

Public Safety& Transportation Des Moines City Council Committee Minutes - 3/20/08
Revised and Resubmitted 3/26/08

Meeting called to order: 6:31PM on March 20, 2008, in north conference room @ 21630 11th Avenue So., Des Moines WA 98198

Purpose:

1. Presentation by consultant from Mirai for updating the Transportation Comprehensive Plan

Attendees: Dave Kaplan, Chairman; Dan Sherman, Mayor Pro Tem; Ed Pina, Councilmember; Grant Fredricks, PB&PW Director; Dan Brewer, Asst. Director Transportation & Engineering; and Linda Wright, Secretary; Absent: Tony Piasecki, City Manager

Guest: Katherine Casseday, Mirai Transportation, Planning & Engineering

Discussion Items:

- ✚ Before the presentation started Dan Brewer passed out letter dated March 18, 2008, which had been distributed to residents in area of S. 216th between 11th and Marine View Drive concerning the upcoming sidewalk improvement project. In the last meeting the Committee members had requested that staff be sure citizens in the area were notified. A public information meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2008, @ 6PM in the Council Chambers. Staff w/be present along with the consultant to answer any questions. Large map of the two alternatives will be on display. A comment sheet went out with the letter for them to send back to the City - these will also be available to be filled out the night of the meeting. Committee members were pleased.
 - ✚ Chairman Kaplan asked about paving projects, etc. around the City.
 - 16th Ave S. and S. 260 - weather permitting will take place week of March 31st
 - Thunderbird Drive area - Highline water main break - Done
 - Slide repairs along Des Moines Memorial Drive going well - benching big slide
 - Pavement Management Program - Paving for 2008: will be limited in 08. Dan has KPG working on particular areas - Chairman Kaplan reminded Dan that projects had not been defined by Council.....both agreed will be working on geographic areas format. Dan intends to go to bid @ 90% plans so can go to advertise in 1/09 and get early start. Won't spend all this year - \$1.2 million budgeted.
 - ✚ Minutes from meetings February 7 and March 6, 2008, were approved by the Committee. Chairman Kaplan requested that approved minutes be distributed to Mayor and other Council members for their information. Linda will see that is done in future.
1. **Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP):** Katherine handed out a 3-ring notebook "Comprehensive Transportation Plan" to each one to use in the future to keep track of progress in the CTP update at future PS&T meetings. The cover of the book had the overall process chart for the CTP update and topics to be covered in a progressive time line. She gave introductory remarks about what she was looking for and needed from the Committee as far as visions, expectations, desires, welcomes input and questions. Katherine wants free dialogue during the meeting.

- 2. The CTP Update will need to address a couple of new items to meet the PSRC requirements.** PSRC already looking @ Vision 2040. Need to involve stakeholders, public - better to know problems up front vs later. Another element to be added related to emergency preparedness in the community – and how it involves the transportation network and management. (This topic sparked some conversation about disasters and City response and following restoration of services. With the existing old bridges along MVD and 16th Avenue S, the main route will be SR 99 in a major disaster.)

The Committee provided input to Katherine and Dan for the CTP Update. The following points were part of the discussion:

- Fire/Police: traffic flows will change in major disasters or disasters that affect roadway i.e. collapsed bridge within our City or surrounding areas I-5
- Facilities need to be looked at
- Alternate routes will need to be identified for disaster management - transportation demand, flow, safety
- Identify major arterials
 - Practice and collaborate on: what ifs?, public response, emergency and recovery response, design standard
 - Weak spots – identify and provide alternative routes
 - Lose bridge again
- The CTP Update will address vehicle traffic as well as alternate modes of transportation, i.e. commuter trips, light rail, plus walking, biking
- Appropriate Growth is important to confirm for the 2030 view of the future
- 2 Major Contributors of traffic are also identified for Commute Trip Reduction programs (CTR): Highline Community College and City of Des Moines (based on employee count @ site)
- The CTP Update will need to involve public – Committee recommended that we break down into sectors: South, Downtown and North – to ensure the public can provide input and comments.
- Need to involve various stakeholders, i.e., HCC, WSDOT, Metro, Businesses, Developers, Retirement communities
- Identify: current issues, expected future
- A major goal for the CTP is to identify and prioritize projects using various criteria: Mode served, Congestion, Transit, Safety, Funding, LOS (Level of Service)

Discussion items raised:

- Pac Hwy project created traffic changes - 24th used more, left turn limitations, traffic signals, changed traffic patterns.
- several things that would change traffic patterns: DMCCBP (Des Moines Creek Business Park, rebuilding of schools (e.g., Mt. Rainier), phases of our 6-year plans could affect side streets; Metro routes, streets changing categories from minor to major - shifting traffic away from existing flow due to growth and changes inside and outside the City.

Further Discussion:

- Future change in LOS: 29th/30th due to the Pacific Ridge development. Need to consider growth, how much and where? Property ownership changing, consolidating lots, more density.
- One of the items to come out of this new plan....establish the amount of Traffic Impact Fees needed and where to spend.

- What's acceptable LOS?
- Assumption to be made that SR509 will NOT be built during this Comp Plan's timeframe so shouldn't be in the plan.
- If overbuilt then City is ready vs being behind.
- Items that will be out of our control but could affect future: price of gas, economy, car size, jobs, growth of surrounding areas.

Additional Discussion:

- Bus circulation, transit hub, redevelopment around hub (should not be in baseline) We can test for best location of the transit hub(s)
 - Redondo unique traffic; bike routes, trail system,
 - Reclassification of streets - arterials will fall into 3 categories Principal, Minor, Collectors. Some day 1st Avenue but not near future.
 - Various roads have different problems: DMMD has been a major push to restore to memorial drive w/ sidewalks, streetscape, bike lanes; however, has problems built on fill, not adequate to handle traffic for future as is. Staging, funding - unpredictable.
 - Cities w/most impact: SeaTac, Kent and Federal Way. Need to reflect their growth and projects into the CTP Update.
 - Bottom line considerations: Network-LOS-Growth These three elements form the foundation for the CTP set of projects. Decisions are needed on what network is needed to meet the planned growth at the adopted level of service standards. If we find that we cannot afford the transportation network to meet the growth and LOS standards, the City will need to decide how to adjust either growth or the LOS standards to apply. As we work through the CTP Update, Mirai will help to address these choices by providing information for the decisions.
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- Future needs from Committee – Mirai would like input on current and future problem areas. Be prepared to talk about hot spots / problem areas / major concerns. Dan and Grant will send an email request for Committee member input so can get a running start.
 - Mirai beginning to meet with stakeholders w/talk face to face; phone; group. HCC is 1st plus setting up meetings with Mayor and other Council members to get their input.
 - Chair Kaplan noted that he'd like to have information or background in advance, knowing what decisions will be requested from the Committee, through the CTP Update process, so that each meeting can be effective and members can get right to the decision at hand. It will help to narrow the focus. We'll need to keep the full Council informed along the way, too. The PS&T Committee will drill down into the CTP Update details through the process, leading to a presentation before full Council.

➤ **Following is recap that was written on the “white board”**

We confirmed the Baseline Network for Forecasting Year 2030:

- Existing network of streets
- Committed and funded CIP projects
- LRT to the Airport
- Rapid Ride BRT along Pacific Highway (with one-mile spacing for stations)

The baseline conditions for 2030 will identify how bad the conditions will be without major changes to the network. Then we can test what is needed, including the following projects:

- SR 509 Connection to I-5
- 24th Avenue S connected to 26th/28th Avenue in SeaTac
- Widen S 216th Street – and how much?
- Widen Kent-Des Moines Road
- Widen Des Moines Memorial Drive (three lanes)
- Connect 16th Avenue S from 220th to 216th
- And other projects to help manage traffic and congestion

Not in Baseline:

Passenger Only Ferry - too many issues to think w/be reality in this timeframe

Transportation Hubs: Pacific Ridge and Highline Community College

We should plan to track any spillover traffic that shifts to parallel arterials:: 24th from PHS due to development, also 29th/30th Pacific Ridge, and 16th Avenue South

We'll need to also track changes in LOS from previous plan – to confirm how things have changed.

The CTP will also need to include plans for:

Des Moines Creek Trail - Downtown, connect with other trails in Kent Valley/Federal Way/SeaTac
[King County Councilmember Julia Patterson looking to connect trail pieces]

Trail connections both east-west and north-south.

Adjourned 8:02P

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Wright, Secretary