



Urban Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting
13 April 2010**

The Urban Transportation Commission convened in a regular meeting on 13 April 2010 at the Boards and Commissions Room located at 303 West 2nd Street, Room 1101, Austin, Texas.

Chair MacKinnon called the Commission meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Richard MacKinnon – Chair
Dustin Lanier – Vice Chair *
Boone Blocker
Allen Demling
Sheila Holbrook-White
Dana Lockler
Eileen Schaubert

Commission Members Absent:

Commissioner Lanier was absent for the first 30 minutes.

Staff in Attendance:

Gordon Derr
Gary Schatz
Morris Poe
Frances Hargrove
Betty Torres
Gregory Miller
Annick Beaudet
Gilda Powers

1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 03/09/2010 were approved on Commissioner Holbrook-White motion, Commissioner Lockler second, on a 5/1/1 vote, with Commissioner Lanier off the dais and Commissioner Schaubert abstaining because she was not present at the March 9, 2010 meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Capital Metro Fall Service Changes – Presentation and Possible Action

This item was withdrawn by presenter due to time constraints. Information will be available on Capital Metro's web site.

B. Special Events

a. Long Horn Run Event – Appeal and Possible Action of the Special Event Ordinance, Chapter 14-8, Section 3

A briefing was provided by Mr. Gordon Derr, Assistant Director with the Austin Transportation Department, Special Events staff and event promoter. The promoter asked for a waiver of the Special Event Ordinance, Chapter 14-8, Section 3. The event has received one objection which constitutes 20 percent or more of the affected persons on any block to be closed. The objector was present during the meeting and addressed the Commission to express the reasons for his objection to the event. The Austin Transportation Department staff recommended approval of the event and staff will continue working with promoter and objector to try and resolve the issue. After discussion and on Commissioner Holbrook-White motion, Commissioner Schaubert second, on a 7/0 vote, the Urban Transportation Commission supported staff recommendation to issue a street event closure permit for the Long Horn Run Event to be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Downtown Bicycle Boulevard – Briefing and Possible Action.

(Note: 3D Animation of staff recommendation and results from the Economic Impact Study will not be available until the May 11, 2010 UTC meeting when staff will do a full presentation)

Ms. Annick Beaudet, Project Manager with the Public Works Department, provided a review of the process the City has gone through, to get to this point. Several citizens addressed the Commissioners, some in favor and some against the proposed Bicycle Boulevard. A citizen provided the Commissioners with pictures of vandalism in the area that are related to the proposed bicycle boulevard. Several questions were raised about the Traffic Impact Analysis credibility, the economic analysis that has been done to address concerns about the impact on business, the opportunities for the citizens to participate in the process, and mass transit availability. The Commissioners condemned the negative campaign and vandalism that has occurred in the area and asked stakeholders to continue working together. This item will be again presented to the UTC in May, at which time staff will be asking for a recommendation. No action was taken.

B. Strategic Mobility Program and Urban Rail – Update and Possible Action

Mr. Derr informed the UTC of the newly formed City Council Citizens Task Force (CTF) and the appointment by the City Council of Commissioners Holbrook-White and Blocker to serve in the Task Force. He briefly explained that the CTF has been tasked with the review of the proposed projects to be included on the November 2010 Bond election. He also said there will be another package proposed for a November 2011 Bond election that will include Urban Rail.

C. Scope and timeframes of Taxi Franchise Agreements - Discussion and Possible Action

Commissioner Lanier briefed the UTC and staff on the initial findings of the Taxi Cab Task Force. He said that after reviewing the March 9, 2010 UTC recommendation for a one year renewal of the Yellow Cab and Austin Cab franchises, the Task Force recommended to amend that motion. After discussion and information provided by staff, several citizens, cab company owners, on Commissioner Lanier motion, Commissioner Lockler second, on a 7/0 vote, the following recommendation passed unanimously:

- Recommend that Council align city taxi franchise applications and award by extending the authority to operate for Yellow Cab and Austin Cab through July 16, 2012.
- Recommend that staff complete a financial analysis of an appropriate franchise award period that would begin for all franchises from 2012 going forward. The financial analysis should assess the award period that allows for advantageous financing of capital assets typical in the operations of a taxi cab franchise.
- Additionally recommend that all new agreements to allow franchise use of the right of way reconcile language in part 3 and part 8 of the standard agreement to include in both the requirement to comply with amendments to the ordinance during the period of the taxicab franchise.

Mr. Lanier said the Task Force will continue to meet with staff and stakeholders to work on the issues identified by Council on Resolution 60. These meeting will take place on 4/22/10, 6/16/10 and 5/20/10 at 6:30 p.m. on the third floor of the One Texas Center Building located at 505 Barton Springs Road.

Chair MacKinnon gave information on a recommendation currently being drafted by the Airport Commission that will address some of the requests and need for improvements presented recently by the taxicab industry.

A motion to waive the rules and allow the Urban Transportation Commission to meet after 10 p.m. was approved on Commissioner Holbrook-White motion, Commissioner Lockler second, on a 7/0 vote.

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Staff Briefings - None
- Downtown Commission - None
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee – Commissioner Schaubert said the subcommittee is looking into forming a task force to review some of the issues brought up during their last meeting.
- CAMPO – Mr. Derr said the public comment period has been extended for the CAMPO 2035 Plan.

- SCIP – Commissioner Lockler informed the South Congress survey cards for a Residential Parking Program that were mailed by the City are being collected. More information with the results will be provided in future meetings.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Special Events Appeals
- Pedicabs permits
- New Pay Stations update and comparison of revenue between both systems
- Parking Operation – Garages in Downtown
- Vehicles for Hire – Spaces available in the City
- Taxicab stands in entertainment district
- Nueces Bicycle Boulevard
- Update on the CAMPO 2035 Plan

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair MacKinnon adjourned the meeting at 10:31 p.m. without objection.

Richard MacKinnon, Chair
Urban Transportation Commission

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