



Prosperity & Livability Committee Meeting
Chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Ewing
Committee Members: Ewing, Hudson, Peters, and Golden
May 8, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
3rd Floor Lobby Conference Room
Minutes

Present:

Chairman Jason Ewing and Committee Members Monica Peters, Wesley Hudson

Absent:

Committee Member Jeff Golden

Staff Present:

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; JoAnn Carlyle, City Attorney; Scott Dingus, Civil Engineer; Ryan Ferguson, Marketing Manager; Andrew Edmonds, Transportation Technician; Tyler Berrier, Electric Department Assistant Director; Heidi Galanti, Planning Administrator; Greg Venable, Transportation Planner; Mark McDonald, Transportation Director; Robby Stone, Assistant Director of Public Services; Lisa Vierling, City Clerk; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

Others Present:

Judy Stalder; Britt Moore, Council Member

News Media Present:

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

Note: The following handouts were distributed during the meeting and will be attached as a permanent part of these preceding.

- PowerPoint Presentation: Centennial Underground and Resurfacing Project, and Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Non-Highway Projects
- Letter from NCDOT STIP Unit in reference to Support for Required local Matches and other Contributions for P5.0 Non-Highway Projects in Draft 2020-2029 STIP

Chairman Ewing called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.; and requested to start with item number 2.

Update Montlieu Streetscape Plan

Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager spoke to partnership opportunities with High Point University (HPU) on this Plan; a timeframe of two to three years on completion; stated the Plan would be an important connector from Centennial Street to downtown; it was supported by previous planning that included an existing greenway plan; spoke to potential connectors to include: Elm Street, HPU, and south west neighborhoods; to land design with J.M. Teague Engineering and Planning (JMTE) and staff; to interviews with stakeholders; to future outreach with neighborhoods for feedback; to challenges and issues; to improving gateways and safety; creating a comfortable connection for pedestrian and cyclist from neighborhoods to downtown; spoke to the Hamilton and Montlieu area with potential redevelopment opportunities; presented a picture showing what the design would look like; and showed options for the Brookside and cemetery area.

Chairman Ewing inquired on the size of the parcel beside the church.

Mr. Hemann stated that he would provide that information; that it was owned by High Point University; spoke to demolishing the church and replacing it with a parking deck and housing units. Mr. Hemann continued discussing the two options proposed; spoke to Option One with the existing Right of Way (ROW); gave an overview of the Hybrid designs to be studied; stated the cost estimate was \$5 million; that the cost for water and sewer expanded from Centennial to Main; to increasing the contingency cost. Mr. Hemann gave an overview of Option Two to having a shared path on both sides of street; spoke to taking 2-3 feet of yard space on either side; stated the cost estimate was \$8 million; spoke to increasing the contingency cost; stated HPU expressed interest in option one with the City and that they would cover half of the cost, and would be willing to start the process now; and to the continued planning and searching for additional funding.

Update Centennial Underground and Resurfacing Project

Mark McDonald, Transportation Director gave an overview of the Centennial Underground and Resurfacing Project; stated the project would begin at Centennial from Eastchester to Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.; spoke to a timeframe of starting the project in the next few weeks; to looking at options of restriping a portion of Centennial that would have bike lanes and ecstatic improvements; to the work done by the Electric and Utilities Departments; and introduced Greg Venable, Transportation Planner to discuss the details of the proposal of the project.

Mr. Venable stated the Project was a priority project; explained the plan and provided a PowerPoint Presentation with a visual that included: the measurements including three lanes, widening the buffer lane, and bike lanes on both sides of the street; and spoke to the opportunity to do striping now.

Discussion took place regarding the location of sidewalks within the city; locations where sidewalks were needed; and to the priority list of sidewalks that was included in the Project.

Council Member Moore inquired if a capacity study was done; and on the reasoning on the striping for bike lanes whether it was for opportunity or to attract or accommodate cyclists. Mr. McDonald stated no formal study was done; and that from a traffic standpoint there were no issues; and to receiving feedback to proceed with the project.

Chairman Ewing stated he traveled Centennial several time a day with no major or potential traffic issues.

Committee Member Peters asked if other roads were being looked at project wise. Mr. Venable stated a list of roads was monitored to determine if opportunities existed.

Council Member Moore asked if there were any issues with the new design, and if the street could be converted back to four lanes. Chairman Ewing asked about the timeframe of the project; and voiced appreciation in taking a great step into making Centennial more appealing. Mr. McDonald stated it would be possible to convert back to the original design; and that the project would start after the High Point University's Graduation Ceremony.

Tyler Berrier, Electric Department Assistant Director stated that there were still duct work to be installed; and that they would be installing new poles to match the campus of HPU; and gave a timeframe of completion to be around October 1st of this year.

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager stated the cost was part of an agreement with HPU of the underground utilities' installments; and that the resurfacing budget was done periodically every year.

TIP Sidewalk Project

Greg Venable, Transportation Planner provided a draft letter of support for required local matches and other contributions for P5.0 Non-Highway Projects 2020-2029 for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); highlighted a list of projects programmed in the draft with associated local matches and/or other contributions that included:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>FY/Amount Matched/Source of Match Contribution</u>
Johnson Street Sidewalk	FY 2028/\$29,000/Capital
Eastchester Sidewalk	FY 2025/\$27,000/Capital
Cedrow Drive Ped Bridge	FY 2024/\$274,000/Capital/Bonds
Penny Road Ped Bridge	FY 2026/\$330,000/Capital/Bonds
High Point Railroad Esplanade	FY 2026/\$1,760,000/Capital/Bonds

Council Member Moore asked was the cost for the projects projected out. Mr. Venable stated the TIP was a ten-year program; that the first five years was guaranteed funding; and that it was today's dollars for the project in 2025.

Mr. Venable spoke to the Penny Road Ped Bridge Project; stated it was a multi-use bridge over the City Lake; spoke to the Railroad Esplanade that it would overlook the rail line; to coordinating with the Railroad for Project; provided a visual of what the project would look like; and explained the cost of the project.

Chairman Ewing recommended creating an entertainment piece to the Railroad Esplanade Project.

Mr. Venable stated the Railroad would not be funding the project; that the Railroad would receive payment for the project; and that they would be given a copy of the Letter of Support to the NCDOT.

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager stated the City would not be officially obligated until an agreement was signed.

Chairman Ewing inquired if other priority projects could be completed in lieu of these projects. Mr. Venable stated that the priority list of projects would cost over \$10 million.

Discussion Possible Shopping Cart Return Ordinance

Robby Stone, Assistant Director of Public Services stated he could not locate an ordinance in North Carolina in reference to the possible "Shopping Cart Return" ordinance; that multiple states had an ordinance for this; to California's ordinance as leading the way of enforcement; gave details of research conducted on how enforcement could be established as follows:

- Require businesses to make retrieving carts apart their responsibility
- For Businesses to install cart containment systems
- Mandate with a cart recovery company
- Charge a recovery Fee

Mr. Stone continued stating he had contacted a local Food Lion on Fairfield with the cart containment system in place; spoke to contacting their corporate office for feedback with no success at this time; stated the Manager at this store stated that corporate decided where the systems would be installed (mainly in high crime areas); that the average cost for a cart was \$100. Mr. Stone explained how the City retrieved carts (typically from ditches/with 10 to 20 carts retrieved weekly); spoke to taking the carts to the environmental services; to contacting the businesses whose carts were retrieved; and to the safety issues regarding abandoned carts.

Chairman Ewing stated he do not think the ordinance should be mandated; recommended a fee structure with a timeline before destruction; and spoke to the possibility of encouraging the private sector to start a business of collecting carts,

JoAnn Carlyle, City Attorney stated the city could treat abandon carts as a nuisance with a fine; and to requiring companies to prepare an action plan.

Council Member Moore voiced concern on retrieving unidentified carts; on storm drainage issue

due to abandoned carts; and stated the abandoned carts were a burden and nuisance on the system.

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager stated Council would be provided with a draft ordinance at a future date.

Presentation NCDOT Route Changes

Mark McDonald, Transportation Director spoke to simplifying route changes and direct routes through the Greensboro and High Point areas; to reducing sign clutter to make it easier for motorist to read; to being able to rename the corridor through High Point; and to receiving a resolution from MPO.

Greg Venable, Transportation Planner stated this project would be placed on the MPO's agenda for this month.

Mr. McDonald stated he would be meeting with Mike Mills to discuss the signage to be used for High Point.

Chairman Ewing spoke to getting more appealing High Point designation signs; inquired on the timeframe; and recommended speaking with the Economic Development staff to ensure there would be no impact on their marketing signage. Mr. Venable stated the signage would have to be in accordance with interstate standards. Mr. McDonald stated the process would start once all approvals are completed.

Ewing requested staff meet back in June to provide more information.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity and Livability Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

Jason P. Ewing, Chairman