

MINUTES

21st Century Transportation Task Force

August 5, 2008

3:00 – 5:00 PM

9th Floor Council Committee Room

Type of meeting:

Fifteenth Task Force Meeting

Attendees:

Councilor Isaac Benton, Claude Luisada, Claude Morelli (absent), Moises Gonzalez, Jeffrey Peterson, Antonio Sandoval, Terry Keene (absent), Gary Bodman, Nevin Harwick, Alex Romero, Bert Thomas, Bob Murphy, Brent Wilson (absent), Chris Blewett, Clovis Acosta, Dale Lockett, Joanne McEntire, Joel Wooldridge, JW Madison, Martin Sandoval, Ralph Cipriani (absent), Frank Burcham, Gus Grace

Resource Persons:

Michael Riordan, Mike Smith, Keith Perry, Robert Nelson (UNM), Donna Baca, Kara Shair-Rosenfield

Observers:

Roger Mickelson, Silvio Dell'Angela

AGENDA TOPICS

Welcome

Councilor Benton

Discussion: Councilor Benton called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Councilor Benton

Discussion: Councilor Benton moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Councilor Benton moved to approve the minutes, with a clarification/correction submitted by Joanne McEntire, from the 7-22-08 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

General Discussion: DRAFT Final Report

Discussion: Councilor Benton led a discussion about the DRAFT Final Report that he and staff had drafted, based on the outline the group had been developing for a number of months and other materials/memos that members had submitted. The group focused on the "Recommendations" section of the report and made the following changes:

1. Trails & Bikeways

- Delete third Policy Recommendation "Prioritize the implementation of bike boulevards."
 - Nevin Harwick pointed out that Trails & Bikeways deals with off-street facilities, and

since bike boulevards are an on-street facility, the recommendation does not fit in this section.

2. Sidewalk Improvements

- Add a section that specifically addresses sidewalk improvements. Include a recommendation to review the City's Sidewalk Ordinance.
 - Bert Thomas drafted a new section called "Sidewalk Improvements" that is included in Draft 2 of the report.

3. City-Wide Public Transit, Multi-Modal Transportation

- Combine third and fourth Policy recommendations.
- Delete parenthetical statement and add "by reducing headways, improving ITS, managed lanes and queue jumpers to facilitate public transit" to the end of the last Policy Recommendation.

4. City-Wide Public Transit, Organization: Transit & Institutional

- Delete first part of first Policy Recommendation. Begin first Policy Recommendation, "Consider changing ABQ Ride..."
- Turn last Policy Recommendation into Observation Statement for this section.
- Spell out TQM – Total Quality Management.
- Delete Policy Recommendation "Increase transparency and information sharing." Add "with increased transparency and information sharing" to the end of the Policy Recommendation that begins "Run ABQ Ride like a business..."
- Delete "Achieve Tucson's transit performance."
- Change Policy Recommendation that begins "Run ABQ Ride like a business..." to "Manage ABQ Ride like a business..."
- Policy Recommendation that begins "Establish more aggressive transit growth targets..." should say "Establish more aggressive transit ridership growth targets..."

5. City-Wide Public Transit, Transit Service Design

- Rewrite first Policy Recommendation so that it reads, "Improve the image and appeal of riding transit by being responsive to customer feedback in terms of safety, services and amenities."
- Add a new Policy Recommendation after the second recommendation: "Install bus shelters at every bus stop. Develop criteria, starting with ridership, for prioritizing shelter locations."
 - The Task Force had a discussion about how bus shelters can really change the appeal level of riding the bus from a very practical standpoint. One member questioned the need for and feasibility of installing a shelter at every bus stop, but the group agreed that this is just a recommendation and something that should be strived for over time.
 - Keith Perry from the Transit Department informed the group that there are currently about 3,000 shelters in the city, some of which are being decommissioned. He pointed out that right-of-way limitations and ADA requirements could make it difficult to install shelters at every bus stop. He also mentioned that Lamar Advertising is putting in shelters at bus stops and that 30 new locations are being considered at this time. When asked how they decide which stops get the shelters, Keith answered that they analyze routes for where ridership exists.
 - Based on this discussion, the group decided to add the second part of the recommendation to indicate the need for prioritizing the installation of shelters at stops that see the highest ridership numbers.
- In the Policy Recommendation that begins "Promote the use...", change "non-polluting" to "low polluting".
- In the Policy Recommendation that begins "Implement a mix..." replace "centers" with "facilities" at the end of the statement.

6. City-Wide Public Transit, Transit Funding

- Move the second sentence in the Observation Statement – “An increased percentage of the ¼ cent tax should be part of Transit funding.” – to the end of the first Policy Recommendation.
- Add a new Policy Recommendation: “If any portion of the ¼ Cent Transportation Tax that is dedicated to Transit is not spent in a given year, it should be placed in a dedicated trust fund for future-year use.”
 - During discussion about this section of the report, Moises Gonzalez pointed out that the group had, at one point, talked about making sure that unspent Transit funding would be reserved for and dedicated only for Transit’s use. The group agreed that a specific recommendation about this issue should be included in the report.
- Add a new Policy Recommendation: “Seek partnership funding, such as alternative energy companies that can/may/want to sponsor transit-related projects.”
 - Using the partnership that the Transit Department has already established with Lamar Advertising to build bus shelters around the city as inspiration, Frank Burcham suggested looking into partnerships with other companies, particularly alternative energy companies, that might be interested in providing financial support for special transit-related projects.

General Discussion: Recap of Streetcar Straw Vote

Discussion: Councilor Benton briefly summarized what happened at the July 22 meeting with regard to discussion about and the straw vote on the streetcar. He explained that the majority of voting members present at the last meeting, or 10 out of 13, supported Leland’s recommendation to use up to 14% of the ¼ Cent Transportation Tax to build and operate the B&C alignment of the streetcar (or 21% for the full alignment), assuming a TIDD, which would pay for 57% of building the recommended B&C alignment, was put in place. 3 members voted to use no funding from the ¼ cent tax for the streetcar.

Councilor Benton asked facilitator Mike Smith if it would be okay to have the members who were not present at the last meeting vote for the option they preferred. Mike Smith said he thought that would be fine as the votes had not been finalized. Of the 5 additional members present, 3 voted for the majority position, and 2 voted for the minority position. That brought the total number of members voting for the majority to 13 and for the minority position to 5.

Scheduling of Next Meeting; Adjourn

Discussion: Councilor Benton wrapped up the meeting by reminding the Task Force that the reporting deadline of Sept. 1 is fast approaching. With only one more meeting scheduled, Councilor Benton asked everyone to work on the DRAFT Report over the next two weeks, paying particular attention to the Streetcar Majority/Minority sections and the Dedication of the ¼ Cent Tax.

The next meeting of the Transportation Task Force will be on **Tuesday, August 19, 3 PM** in the Council Committee Room on the 9th floor of City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.