



Meeting Minutes
Community Development and
Transportation Committee

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

8:00 AM

Room 220

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Jere Wood; Council Member Rich Dippolito; Council Member Lori Henry; Council Member Kent Igleheart; Council Member Jerry Orlans; Council Member David Tolleson and Council Member Becky Wynn

Staff Present: Kay Love – City Administrator; Aaron Bovos – Deputy City Administrator; Kathy Field – Director of Community Development; Steve Acenbrak – Director of Transportation; David Low – Deputy Director of Transportation; Brad Townsend – Planning and Zoning Director; Clyde Stricklin – Deputy Director of Community Development; Bob Hulsey – Assistant City Attorney; Muhammad Rauf – Senior Transportation Engineer; Bill Keir – Economic Development Director; Stefanie Dye - Community Development Program Coordinator; and Marlee Press – Executive Assistant to Council.

Approval of the minutes of the February 25, 2009 meeting

Addendum to the Agenda

- *Kay Love requested that an addendum item be approved to be added to the agenda. This request was made by Councilwoman Wynn to add this to the agenda since this is spring break week. The item is "Discussion to move the Administration Finance and Recreation and Parks Committee and Public Safety and Public Works Committee meetings from April 7th to another date."*
- *COMMITTEE ACTION: Committee approved adding this item to the agenda.*
- *Since there is not a required quorum for committee meetings, committee decided to keep the April 7th date.*

Community Development

1.

Review of pending Atlanta Regional Commission Community Choices Technical Assistance Application

- *Staff applied for the ARC Technical Assistance grant to undertake a charrette for the area called the "Arts Village" as identified as the LCI project. This is a good area because it is the focus of several redevelopment projects including a CDBG funded sidewalk streetscape program (Oak Street) and the Roswell Housing Authority's redevelopment of their property. CDBG funds, for infrastructure improvements are being used for that area.*
- *ARC requested more specifics as to the geographic areas that would be included in the proposed study initiative. Staff said there are a few options: 1) The area identified in the LCI project; and 2) Expanding the area to include the Superblock which included Hill Street to Norcross Street and Forrest Street to Myrtle Street and include the property Coro has under contract which is Frazier Street and the Southern Skillet shopping center.*
- *Councilman Tolleson suggested including all areas south of Norcross and west of the creek because it is all integrated. Councilwoman Henry agreed. Councilman*

Dippolito said the Coro property should be included in the overall planning since they want to redevelop the property that they own. Councilwoman Henry was concerned that a likely by-product of the charrette would be another overlay and that would be too confusing since the Coro property is already in the Midtown Roswell overlay and the Historic District overlay.

- Mayor suggested that staff talk to the Zion Missionary Baptist Church and the Pleasant Hill Church before finalizing the coverage area to see what they would like to see covered in the charrette.
- ARC has requested guidance regarding whether the City would be interested in hosting a presentation that recaps ARC's recently sponsored 5 community charrette initiative on Lifelong Communities. ARC has available on April 21st one of the consultants who worked on that charrette. The consultant is willing to come and present a multi-media presentation of the findings that came out of that charrette. If Council is interested, staff would invite all of the stakeholders of the "Arts Village" charrette to participate. After the April 21st meeting, ARC would arrange a Workshop with City Council to get their feedback of what their expectations are for the charrette. Subsequent to that, the key stakeholders would be identified and ARC would start to work with them in terms of an outline based on the conversation ARC has with M&CC. ARC would then get a very detailed scope of services and every week it would be updated. The charrette would start in mid summer.
- Staff said as part of the charrette, it is helpful to have someone do a design to actually show what people are thinking in terms of elevations, building types, etc. They suggested that a designer could be hired to participate in the charrette or staff could just bring pictures that they already have that shows the type of development that could go there. Councilman Dippolito said to try the pictures first before hiring a designer.
- It was also discussed to get the Housing Authority involved early in the process. Councilman Tolleson suggested having them come to the M&CC Work Session

Transportation

Steve Acenbrak introduced some new staff members: Chris Chovan – Transportation Planning Manager; Andrew Antweiler – Planner III; and Franco DeMarco – Engineering Design Manager

2.

Consideration to award a design contract to Mulkey Engineering & Consultants for the Holcomb Bridge Middle School Sidewalk Connectivity Project in the amount of \$59,421.16

- Mulkey Engineering and Consultants, one of the city's Professional Services Consultants is available to complete the design for the addition of sidewalks around Holcomb Bridge Road Middle School. The sidewalk additions will be along both sides of Holcomb Bridge Road within one-half mile of the school and fill in areas along the road where sidewalks do not currently exist. There is money in the budget for sidewalks.
- Staff has extended the sidewalk project a little outside of the half mile radius so there is a logical end.
- Councilwoman Henry requested that staff provide an update on how the city is doing regarding the connectivity around the schools throughout the city.

A motion was made by Mayor Jere Wood, seconded by Council Member Kent Igleheart, that this Item be Approved for the Consent Agenda and placed on the Mayor and City Council agenda for 4/6/2009. The motion carried by the following vote:

In Favor: 7 - Mayor Wood; Council Member Dippolito; Council Member Henry; Council Member Igleheart; Council Member Orlans; Council Member Tolleson and Council Member Wynn

3.

Discussion of Proposed Additions to the Midtown Roswell Streetscape Project

- Staff requested at the last committee meeting to look at two additions to the scope of the project: burying the overhead utility lines and the addition of a median landscaped island.
- Staff looked at the concept of burying or eliminating the overhead utility lines that run across the street. There are approximately 30 locations where lines cross over the road in the area and staff looked at the number of crossings and what they could do to eliminate some of the visual clutter.
- Staff said they would have to bore underneath the road. A rough estimate to do this would be around \$400,000 plus easements needed. Councilman Igleheart asked if staff can look at just doing some specific areas rather than burying all of them. Kay Love added that to do this addition to the project, the money would have to come from the general fund.
- Mr. Acenbrak said there will be an enormous amount of coordination that would need to be going on. This is a change to the scope of work so the plans would need to be modified and given to GDOT to approve. Staff will have to get this all coordinated with the utility companies. It will probably push the project back a few months.
- Mayor said he cannot support this from a time standpoint, a money standpoint or an aesthetic standpoint. Councilman Dippolito thinks it will make a huge difference in the overall appearance but it is very costly. He said since there are so many poles running down each side of the road, is it possible to have fewer crossings and just extend the wires down the side. Mr. Acenbrak said they would have to get with the individual utility companies and talk to them.
- Councilwoman Henry suggested that staff coordinate a meeting with all the utility companies and see if they can understand the importance of this project and what the utility companies can do to help improve the visual vista along this corridor. Staff will work on trying to get the utility companies together to talk about the project.
- Staff also looked at adding the landscaped median at Woodstock at Highway 9. It will be around \$20,000 to add that landscaped median. Staff said this should not be a problem to do. Steve Acenbrak said the median should not have any impact on the schedule.
- Staff will continue looking into the wire and clutter issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.