

Des Moines City Council PS&T Committee Minutes – 01/14/10

Meeting called to order: 5:40 PM on January 14, 2010, in North Conference Room @ 21630 11th Avenue So., Des Moines WA 98198

Council Members

Dave Kaplan - Chairman & Mayor Pro Tem
Scott Thomasson - Councilmember
Matt Pina - newly elected Councilmember

Guest

Nelson Davis, KPG, Gateway Consultant
Paul Feusel, KPG
Andrew Merges, KPG

City Staff

Tony Piasecki - City Manager
Grant Fredricks - Director PB&PW
Dan Brewer - Asst. Dir. Transp. & Engineering
Lorri Ericson - Asst. City Manager
Linda Wright – Administrative Asst.
Len Madsen - Gateway Project Manager
Amy Swartz - City Civil Engineer

Purpose/Agenda:

1. Urban Design Elements for Gateway Project - Len Madsen and KPG
2. Historic SR 509 - WSDOT/Staff Discussion of City ROW Request
3. Traffic Impact Fees
4. Project Updates (216th /No. Twin Bridge) - Time permitting.

1st Order of Business was to select a Chairman for the Committee - Dave Kaplan who had been chairman expressed interest in the position and asked Committee members Scott Thomasson and Matt Pina if they were interested or had any objection.....both conceded to Mr. Kaplan who will remain the Committee Chair.

1. Gateway Project - Urban Design Elements

Copies of the urban design report were distributed to the Council in early January in preparation for a full Council briefing on January 28, 2010. The intent of this Committee meeting is to present the urban design elements and help focus on items of concern for the full Council briefing. Paul Feusel, KPG made the presentation on how the urban design components would present a good face for future economic revitalization of the immediate area and as well as gateway “corridor” as an extension of Pacific Highway leading to the downtown core.

PS&T members focused on the follow concerns:

Roadway Transition at 19th Avenue S.: Concern was expressed to avoid “throw away” sidewalk investments at this transition. The consultant advised improvements will be designed to be as permanent as possible as this transitions to a three lane section east of 20th Avenue S.

24th Avenue S. Intersection, south leg: The Committee urged staff to fully evaluate capacity requirements due to pending development of a new church, sports park and future commercial development and consider adding a northbound right turn lane while discouraging thru truck movements..

Operations and Maintenance Issues: Cross sections of the two roadways were discussed. On 24th Avenue S, Committee members recommended trees not be placed in the median due to maintenance costs and potential conflicts with underground utilities. On S. 216th Street, between 24th Avenue S and Pacific Highway, a suggestion was made to consolidate landscaping in clusters using drought tolerant plants and scale back the urban design elements to reduce requirements for ongoing maintenance.

Gateway Signature - Monument Signage: Urban designers anticipate that the scale of the intersection at Pacific Highway South will need a new and larger monument sign as a signature to the City's Gateway. The Committee discussed the potential to place greater emphasis on the NW corner of Pacific Highway S. & look at opportunities to integrate urban design elements with existing retail services.

Westbound Bus Stop: The Committee discussed the westbound bus stop in the vicinity of the shopping plaza on S. 216th Street and discussed whether or not it should be constructed as a pull out. Staff advised that the stop should be located as conveniently as possible to become a transfer point supporting the rapid ride stations on Pacific Highway. Queuing is a current problem and it was requested that the need for a pullout be evaluated.

2. **509 Right of Way:** Due to inadequate time, transfer of the SR509 right of way to the City was deferred until the February meeting.

3. **Transportation Impact Fees:** The transportation impact fees were briefly discussed. An interest was expressed in terms of a comparative analysis of how the proposed fees relate to other communities in the area. This issue will be discussed before the full Council.

Adjourned 6:25 PM

Respectfully submitted – Linda Wright, Administrative Assistant