

Minutes

**Urban Transportation Commission
Monday, October 10, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
303 W. 2nd Street
Boards and Commissions Room**

Members Present:

Andrew W. Clements
Michelle Brinkman
Andrew Bucknall
Patrick Goetz
Joi Harden
Dana Lockler
Greg Sapire
Carl Tepper

Members Absent:

Ed Easton

Public Works Staff Present:

Annick Beaudet
Rusty Cobern
Robin Field
David Magana
Alex Papavasiliou

Mr. Clements opened the Urban Transportation Commission meeting at 6:10 p.m.

A. Citizens Communications

None.

B. Capital Metro Quarterly Update

Mr. Roberto Gonzalez, Senior Planner with the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro), explained that in January 2007 the focus will be the opening of the Leander Park and Ride. He said there will be changes to the express services and upgrades to the schedules to coincide with that opening. He said that in 2008, this location will be a commuter rail station as well. Mr. Tepper asked when there will be more substantive information on a trolley system. Mr. Gonzalez answered that the plans are ongoing but that the proposed alignment information is on the Capital Metro website and explained the proposed route. Mr. Tepper asked that when the Citizen Advisory Group gets back together, to let the commission know.

Andrew Clements presented a resolution (attached) in regards to Seaholm District planning; no motion was made to support the resolution, and it will be brought back to the UTC.

C. Transportation User Fee

Rusty Cobern, Financial Manager of Public Works, stated he is here to answer Mr. Tepper's questions regarding the Transportation User Fee (TUF). He also explained that the handout he brought is one that Mr. Tepper requested. Mr. Cobern said that one cent of the property tax rate generates about six million dollars for the City, so to replace the twenty million dollars expected in 2007, would equate to about 3.4 cents on the tax rate. Second, Mr. Cobern said for FY07, the TUF will generate about 20 million dollars and should increase 3-4% per year with population growth. Since both the TUF and property tax increases each year, it may not be necessary to make future increases in the fee after this initial increase. Mr. Cobern said that to his knowledge, Austin is the only city with this type of fee and that the TUF was created in 2001 and has been increased six times. The last increase was in November 2001 and needs to be increased about 10%.

Mr. Tepper asked if the City is going to keep the TUF and if City Council approved this fee. Mr. Cobern said the City will continue to use the fee and that the fee is approved by Council. He added that the City has spent more on transportation infrastructure each year since it has had the TUF than the fee has generated. Mr. Goetz asked if this is a flat rate. Mr. Cobern answered that it varies. For commercial properties, there is an acreage rate and for residential properties, it is based on the type of dwelling; single family, multi family, etc.

D. F# 8277-0601 – Vacation of the 900Block of Banyon Street

Mr. Alex Papavasiliou, Property Agent with the Real Estate Services Division of Public Works, stated that this item was postponed by the applicant and that the plat vacation expires on October 10, 2006 and they will reapply.

E. F# 8277-0601 – Vacation of Right of Way Adjacent to 1013 Aggie Lane

Mr. Alex Papavasiliou stated that this item was postponed by the applicant and that the plat vacation expires on October 10, 2006 and they will reapply.

F. F# 8295-0603 – Vacation of Aggie Lane

Mr. Alex Papavasiliou stated that this item was postponed by the applicant and that the plat vacation expires on October 10, 2006 and they will reapply.

G. F# 8330-0606 – Vacation of Cinco Street

Mr. Alex Papavasiliou said that Cinco Street is a cul-de-sac surrounded by a property that will be redeveloped. The Right-of-Way will be retained as a public utility easement until the subdivision is approved. Rodney Bennett, Bennett Consulting, explained the mixed use plans for this area. Mr. Clements asked if the development will need a zoning change and Mr. Bennett said they have indicated yes. Mr. Lockler asked if there were comments from the neighborhood associations and Mr. Papavasiliou said they did not receive any objections. Mr. Papavasiliou said a few people wrote in to ask what a vacation is but there was no opposition.

Mr. Bennett explained this will be a multi-family development with some retail and that both will be under the same ownership. He said that there are no other users of Cinco Street.

Motion by: Patrick Goetz
Seconded by: Joi Harden

Motion: To approve the vacation.

Ayes: Bucknall/Clements/Goetz/Harden/Lockler/Sapire
Nays: None
Abstain: Brinkman
Absent: Easton/Tepper

H. Yellow Bike Project Presentation

Jennifer Shaffer with Yellow Bike Project (YBP) showed three video clips. She said that YBP has been fortunate to have used City space for the last two years but she is concerned that the organization will lose this space in the future due to Mueller redevelopment. Ms. Shaffer said a road is planned for the space. She said that YBP gave away 91 bikes in 2005, the shop is open 35 hours per week, all workers volunteer their time, and that they have received a grant to purchase lights, helmets, and locks. She further explained the education and community involvement the Yellow Bike Project provides to Austin.

Jason Thomas, also with Yellow Bike Project, said he is here to ask for any support since their current space is planned to be demolished. He said he knows of two options; to re-plan building the road or to move to another location provided by the City of Austin. Mr. Thomas said YBP does not feel an immediate sense of urgency as there is not yet a set date for the road construction to begin.

Mr. Tepper asked if YBP has a particular future location in mind and Mr. Thomas said they do not. Ms. Brinkman asked what the space requirements are for the Yellow Bike Project. Ms. Thomas said that 2,000 square feet are needed and that a central location would be ideal. Mr. Goetz asked how much space YBP currently has and Ms. Shaffer said there is 3,000 square feet of floor space and 1,000 square feet of loft space that is used for storage.

Ms. Annick Beaudet, Project Manager with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program of Public Works, said that Ms. Pam Heffner is the Project Manager for this future development project and that the timeline for the demolition would be late 2007 or early 2008. She said that the redevelopment project has design standards that state any parking garage would have to include pedestrian uses on the ground level and she thought this could be a location for YBP. Ms. Beaudet said there is funding from the 2000 bond that can be used for a bike station. She described varying types of bike stations. Ms. Beaudet said that she would need to further research the policy on finding and donating space to non-profits. Ms. Beaudet will follow up with the Commission and with Yellow Bike Project.

Mr. Goetz emphasized that a low income person can go there and get a bike that they can use to get a job. He said this is a way for someone to sustain himself in the community.