

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
2ND FLOOR CITY HALL
DECEMBER 3RD, 2009—5:45 PM**

Committee Members Present: Dave Kirlin, Chairman
 Councilman John Howren
 Councilman Keith Tidwell

Other Council members present: Councilman Dale Burkett

The City Council Transportation Committee met on Thursday, December 3rd, 2009. Chairman Kirlin called the meeting to order.

The Committee voted to add Item 5 “Greyhound Contract” and move “Other Related Business” to Item 6.

Item 1 (A). Transit Advertising Contract

Chairman Kirlin recognized Debby Key, Director of Fleet Services, for staff’s presentation. Ms. Key stated that on October 9, 2009, the City received proposals from two firms regarding the sale, production and installation of third-party advertising on Gastonia Transit buses and the managing of all related accounting functions. After evaluating each proposal, HFT Management, Inc., t/a Gateway Outdoor Advertising, demonstrated the required skill, ability and experience necessary to achieve the faithful performance of the contract and obtain the desired projected revenue for the City.

Recommendation: Staff recommended that the Committee take to full Council and award the transit advertising concession contract to HFT Management, Inc., t/a Gateway Outdoor Advertising.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend Council award the transit advertising contract to HFT Management, Inc., t/a Gateway Outdoor Advertising.

Item 1: Status Report: NCDOT (CMAQ) Agreement for Proposed S. New Hope Road Project

Chairman Kirlin recognized Rusty Bost, Assistant City Engineer, for staff’s presentation. Mr. Bost stated the City has applied for Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding through the NCDOT for the widening of South New Hope Road between Burtonwood and Garrison. This project would increase this portion of South New Hope Road from four to five lanes, which would result in reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.

The proposed agreement by NCDOT utilized an 80/20 State/City funding ratio. Using this ratio, staff determined the City’s direct out-of-pocket costs to be approximately \$720,000. This amount is not programmed into the budget at this time.

Recommendation: Staff's recommendation was to continue negotiations with NCDOT regarding eligible project costs. Staff also recommended that funding for this project could be considered through either a new 2/3rds Street Bond initiative or as part of a larger Street Bond Program that would encompass other transportation priorities.

The Committee accepted this information as presented.

Item 2. Preliminary Discussion—Possible Street and Pedestrian Facilities Bond

Chairman Kirlin recognized Jim Palenick, City Manager, for staff's presentation. Mr. Palenick advised even though the 1985 and 1990 GO Street Bond Programs were successfully completed, there are still many transportation improvements that could be made. In order to fund transportation improvement projects, a new GO Street Bond Initiative could be considered. Outstanding GO Street Bond debt, which declines over the next several fiscal years, could be replaced by new debt related to transportation projects.

Recommendation: Staff recommends consideration be given to evaluate the possibility of another major GO Street and Pedestrian Facilities Bond Initiative. However, it may prove more feasible to apply savings in reduced GO Bond debt towards other municipal functions.

The Committee accepted this information as presented.

Item 3: Status Report: Proposed Bus Stop at Highland Health Care Facility

Chairman Kirlin recognized Debby Key for staff's presentation. Ms. Key stated once the Highland Health Care Facility is completed (in a couple of months), the City would move the bus stop to Highland from Pryor Street. A public hearing will be required, and upon approval, Transportation Planning and Fleet Services will proceed with relocating the bus stop.

Item 4: Status Report: Proposed Bus Shelter on Country Club Drive

Chairman Kirlin recognized Debby Key for staff's presentation. Ms. Key stated a request has been received to place a bus shelter at County Club Drive and Wilmont Drive. Staff has been evaluating the feasibility of placing a bus shelter at this location; however, there are several utility conflicts as well as site limitations to an ADA accessible shelter. Given the low ridership at this location, staff acknowledged there may be another location that could benefit more from a bus shelter.

Chairman Kirlin stated he appreciated efforts by staff to accommodate the request, however, due to the City's limited resources and the number of riders typically at this bus stop, Country Club Drive may not be the highest priority location to place a bus shelter.

Councilman Keith Tidwell made a motion in opposition to the recommendation of a bus shelter being placed at Country Club Drive, and Councilman Dale Burkett seconded the motion. Chairman Dave Kirlin recused himself from the vote.

The Committee voted not to recommend to full Council that a bus shelter be placed at Country Club Drive.

Item 5: Greyhound Contract

Chairman Kirlin recognized Debby Key for staff's presentation. Ms. Key advised that Mr. Richard Carter, Area Manager, Greyhound Lines, Inc., approached the City regarding the use of the Bradley Station as a Greyhound bus stop to replace the existing facility off of Davis Avenue. At this time, a partnership with Greyhound would be an important step in consolidating into a multi-modal facility and would also assist in the City's pursuit of Federal funding for said facility. Ms. Key provided the Committee with a proposed contract for use of the Bradley Station and the selling of transportation service subject to approval by the City Attorney. Regarding revenues, Greyhound has agreed to pay the City eight percent on transportation charges and ten percent on express shipments with anticipated revenues of \$24,000 per year.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Committee approve for full Council, a contract with Greyhound Lines, Inc., for the use of the Bradley Station and the selling of transportation service subject to approval by the City Attorney with signatory authority to the City Manager.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to full Council, a contract with Greyhound Lines, Inc., for the use of the Bradley Station and the selling of transportation service subject to approval by the City Attorney with signatory authority to the City Manager.

Item 6: Other Related Business

Having no other business Chairman Kirlin adjourned the meeting.