

Public Safety and Transportation Committee Minutes for February 6, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM February 6, 2003, in the City Hall Conference Room with the following in attendance:

Councilmembers

Richard Benjamin, Chairman
Gary Petersen
Scott Thomasson

Staff

Tim Heydon
Maiya Andrews
Michael Holmes

Guest – Larry Toedtli from The Transpo Group, who is the consultant for the Des Moines Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), was on hand to answer questions and provide information on transportation impact fees.

The Committee discussed the new signal at South 216th and 24th Avenue South, and transportation impact fees. An ordinance for transportation impact fees was presented to Council on January 30th; however, Council requested further discussion and a recommendation from the Committee regarding the transportation impact fee rate.

Signal South 216th and 24th Avenue South

The Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) has grant funded this project at 80%, with the exception of some future right of way costs. Staff showed the Committee details on the planned intersection configuration for this project, and the future configuration - which is based on needs identified in the CTP (including the construction of SR 509). Scott Thomasson expressed concern regarding alignment and lane configuration – staff is planning to respond to these specific questions in more detail. The Committee also asked staff to look into a safety concern with the planned northbound right turn. Staff will look into posting this movement as “no right turn on red”.

Transportation Impact Fee Discussion

Tim Heydon gave an overview of the fee program and presented some examples of fees charged by other cities, i.e. SeaTac, Redmond, and Maple Valley. He discussed the many features that attract developers to Des Moines, and that the City was receiving inquiries from developers/businesses on an ongoing basis. Richard Benjamin asked about Maple Valley’s “stepped” fee. He wanted to know what the fees should be and expressed an interest to increase fees a little at a time to encourage development in the next few years. Concerns were expressed about the impacts these fees may have on development.

Scott Thomasson reminded others that developers in Des Moines do not have to pay many of the expensive fees that other cities charge for sewer and water connections. Although he preferred to implement the full fee as soon as possible, he agreed that a stepped fee would be better than nothing.

Recommendation

It was decided that a stepped/phased plan would be recommended to full council: that the base rate originally recommended in the CTP would remain, but that assessments would be made at 70% of the base rate for 2003, 80% for 2004, 90% for 2005, and 100% thereafter. A new Ordinance reflecting these graduated rates will be presented to Council at the March 6th meeting.

No future meeting time was set. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26PM.

Submitted by:

(original signed)

Maiya Andrews