

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
March 25, 2021**

The meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was called to order by Chairman Evan Watkins on March 25, 2021 3:03 p.m. by Zoom Meeting Telecommunicating to slow the spread of the Coronavirus COVID-19 (also called “social distancing”) due to the COVID-19 virus.

Present at the meeting were: Dave Johnson, Larry Millican, Andy Aycoth, Peggy Zahler (entered late), Evan Watkins, David Person, Annette Ramirez, and Christopher Sims

Not present at the meeting: Donna Ofsanko

Introduction of Committee Members

Evan Watkins welcomed all members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and called to order the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to delay voting on the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes until the next meeting on April 22, 2021, by all members of the committee with a unanimous vote of 7-0.

One new member was welcomed by Christopher Sims that was appointed to the committee. Annette Ramirez introduced herself to the committee and is very excited to be part of the committee.

Committee Mission and Goals

Christopher Sims introduced the Committee’s Mission/Purpose and the Goals/Initiatives that were previously established. These goals were noted as to advise and make recommendations to plan and implement a balanced transportation system along with drainage, water, wastewater, and other public infrastructure. Another Goal for the Committee was to provide an avenue for input and feedback on ongoing and future City Projects.

Christopher noted that changes to the existing Mission and Goals should tie into the initiatives to the Master Mobility Plan:

- Continued Mobility
- Perseveration & Maintenance of Existing Infrastructure
- Continue Being a Special Place to Live
- Provide Fiscal Stewardship
- Enhance the City’s Economic Vitality

In working to align with the 2018 MMP Initiatives, the Committee developed 3 Goals to implement:

1. Receive yearly presentation on long-term progress/status of CIP – Make recommendation based on presentation
 2. Review and make recommendations on proposed CIP projects
 3. Promote Online Mapping System to provide access to traffic related information within the City
- The status of the Goals would be presented by the following methods:
 - Yearly Progress Report to City Council
 - Acting as a “clearing house” for proposed CIP
 - Making recommendations for CIP prioritization
 - The following Goals/Initiatives were discussed but not included:
 - Access Management Strategy
 - Make recommendations for new Bike/Pedestrian routes for inclusion in Mater Park Plan
 - Mass Transit Strategy

Evan opened to members of the Committee for discussion their own goals and their role on the Committee:

David indicated how the committee is going to measure the success of the committee with goals as follows below:

- City Development (ties in with the goals and initiatives for the committee)
- Drainage Prospective (CCWSC, DBWSC and Galveston Drainage Program)
- TxDOT Initiatives (Grand Parkway, etc.) with TxDOT
- Outreach and proactive communication with League City Citizens

Evan and Christopher discussed the committee to participate in Town Hall (quarterly or semi-annually). There was a meeting held in 2020 prior to COVID related issues and was not re-initiated. Christopher indicated that if the Committee wanted to, this could be started up again due to COVID restrictions being lifted, but further discussions with City's Communication Department would be needed to work out the details.

Larry noted that an open house with Communications called Sundays in the Park will be during the month of May 2021 in League Park. City Departments including Council will be represented there on a rotating basis and this may be an opportunity for this committee to participate for community outreach. Evan indicated if we revive an open house the committee should focus on each initiative for a more targeted area including issues on Drainage within the community.

Christopher indicated that a discussion with the Communications Department would be needed to ensure the Committee could participate in this program. It was suggested by the Committee that they would like to explore having a presence at two of the meetings and a possibility for more.

A semi-annual meeting, potentially starting in June 2021, and hosted by the Committee was discussed. The following points were discussed:

- Meeting to focus on quadrants within the City. Christopher noted that if splitting the City into Quadrants, using I-45 and League City Parkway could be the way to do it.
- Solicitation of HOA inquiries along City quadrants.

Dave and Christopher discussed the Master Mobility Plan and how it effects the City and a new Elementary School being proposed on the Westside of town and how it affects the roadways and impact fees with the development of homes.

David suggested the committee add another goal to the committee to encompasses an outreach goal to the public for our Mission and Goals.

New Projects to Consider for CIP

Christopher presented two CIP projects:

Newport Blvd./Williamsport Street study alignment

- Study only (four to six-month window)
- Scope will include traffic analysis, exhibits of roadway geometrics, utility adjustments, drainage modifications, lane assignments, sidewalk improvements, traffic signal modifications, and ROW needs (consultant roughly \$75,000)
- Study will provide up to three alternatives to consider
- Study proposed for FY22 CIP
- Members of the committee discussed and commented their concerns with the Williamsport and Newport Blvd. realignment and the ongoing traffic issues may not be resolved. Chris indicated that traffic may improve once I-45 has been completed and can readdress this street realignment later in the fiscal year. Committee directed Christopher to include access management recommendations from Landing Boulevard to I-45 for better traffic management. Members of the committee also discussed adding a traffic light evaluation within the study to see if traffic flow could be increased at

that corridor during fiscal year 2023 to 2024.

- Committee voted 7-0 for me to revise the CIP project to include Access Management and not show it starting until FY2022 to allow for TxDOT work to be completed within the area. Any projects coming from that study will be reviewed and potentially added to City CIP in FY2023.

Traffic Routing Study for Coryell and FM 270

- TSWA shows signal is needed, but just meets threshold
- Impact Study for Historic District proposed for FY2022 CIP
- Study Scope will include traffic analysis and recommended traffic improvements within the Historic District (if any)
- Design of Signal planned for FY24 with construction in FY25
- This signal has the potential to be a TxDOT Safety Improvement Project, but need the project on City CIP to make the project more attractive to TxDOT.
- The committee discussed their concerns with the traffic on 270 and the risks for citizens related to the median turn lands and that maybe eliminating that lane will reduce potential accidents.
- Dave stressed his concerns with congestion issues that can arise if this project is not done correctly within the City.
- Christopher indicated that this traffic signal at FM 270 can be adjusted to include an access management plan. This would allow for the project to be recommended for FY2022 CIP and would allow for design work related to potential traffic signal, median improvements, and Historic District upgrades to the FY2024 or FY2025 timeframe. This will allow the City to keep this project as a CIP option for safety improvement and the preliminary study will be a supplement to the TSWA.
- Christopher and David discussed what is meant by access management strategy. Christopher indicated work is typically on collector and arterial roads to help access property while continuing to allow for the free flow of traffic on the primary lanes. The goal is to look at reducing traffic accidents and keeping businesses active and growing throughout the City.
- David moved to approve an access management retooling of the CIP recommendations to the Committee. Dave motioned to approve the recommendations and it was seconded by Larry. After further discussion, David amended his motion to approve to include outreach community to the access management retooling of the CIP recommendations. The amended motion was seconded by Annette Ramirez and approved by all members of the committee 7-0.

Committee Meeting Schedule

- Chris presented the proposed meeting dates for the transportation committee with a yearly Presentation to Council being on August 24, 2021. Evan and other members of the committee discussed meeting in person going forward with afternoon meetings remaining at 3:00 p.m. Dave approved the meeting schedule and was seconded by Peggy with a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Committee Member Comments:

- No Committee Member comments

Public Comments:

- No public comments

Discuss Purpose and Direction to Staff:

A motion was made by Evan and seconded by Larry and all members of the committee to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. A motion passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be scheduled on April 22, 2021, by a Zoom Meeting due to the COVID-19 virus).

Minutes were approved by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Annette Ramirez with an unanimous vote of 7-0.