



Urban Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting
8 June 2010**

The Urban Transportation Commission convened in a regular meeting on 8 June 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 6:05 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

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

Commission Members Absent:

Allen Demling

Staff in Attendance:

Howard Lazarus	Robert Spillar	Gordon Derr
James Snow	Gary Schatz	Robert Hinojosa
Frances Hargrove	Betty Torres	Karla Villalon
Gilda Powers		

1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Citizen Tomas Pantin recommended the use of traffic circles as a good idea to slow traffic on the proposed Downtown Bicycle Boulevard.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 05/11/2010 were approved with corrections on Commissioner Holbrook-White motion, Commissioner Lockler second, on a 6/1 vote, with Commissioner Demling absent. The corrections were as follows: Item 1, "*Citizen Clare Berry...*" should read "*Citizen Clare Barry...*"; Item 4-B, "*member of Angelus Economic Group...*" should read "*member of Angelou Economic Group...*"; Item 4-B, last two lines, should read "...support staff recommendation to implement the Downtown Bicycle Boulevard..."

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Briefing: Overview of the Proposed Transportation Fund and Parking Fund for Fiscal Year 2011

Mr. Howard Lazarus, Acting Assistant City Manager, and Mr. Robert Spillar, Director, Austin Transportation Department, gave an informative presentation about the

Transportation and Parking Funds for Fiscal Year 2011, and explained how the Transportation User Fund is distributed between the two departments. The Commissioners asked questions about the percentage that is paid by developers for sidewalk construction, the length of time it takes for sidewalks to be built, and the cost of operating the pay stations with credit cards. No action was taken.

B. Capital Metro FY11 Proposed Budget Development – Presentation and Possible Recommendation

Ms. Dinita Caldwell and Mr. Randy Hume, with Capital Metro, gave a presentation about the proposed budget and answer questions about Capital Metro's freight line operations. No action was taken.

C. Real Estate Vacation Evaluation – Presentation and Possible Recommendation

a. F#8794-1004 Partial Alley Vacation between Congress Avenue & Brazos Street, and 2nd & 3rd Streets.

Mr. Gordon Derr, Assistant Director with the Austin Transportation Department introduced Mr. Michael Whellan, applicant for this vacation. Mr. Whellan asked the Commission to approve his request for a Partial Alley Vacation between Congress Avenue & Brazos Street and 2nd & 3rd Streets. On Commissioner Lanier motion, Commissioner Blocker second, on a 6/0/1 vote, with Commissioner Demling absent, the UTC supported staff recommendation for a Real Estate Vacation.

D. Special Events

a. Keep Austin Weird Event – Briefing

Frances Hargrove, Special Events Manager with the Austin Transportation Department gave an update on the negotiations that have taken place between event promoters, objectors to the event, and City Staff. The Commissioners would to encourage iconic events such as the Keep Austin Weird, to make sure their application is submitted early to avoid last minute conflicts. They asked staff to bring these items early in the process to allow for UTC's input. No action was taken.

E. Seaholm Redevelopment – Lady Bird Lake – Lake Crossing Option – Presentation and Possible Recommendation

Ms. Clare Barry, Citizen, gave a presentation and asked staff to keep the 300 foot turning radius on the east side of the "Y" at the Seaholm Plant Redevelopment, and the option for future passenger rail to cross at Lady Bird Lake open for consideration. After discussion, on Commissioner Lockler motion, Commissioner Schaubert second, on a 6/0/1 vote, with Commissioner Demling absent, the following motion was approved:

- Where as the Seaholm Development and other adjoining properties are strategically located along a railroad right of way and the existing Union Pacific Rail Bridge lake crossing;
- Where as the Transportation Department has identified the importance of high mobility and multi modal transportation projects in Central Austin;
- Where as the City has entered into agreements with developers and projects that are not yet completed or initiated in this strategic location; and
- Where as rail crossing alternatives are currently being considered by City staff,

The Urban Transportation Commission recommends evaluating the preservation of a 300 foot turning radius on the east side of the “Y”, so that proposed and existing rail traffic, such as the Red Line, may use the existing Union Pacific Rail Bridge.

This evaluation should include input from nearby downtown residents and other stakeholders, a Cost Benefits Analysis of changes to proposed and approved site plans, the possibility of private / public development of ground floor usage for rail and retail, and the possibility of providing a nearer term for lake crossing for rail.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Austin Strategic Mobility Plan Update and Community Mobility Gaps List

Mr. Derr gave an update on the type of projects that have been identified as mobility gaps by the community, the process, the evaluation criteria, and methodology used to rank each project. He also explained the steps being taken to prepare for the proposed 2010 Transportation Bond package that will be presented to the voters in November 2010. No action was taken.

5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Low Speed Vehicles – Update and Possible Recommendation

Chair MacKinnon said he asked to bring this item back to get an update on the UTC’s recommendation from December. Two citizens addressed the Commissioners and asked for this issue to be resolved. After discussion, Commissioner Lanier offered to the citizens to attend the Taxi Cab Task Force meeting on June 24th as they will be discussing vehicles for hire and other ground transportation issues. No action was taken.

B. East Riverside Corridor Working Group Representative – Discussion and Possible Action

Staff explained the request received to have a representative from the UTC to be a member of the East Riverside Corridor Working Group. After consideration and discussion, Commissioner Lockler was selected to be the UTC representative to the East Riverside Corridor Working Group.

Additional reports were made by staff and Commissioners:

- CAMPO – Mr. Derr said the CAMPO 2035 Plan was adopted
- Taxi Cab Task Force – Commissioners Blocker and Lanier gave an update on the steps the Task Force has taken to work through all the issues on Resolution 60. They will continue to hold meetings as more issues are being incorporated and considered.
- Bike and Ped Subcommittee – Commissioner Schaubert said there will be a meeting in June to discuss the Complete Streets and Sidewalks Master Plan,
- SCIP – Commissioner Lockler said the results of the survey have not been published yet.
- CSAC – Chair MacKinnon reported he was a part of the interview panel for the future Capital Metro CEO.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Special Events Appeals (if needed)
- New Pay Stations update and comparison of revenue between both systems (August)
- Ground Transportation Issues (August / September)
 - a. Vehicles for Hire – Spaces available in the City
 - b. Taxicab stands in entertainment district
 - c. Low Speed Vehicles Category
 - d. Pedicab permits
- Parking Operation – Garages in Downtown (October / November)
- Special Events Rules / Ordinance Update (August)
- Infractions by Golf Carts – APD and Law Departments to clarify
- Economic impact due to street closures (DAA – Sales Tax Analysis) (October)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair MacKinnon adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m. without objection.

Richard MacKinnon, Chair
Urban Transportation Commission

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