



COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 301 W. Second Street, Room #1001, Austin, Texas.

Subcommittee Members in Attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Cole (Chair)
Council Member Morrison
Council Member Riley

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Cole called the Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

No citizen signed up to speak

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 2, 2013 – Unanimously approved the November 4, 2013 minutes on a 3-0 vote.

3. BRIEFING ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT, MAPPING, PLANNING AND COORDINATION TOOL (IMPACT) REPORTING APPLICATION PROJECT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, PERMITS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLANS, BEING DEVELOPED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (CTM)

Mr. Howard Lazarus, Director of Public Works Department, discussed the construction in the Right of Way and he used for an example the Colorado Street reconstruction. The Colorado Street Reconstruction is a full depth reconstruction, wet utilities relocations, drainage improvements, telecommunications, sidewalks/street furniture, private development, traffic management issues and concerns of business operations.

The Project Concept of the AMANDA, eCAPRIS and GIS Warehouse will provide both geospatial and temporal data, address conflict resolution (CIP, Operations, and Events) and integrates public and private work.

The success factors are the Garner executive and technical support, foster a culture of cooperative planning efforts between agencies to establish standards and best practices, use information from the database of record, create 1 to 1 relationship between projects and features, standardize map representations and data quality parameters and eliminate costly rework.

The IMMPACT tool is a web-based mapping application, first City of Austin application to show CIP projects, operational, activities, and permits in a spatial and temporal context, flags potential opportunities/conflicts based on time and space parameters, allows for on-the-fly conflict resolution, users can search for CIP projects and permits based on criteria and helps public information officers with responding to citizen inquiries.

The next steps are to use IMMPACT to expand CIVIV tools, include other agencies with CIP mapping, create new subsets of data, create a similar process for all operations, maintenance, and repair (OMR) work and review cases that reflect public and private development.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, asked for a better understanding of the Project Concept, how it would all work together to provide good information?

Ms. Annie Van Zant, Project Coordinator, Public Works Department, stated that IMMPACT was based on user interviews that they conducted and realized the most information to include first were the CIP projects and permits.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, asked if this will help with tracking flood issues?

Ms. Van Zant, stated she has not been presented with that scenario before. But the purpose of this project to get the conversation stated.

Council Member Morrison, asked how will we eventually tie IMMPACT to CIVIC?

Ms. Van Zant, stated the two are sister projects. IMMPACT is in place to help with the coordination and CIVIC is how bond monies will be spent and where they will be spent.

Council Member Morrison, asked if IMMPACT was available to the public or an internal tool?

Ms. Van Zant, stated at this point it is an internal tool. Phase four of IMPACT will have different registration views. One view for the citizen, one view for the partnering agencies so there will be a tier view.

Mr. Lazarus, added that the goal is to make this tool available to as many people as possible. The dynamic part of this tool is that it will bill upon the systems we currently use every day.

Council Member Morrison, asked what about a neighborhood plan that the tool is capturing here?

Ms. Van Zant, stated right now it is the boundary of the neighborhood plan so that project and neighborhood holders can be linked and a person do not have to contact someone in Planning and Development Review Department (PDRD), that information is readily available to them right then.

Council Member Riley, asked how long has this system been up?

Ms. Van Zant, stated that IMPACT was first launched about a year ago. Phase two showed the conflict resolution module which was released February, 2013.

Mr. Lazarus, added that about three years ago this process was started by buying a commercial product called Invista. After reviewing what this product could do, staff began to work with CTM to see if we could do a more comprehensive job by developing an application that reach in into the existing databases.

Council Member Riley, asked if this product had been implemented city wide or selects departments?

Ms. Van Zant, stated yes city wide and she host cross departmental training.

Council Member Riley, asked the point of the conflict resolution module is to identify potential conflict between projects?

Ms. Van Zant, stated it's to allow project managers, permit holders to resolve the conflict within the system itself, instead of sending out emails here and there. They can talk to each other through the system without actually having to call each other and both are available at the same time.

4. PRESENTATION ON PLANNED EXTENSIONS TO THE EAST OF WILLIAM CANNON DRIVE, SLAUGHTER LANE AND PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD, INCLUDING CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THESE COORIDORS.

Mr. Robert Spillar, Director, Transportation Department, discussed the extensions occurring on William Cannon and Slaughter Drive and also provided a little bit of background as to what is happening on the whole south end of our community and to make council aware of the vast majority of projects that are going on. Travis County has also contacted the City of Austin Transportation Department to find out how the two organizations can partner on some of these projects. Mr. Spillar provided Council with detail listings of maps of the different projects that are either completed, new construction or existing and projects that are partnered with Travis County.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, thanked Mr. Spillar for the presentation and asked staff to provide a brief synopsis of what has happened at the Commissioners Court regarding the issue of I35?

Mr. Steven Manilla, Infrastructure Developer, Travis County, stated this is a TxDot project which is in the environmental document phase and when TxDot gets through that process it is then handed off to CTRMA to build. The Commissioners Court approved a resolution reaffirming their support of the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, asked if the project was currently at the environmental stage at TxDot?

Mr. Manilla, stated yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, asked do we know how along.

Mr. Manilla, stated about 2 years out for clearance of the environmental document phase.

Mr. Spillar, added that it's a technical term and that the city was asked to be participating agency which means we are bringing data to the table and making sure that the critical environmental issues out there are being understood well.

Council Member Riley, thanked both Mr. Spillar and Mr. Manilla for their hand work and that it is very exciting to see the coordination between the city and county of the short term fixtures and long term planning.

Council Member Riley, asked as we are planning these roadways, have you considered how these roadways would, could or should be complemented by alternative transportation options?

Mr. Manilla, stated those options have been considered and the best example he could use is the trail that is being built along 183.

Council Member Morrison, asked Mr. Spillar to reiterate his question to Council.

Mr. Spillar stated that currently the city partners with Travis County right now but there is an appetite to expand that partnering to take a look at a more comprehensive stand of our boundaries within the ETJ and see how we can meet the evolving needs.

Council Member Morrison, stated what could be useful maybe is to have some type of structural organizational setup and have the officials working together.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, thanked Mr. Spillar and Mr. Manilla for working together and providing this information to the committee.

5. BRIEFING OF THE HIGH-CAPACITY, “PROJECT CONNECT CENTRAL CORRIDOR” TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION TO AND WITHIN CENTRAL AUSTIN

Mr. Kyle Keahey, Rail Lead, HNTB, presented the work plan and schedule, public involvement update, sub-corridor evaluation and upcoming activities. At this point we are in phase 1 and are on target and will move to phase 2 in December, 2013. The public involvement has been very successful so far there have been 4 public open houses, 1 online open house, 6 stakeholder’s briefings and 3 public briefings. A few comments received via social media, email and public meetings are listening log established, and project team reviews comments as received and comment responses as needed. Also, staff will be providing presentation before the whole Council on December 12, 2013.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, thanked Mr. Keahey for the presentation and asked why is there a to be decided statement for a presentation to the Lone Star Board?

Mr. Keahey, stated that coming out of the Project Connect there was an interlocal agreement that has been set up between Capital Metro, City of Austin and Lone Star. The City of Austin and Cap Metro has signed that agreement but Lone Star has given their authorization to staff but has not signed that agreement. We are currently waiting on board action to decide.

Council Member Morrison, asked who is currently on the advisory board and how it was born.

Mr. Keahey, stated there are 16 members and the advisory group is chair by Mayor Lee Leffingwell which has been recast which includes a number of businessman and citizens.

Council Member Riley, asked about the factors regarding the evaluation process?

Mr. Keahey, stated this will be approached in both phase 1 and 2. We currently do not have a project in vision for each of these quarters actually this is geography of what is the tendency of the factors in each of these 10 quarters. When we move into phase 2 and start to identify a specific project we will begin to look at alternative alignments.

6. UPDATE ON TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW DEPARTMENT

Ms. Stacey Wuest, IT Project Manager, CTM, provided an update of the technology improvements for PDRD of which CTM has partnered with in regards to helping making the customer experience more pleasant.

Problems that have been resolved are the customer waits management time, implemented a text messaging feature and provided this online as well. Business intelligence implemented a click view and converted dashboards to microstrategy. This data is updated twice a day which allows supervisors to see the workload intake and distribution. The phone tree design changes were implemented of incoming calls that are unanswered, misrouted or long hold times. PDRD can now review phone statistic reports monthly. The online transaction has helped the trade contractors to self-assign to building permit and eliminates the need for fax or paper applications which must be processed by staff and also working with JP Chase for online payments.

The next steps are upgrading AMANADA Portal to Portal 2, target March, 2014 for go live with credit card payment for a subset of services and build and issue RFP for electronic plan review with input from all impacted stakeholder departments.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, thanked Ms. Wuest for the presentation and the cooperation between the inter departments. She also asked about the RFP and if there was any type of matrix that they were using to see what that RFP should look like to come up with solutions regarding the remaining problems?

Ms. Wuest, stated that as for as a template for the RFP itself she has compiled examples from several other cities to try and pull the best of the best together to incorporate the best practices.

Council Member Riley, asked about the online transactions meeting held on the morning of November 4, 2013 with JP Chase? Why are we just beginning that process now?

Ms. Wuest, stated there have been discussions internally with the Controller's office and some of the other technical experts outside of the decision with JP Chase leading up to this kick-off. The other variable is the portal 2 which we need as a foundation to plug in those on-line payments to interface the two systems.

Council Member Riley, asked at this point you are developing a scope as to which departments will be accepting on-line payments?

Ms. Wuest, stated the scope to be defined is to figure out which on-line fees will go on-line first.

Council Member Riley, asked if there has been any thoughts to the next steps after that? Is there anticipation that we will we get to the point of accepting on-line payments?

Ms. Wuest, stated yes, that is the vision.

ADJOURMENT

Council Member Morrison adjourned the meeting with no objection at 4:04 p.m.