

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
2ND FLOOR CITY HALL
JULY 21, 2008—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 Monday, July 21, 2008. Chairman Kirlin called the meeting to order.

The Committee voted unanimously to move the discussion of Item 5 Other Related Business “CMAQ Contract—S. New Hope Road” after Item 3.

Item 1. Proposed Bus Route Modifications on Service to S. New Hope Road

Ms. Key and Mr. Brett Wallace, Senior Transit Planner/Engineer for HDR Engineering, reviewed the revised transit routes that were proposed at a public meeting on May 29. Ms. Key said the route that received the most comments was S. New Hope Road. She said the original route did not go directly onto Bradford Heights Road and the area residents were not satisfied with the first proposal and wanted the route specifically on Bradford Heights Road. Ms. Key said the estimated running time for the second proposal was 54 minutes and the maximum running time threshold was 53 minutes.

Staff’s recommendation was to include Route 2 as originally proposed, without the extension to Bradford Heights Road.

Much discussion ensued.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend Council adopt Exhibit A and implement the ADA service to the Bradford Heights neighborhood.

Item 2. Chestnut Street Realignment Project

Chairman Kirlin recognized Ms. Susan Hinely, Director of Community Improvement, for staff’s presentation.

Ms. Hinely said staff was asking for consideration to declare surplus for properties purchased around 1995 and before with Bond money for the realignment of Chestnut Street. She said the properties offered up for consideration were from Franklin Boulevard to Garrison Boulevard. Ms. Hinely said staff requested that the City properties from Franklin Boulevard to Long Avenue not be considered for surplus because Engineering believes it will be a very important component to the long-term Thoroughfare Plan.

Discussion ensued.

The Committee voted unanimously to declare the properties surplus and to direct staff to begin the process of appraising the properties and soliciting RFPs.

Item 3: Update on City Sidewalk Projects

Chairman Kirlin recognized Mr. Don Lowe, Traffic Engineer, for staff's presentation.

Mr. Lowe reviewed the FY 08/09 Un-funded Project List for sidewalks and roadways and noted that one of the sidewalk projects was Bradford Heights Road. He said the sidewalk would provide a sidewalk to get from the community to S. New Hope Road.

Mr. Lowe also reviewed Street Improvement Projects and pointed out the projects that were under Municipal agreement with the State to share in the cost; those projects included Davidson Avenue Bridge and New Hope Road and Bessemer City Road sidewalk projects.

Mr. Lowe reviewed the Future Street Bond Project and said it was a priority list compiled by the Surface Transportation Committee when it was an active group around the year 2000 or 2001. Mr. Lowe said they had updated the cost to 2008 dollars. He said there was approximately \$180M worth of roadway projects on the list. Mr. Lowe wanted to remind the Committee of the projects list and said staff hoped that in a few years some of the projects would be selected for funding and construction.

Chairman Kirlin asked how long it would take to go from application funding to take it to a vote by the citizens.

Mr. Lowe said a priority list could be provided in a few months.

Chairman Kirlin said this was something that should be moving forward and discussed by Council possibly at it January retreat.

Discussion ensued.

Councilman Howren made a recommendation that the sidewalk project for Bradford Heights be given first priority.

Mr. Lowe said the staff could list that one first for design and installation.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that Bradford Heights Road be listed as first priority on the sidewalk projects for design and installation.

Item 5: Other Related Business (CMAQ Contract (S. New Hope Road)

Mr. Lowe said the City entered into an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in 2005. He said the City applied for some Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) money. Mr. Lowe said several projects were submitted; one was approved by the State, which was the widening of New Hope Road from Burtonwood Drive to Armstrong

Park Road/Garrison Boulevard to a five-lane section. He said from Burtonwood Drive north it was five or six lanes and from Garrison Boulevard south to past Titman Road was a five-lane section. He said it was in the current TIP provided by the DOT. Mr. Lowe said this was an 80/20 split and based on the current estimate for the project, the City's share was \$409,000 and the project cost would be over \$2M.

Mr. Lowe said the NCDOT had submitted a Municipal Agreement to the City to proceed with the design.

Discussion ensued.

The Committee voted unanimously to direct staff to proceed with getting the revisions made to the Municipal Agreement between the City and NCDOT.

Item 4. Multi-Modal Transit Center Study

Chairman Kirlin recognized Mr. Hank Graham, Principal Transportation Planner, for staff's presentation.

Mr. Graham said the item was provided to give the Committee an update with the Multi-modal facility in the Downtown area. He said the recommendation of a Multi-modal facility was to look at sites that would allow links to the P&N Railroad line, passenger rail, light rail, rapid rail or buses. Mr. Graham said the Franklin Boulevard Corridor Study also recommended the Multi-Modal Facility.

Mr. Graham said for many reasons various sites had been eliminated and said that the area they were focusing on was in the Downtown area. He said the area they were looking at was the only one feasible for all modes of transportation.

Mr. Graham said this was the first phase of this effort and that there would be a phase II portion, which would take the site selection and site acquisition further with possibly an architectural or engineering firm provide site design.

Mr. Graham said cost estimates were included in a request to NCDOT Board of Transportation \$750,000. He said they just adopted the new 2009/2015 TIP. He said the project was approved and funds had been added to the TIP. He said there would be a 10 percent match because this would be an 80/10/10 split. He said the State is participating and had a \$75,000 local match.

Discussion ensued.

This item was provided for information only.

Having no other business Chairman Kirlin adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.