

***COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE***  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 14, 2011

Subcommittee Members: Council Member Sheryl Cole, Chair  
Council Member Laura Morrison  
Council Member Chris Riley

**1. Citizen Communication (3 minutes to speak).**

Jeff Jack spoke about the comprehensive plan and the amount of density proposed for the South Lamar corridor in the preferred scenario. He said the corridors should reflect the approved neighborhood plans. He also spoke about the need to assess the cost of infrastructure to accommodate the proposed density.

Joyce Basciano, ANC, noted that the scenario map was not endorsed by the task force, and as such, it is to be considered a work in progress. ANC wants to continue working with the task force and hopes to be involved in the working phase of the project. She also spoke to the need for transparency in the staff reports and staff recommendations.

Frank Herrin said he agreed with Jeff Jack about the inability of the mixed corridors to support the projected density.

**2. Approval of Minutes from the January 10, 2011, regular subcommittee meeting.**

Minutes approved by a vote of 2-0.

**3. Staff update on Extended Parking Hours**

Gordon Derr, Transportation Department, presented an update on extended parking hours in the downtown area. Staff is recommending that all parking meters be extended from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. In addition, staff is recommending that parking in certain areas of the downtown district be extended to midnight and Saturdays. The University of Texas supports the extended hours in order to encourage turnover on the campus. The parking meter extensions will increase parking turnover on the streets, increase garage parking, result in better management of valet services, and increase funding for downtown improvements.

There was discussion about making the public aware of the locations of surface parking and parking garages through phone app technology. Mr. Derr said they are in the process of collecting data from the various parking lots and garages. He added that the technology will include maps of parking garages that allow overnight parking

for downtown visitors that may wish to leave their vehicles overnight if they have had too much to drink.

Council Member Morrison said she understood that the meter extensions would encourage parking turnover, but she expressed concern about downtown visitors that are on a limited budget and cannot afford the increase in parking fees. She suggested limiting the extension of parking meters to certain areas of downtown, such as those areas with a high concentration of restaurants.

Council Member Cole suggested that the use of messaging signs on the highways that would provide information on parking availability, bottlenecks or special events being held in the downtown district. She said this would be a good tool to alert drivers to parking areas and delays as they approach the downtown area.

#### 4. Staff Update and possible recommendations on Morrow Street

Molly Scarbrough, Planning and Development Review Department, provided the short term and long term staff recommendations. At the previous meeting, the subcommittee questioned the priority funding for a sidewalk on the north side of Morrow. The sidewalk falls in the medium ranking and thus will not be funded through 2010 bond money. At this point, it is difficult to determine whether the sidewalk would be funded in the next bond cycle due to other priority projects. The staff recommendations are as follows:

##### Short Term Improvements

- Take traffic counts to determine existing speed and volume trends on Morrow with recently installed traffic calming (COMPLETED)
- Move speed limit signs to more noticeable locations – (COMPLETED)
- Request mobile speed feedback signs (IN QUEUE)
- Review signal pedestrian timing at Lamar/Morrow intersection (COMPLETED – IN QUEUE for countdown signals)
- Discuss suggested improvements to Lamar/Anderson crossover intersection and Lamar NB access road lane configuration with TxDOT as part of the Regional Bottleneck Committee. (IN PROCESS)

##### Long Term Improvements

- Complete gaps in sidewalk on north side of Morrow, between Lamar and Grover
- When #1 has been completed:
  - Remove traffic island to allow westbound through traffic on Morrow & westbound left from Morrow onto southbound Lamar (Maintain prohibition on northbound left from Lamar onto Morrow)
  - Modify traffic signal, NE corner, sidewalks and curb ramps at intersection
  - Evaluate speed and volume trends again after one year

Gary Schatz, Transportation Department, spoke about the Lamar and U.S. 183 interchange, and indicated that TxDOT had conducted a study in 2006. At that time, the study indicated that there was not a significant amount of vehicular crashes, however, there was a high percentage of auto pedestrian accidents. As a result, TxDOT had recommended some pedestrian improvements, but they were not funded. City staff has asked TxDOT to refresh those studies to determine if there are any opportunities for improving pedestrian safety.

Chip Harris, requested that the issue be tabled. He said he has not seen a written response to the concerns expressed by the subcommittee in December, and therefore staff has not identified what actions need to be taken.

Damon Howze, said it is unknown whether Crestview wants sidewalks on the north side of Morrow. He noted that this process began four years ago and the compromise at the time was that Morrow would be opened up and left turn lanes from Lamar would be prohibited.

Council Member Cole moved approval of the staff recommendation recognizing that the entire subcommittee has struggled to come up with a compromise to promote public safety between the Crestview and Highland neighborhoods. Council Member Morrison seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 3-0.

5. Staff Update on Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.
6. Staff briefing on zoning capacity analysis and Imagine Austin draft Preferred Growth Scenario.

Items 5 and 6 were discussed concurrently.

Carol Torgrimson explained that the framework and growth map were not endorsed by the task force, and although no one opposed endorsement of the framework, there was opposition to the map. Since the endorsement of both items was combined into one motion, the final motion was to forward both items to the Planning Commission and Council without an endorsement. The task force is concerned about how the two scenarios were combined to create the preferred scenario. They are also concerned that once the map is approved, the opportunity to change the map will be limited.

Greg Guernsey said he had been in discussions with citizens and felt that some issues needed to be clarified before further discussion occurs, and he therefore recommended that discussion be continued to the following meeting.