

Public Safety and Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2007

Present: Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Ed Pina, Dan Sherman, and City Engineer Len Madsen, City Manager Tony Piasecki, Commander John O'Leary, and Planning, Building & Public Works Director Grant Fredricks.

The meeting convened at 6:04 pm.

16th Avenue South Improvements: Phase I: S. 272nd Street to S. 260th Street.

Len Madsen advised the Committee that this project will include sidewalks, bike lanes, improved left turn lanes, along the corridor and signalization at 260th Street. He noted that Highline Water District has finished their portion and the City will finish 250' of pipe and bill them for the completion. He further explained that the sidewalks will be 6" above the street and 6" deep.

Des Moines gave notice to proceed to Scarsela with the construction of the sanitary storm sewer, curb, gutter and sidewalk with the final overlay taking place next spring.

Councilmember Kaplan mentioned that 260th will be closed August 29, 2007 and expressed concern regarding opening the day school starts on September 2, 2007. Staff noted that the construction schedule is largely up to the contractor, but staff is working closely to ensure the repairs of Saltwater Bridge, bridge detours and the work on 260th/Woodmont Drive are coordinated to minimize impacts on the community.

Saltwater Bridge:

Councilmember Pina mentioned his concern that when the Woodmont Bridge is closed, there will only be one access at 14th Place South.

Grant explained that Dan Brewer has spearheaded the bridge grant from TIB for the local match not covered by FHWA, and that we received a commitment of \$258,000 two weeks ago. He continued by saying that we would need the consultant's report to decide how to sort out the costs that would be covered by FHWA, any portion covered by TIB or the state transportation budget, and the city's sole responsibility.

Councilmember Kaplan requested information on an approximate time line for the Feds to make a decision. Grant advised the Committee that the Feds generally turn things around quickly and that it could be 30 days or possibly sooner.

City Manager Piasecki began a discussion regarding some of the reasons members of the Council will be attending the legislative session in Washington, DC will be to bridge the issues of requesting assistance with three other projects. He mentioned that the fourth project is the Saltwater Bridge issue, and that discussions might take place with the delegation if we feel we need financial assistance with this project.

Councilmember Kaplan asked what length of time is involved in the bridge project and Grant replied that an optimistic schedule may take 2-3 months starting in May and being completed by the 4th of July, but we're still waiting on the consultant's report and FHWA review and approval.

Councilmember Kaplan voiced questions regarding the bidding process. Grant explained that Federal rules require the Federal bidding process.

Grant advised the Committee that this project needs to be closely controlled in order to accelerate the work on the bridge so it doesn't interfere with 16th Ave S.

Len Madsen mentioned the queue at the 250th interchange. Staff is evaluating the intersection and explores means to allow access and manage traffic flow on 16th Avenue South.

Further conversation included Councilmember Kaplan stating there may be a one month overlap and Councilmember Pina suggests it may be difficult at the 4-way stop. Tony Piasecki commented that the removal of the north/south stop signs may allow more gaps in traffic.

Additionally, Len Madsen advised that Dan Brewer will be reviewing this project to determine if stop signs or signals are warranted.

Councilmember Kaplan questioned the timing on the funding and the amount of the funding for this project. Grant advised that hopefully the Feds will approve the reimbursement process. Tony commented that this would be approximately \$1.5 million, and that we need to prepare a cash flow analysis to see if the funds are available in the CIP Arterial balance.

Discussion ensued regarding the legislative session, and aspects of funding issues for various projects.

Commander O'Leary remarked that Highway 99 will be very busy and he asked if the Saltwater Bridge would be used during the summer.

Councilmember Kaplan voiced his concern over 16th and Marine View Drive, stating there are approximately 500 homes and there could easily be conflict issues. Grant agreed that keeping the legislature appraised of the target date and other information that will be advantageous to the city.

Proposed 8th Avenue Street Standard:

Len advised that the City is getting pressure for commercial development between Marine View Drive and 8th Avenue South and standards are required to address 8th Avenue South frontage improvements. He stated that the 30' right of way presents limits for a workable roadway cross section.

A possible solution would be to provide two 11' wide travel lanes with curbs and 6' sidewalks on the west side.

Councilmember Sherman commented that this road does not meet standards, and we may be putting too much into a small space. Len advised that we will provide for pedestrian safety by providing sidewalks adjacent to the more intense development. Discussion continued on the pros and cons of a parking area and sidewalks. Councilmember Kaplan advised that the street is a buffer between residential and commercial areas.

The Committee presented a variety of suggestions and opinions on this subject including exploring the creation of a one-way operation. By consensus of the Committee, they recommended that staff pursue the option with a sidewalk on the west side of the street and two 11' travel lanes.

Regional Transportation Improvement District:

Conversation regarding the roads and transit package ensued with explanations and information being exchanged regarding the voting process for the packages. The importance of voting on the issues presented was discussed and voting one time for both issues was further stressed. Additionally, if one issue fails, it will pull the other issue down also.

Grant advised the Committee that he will bring more current information on the RTID project list to the next meeting.

Road congestion and the importance of obtaining the best information available to have the least amount of congestion was a topic of conversation.

Grant asked the Committee if they would like to take a stand on the RTID package for SR 509 corridor or remain on the sidelines. Councilmember Kaplan stated that the full Council should voice their approval before March 20, 2007.

Interim Management of Transportation Division:

Grant explained that Len Madsen is now under contract to manage the Transportation Division in the interim. This includes the 16th Avenue South project. He further advised the Committee that Len is also working on the overlay project and getting it ready for bid.

Councilmember Kaplan asked questions regarding the search for the City Engineer position. Grant answered that, hopefully, within 60-90 days that position would be filled.

The next meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Committee is scheduled for April 5, 2007 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Abeles
Administrative Assistant