

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CITY HALL  
NOVEMBER 4, 2010—5:45 PM**

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

The City Council Transportation Committee met on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Chairman Kirlin called the meeting to order.

**ITEM 1: Proposed Coach America Contract**

Chairman Kirlin recognized Debby Key, Manager of Fleet Services, for staff's presentation. Ms. Key stated that Coach America has approached the City regarding the utilization of the Bradley Station as a bus stop for a new service route from Boone to Charlotte and return. While the Bradley Station is limited in size, it is felt that a partnership with Coach America would be an important step in consolidation into a true "multi-modal" facility and would help to support the City's pursuit of federal funding for a new state-of-the-art facility. Coach America has agreed to pay 10% of transportation charges/express shipments to the City. An estimated annual revenue of \$4,000 is anticipated. The Assistant City Attorney has reviewed said agreement.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommended that the Committee take to full Council the proposed contract with Coach America.

**The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to full Council the proposed agreement with Coach America.**

**ITEM 2: Multi-Modal Transportation Facility Update**

Chairman Kirlin recognized Hank Graham, Principal Transportation Planner, for staff's presentation. Mr. Graham provided the Committee with information relative to the proposed multi-modal facility. Request for qualifications were released on October 1, 2010, for the architectural, engineering, and environmental assessment services for the facility. Interviews with four firms are scheduled for the week of November 15, 2010. Staff recommended that City Council pursue funding for the construction of the multi-modal facility through potential earmark funding from our local legislative delegation.

**No action was taken, and the Committee accepted this information as presented.**

**ITEM 3: I-85/US 321 Interchange Improvement Project Update**

Chairman Kirlin recognized Hank Graham, Principal Transportation Planner, for staff's presentation. Mr. Graham provided the Committee with proposed designs currently under review by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the interchange improvements at I-85 and Chester Street (US 321). Staff expressed several concerns with the

designs and stated that further conversations with NCDOT will need to occur before a final design is formalized. The Committee requested staff provide an additional conceptual drawing of the I-85/US 321 interchange.

**No action was taken, and the Committee accepted this information as presented.**

**ITEM 4: GO Street Bond Update**

Chairman Kirlin recognized Mr. Rusty Bost, City Engineer, for staff's presentation. Mr. Bost stated some sidewalk projects have been completed, and others are under construction and/or design. A resurfacing contract has been awarded, and work began October 1, 2010, to be completed in spring, 2011. Surveying and preliminary design of the street widening projects are underway. Currently, several sidewalk projects have been constructed under budget, and the design services of the widening project appear to be in line with the established budgeted funds. Staff advised that the Committee would be updated as projects are completed. Also, staff will advise the Committee if any of the "bubble list" projects are added to the construction schedule.

**No action was taken, and the Committee accepted this information as presented.**

**ITEM 5: Proposed Railroad Grade Crossing at Ruby Avenue**

Each year the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) examines all public at-grade railroad crossings in the state and ranks crossings according to their improvement needs. The criteria for the rankings are based on train volume, vehicular volume, train speed, past crash history, and existing protection. The NCDOT has notified the City of improvement needs at the Ruby Avenue railroad crossing. Under this program, the Federal government would fund 90% of the cost of installing signals and gates. The City would agree to provide the remaining 10% of funds. Also, the City would be responsible for an annual maintenance fee for the crossing paid directly to Norfolk Southern Corporation. The other option available to the City would be to close the Ruby Avenue railroad crossing to vehicular traffic. Public meetings could be held to solicit opinions from the surrounding neighborhood, including Public Safety and emergency services, so the needs of the public are fully understood.

**Recommendation:**

Staff proposed a public meeting to further evaluate the proposed installation of railroad protection devices at Ruby Avenue.

**The Committee voted 2-1 to recommend that staff engage the public in a meeting to solicit input regarding the closing or signalization of the Ruby Avenue railroad crossing. Staff was also instructed to advise the Committee of the public meeting results.**

**ITEM 6: Other Related Matters**

Having no other business Chairman Kirlin adjourned the meeting.