



## **Urban Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Regular Meeting  
13 July 2010**

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

### **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:**

None

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Gordon Derr  
Gary Schatz  
George Adams  
Austan Librach  
Lee Austin  
Gilda Powers

Chair MacKinnon called the Commission meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

## **1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Citizen Michelle Graham, events promoter with Bounce, Inc., spoke about the Thundercloud Turkey Troy event scheduled for November 25, 2010. The Commissioners requested an update either via memo or at next month's meeting.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the 06/08/2010 meeting were approved on Commissioner Holbrook-White motion, Commissioner Schaubert second, on a 6/0/1 with Commissioner Demling abstaining because he was absent during the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Congress Avenue Improvements Update**

George Adams, Assistant Director with Planning and Development Review Department, and Gary Schatz, Assistant Director with Austin Transportation Department gave an update on the improvements made to South Congress and the work that is

underway to improve safety and mobility in the corridor. They informed the UTC that a neighborhood meeting is scheduled for the third week of August to discuss parking, signals, crosswalks, and other improvements being considered for the area. Commissioner Lockler requested to be sent a meeting notice to attend the neighborhood meeting in August. No action was taken.

**B. Austin Energy Program for Plug-In Electric Vehicles – Presentation and Possible Recommendation**

Austan Librach, Director of Emerging Transportation Technologies with Austin Energy gave a presentation about a program Austin Energy is working on to bring Plug-in Electric Vehicles to Austin. He explained the work that has been done, the types of vehicles they hope to bring to the City's fleet and several other options being developed for customers that would like to participate in the program. No action was taken.

**C. Amendment to Code – Allowance of Fences at Intersections – Presentation and Possible Recommendation**

Gary Schatz, Assistant Director with Austin Transportation Department explained that safety at intersections is the reasoning behind the code amendment. This item will be going before the City Council on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Demling made a motion to approve staff recommendation, but after discussion about the language of the ordinance he withdrew his motion. Commissioner Lanier explained his concerns with the draft ordinance language and after discussion he made a subsequent motion: Recommend to the City Council to take the appropriate action to give the Traffic Engineer the flexibility to take context into account on evaluating improvements at intersections and that staff asks the Legal Department to re-review the statute to reflect the comments made by the UTC. On Commissioner Lanier motion, Commissioner Holbrook-White second, the motion passed on a vote of 7/0.

Chair MacKinnon left the dais at 7:45 p.m. The meeting continued with Vice-Chair Lanier acting as Chair.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Process and Revision of the Taxi Cabs Stands Map – Briefing.**

Lee Austin, Engineer with Austin Transportation Department gave a briefing on the negotiations the task force has had with the taxi cab industry to allow for taxi stands in certain parts of downtown. A map with the proposed locations was provided. The Commissioners would like to get the input from the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) and the franchises before a final determination is made. No action was taken.

**B. 2010 Transportation Bond Package Update**

Gordon Derr, Assistant Director with Austin Transportation Department provided an update on the Citizens Task Force recommended 2010 Bond package. The package will include 47 projects and will have an impact on all modes of transportation. Commissioners Blocker and Holbrook-White also gave an update on the Citizens Task Force negotiations and the process the CTF took to get to the recommended package. The

UTC thanked both Commissioners for their work as members of the CTF. No action was taken.

## **5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Taxicab Task Force – Commissioner Lanier said they have met three more times and have discussed performance measures, methods of allowing competitiveness between franchises, and the relationship between taxicabs and other vehicles for hire. The Task Force will come back in September with a recommendation.
- Bike and Ped Subcommittee – Commissioner Schaubert reported they are working on a sidewalk resolution. They will meet again on July 26th.
- SCIP – Commissioner Lockler reported that the East Riverside corridor has not had a meeting.
- CSAC – None
- Downtown Commission - None

## **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Special Events Appeals (if needed)
- New Pay Stations update
- Ground Transportation Issues
  - Vehicles for Hire – Spaces available in the City
  - Taxicab stands in downtown update
  - Low Speed Vehicles Category
  - Pedicab permits
- Parking Operations – Garages in Downtown
- Special Events Rules / Ordinances Update
- Turkey Troy Event – Update
- Election of Offices in August
- Streets owned and maintained by TxDOT within the City limits
- Economic impact due to street closures in downtown

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Lanier adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. without objection

Approved Minutes \_\_\_\_\_

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Gilda Powers at Transportation Department, at 974-7092, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.