve water quality through Green infrastructure, significant affordable housing and district value-capture

(TIF) for physical framework and affordable housing. Council instructed staff to meet with the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board (WPAB) and the WPAB appointed stakeholder outreach committee. Staff have been working with these groups as well as the Technical Advisory Group and the general public.

The concerns that staff have heard from the Community are open space ALONG the waterfront, access to the waterfront, people-focused design (walkable/bikeable), highest quality architecture and design, variety of transportation options, green network throughout the district, variety of affordable housing options in district, green approaches to water quality and economically viable and realistic. In moving forward staff is looking at 3 key points of a vision framework must include: a physical framework for a district-wide vision, not a parcel by parcel approach, to providing a connecting network of streets, pedestrian connections, open space and green infrastructure and a financial framework to capture the district-wide value of investments, both private and public, to realize the physical framework and to include creation of affordable housing and involvement of the city as active partner.

Developing & Implementing the Vision Framework, physical, financial, partnership of the South Center Waterfront moving forward: pending funding authorization, engage consultant services for: economic development and finance models, market analysis, bonus calibration; engineering: green infrastructure design, costs; design & planning: transportation, landscape, urban design, public art and district-management and implementation needs.

Council Member Riley, thanked Alan for the presentation and the months and months of work and commitment for working on these plans. What is it going to take to ensure this process continues to the point to get the plan in place that we now know is desperately needed?

Mr. Holt, stated this is a vision framework. We have had enough conversation with the community, with the property owners and Waterfront Advisory Board (WFAB) and other neighborhoods to know that the potential is there. But we will need some deep economic consulting above and beyond what we are going to pull off. We are well poised as possibly can be pending funding authorization to engage primarily those economic, engineering services, we will need to really do the market studies and economic impact.

Council Member Riley, asked what does Council need to do to get all of that in place?

Mr. Holt, stated there is an unfunded request from the Planning Department for \$200,000 for consultant services.

Council Member Morrison, asked about slides 13 and 14 expecting a build out of approximately 10,000 housing units and on slide 14 about 600 of them being affordable, this is unacceptable.

Mr. Holt, stated slide 13 is about residence and not dwelling units and he will fix those slides to state as such.

ADJOURMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Cole adjourned the meeting with no objection at 3:20 p.m.