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BRIEFING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP: PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 1:50 p.m., Bill Luxford Studio, Room 113, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Cathy Beecham, Tracy Corr, Michael Cornelius, Chris Hove, Dennis Scheer and Lynn Sunderman; (Maja Harris, Jeanelle Lust and Ken Weber absent. David Cary, Mike Brienzo, Brandon Garrett, Kellee Van Bruggen and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department.

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: briefing on **“Fiscal Year 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program”**

David Cary stated that last year, this was combined with the Capital Improvements Program. That is on a two year cycle. This will be on the Planning Commission agenda in two weeks.

Mike Brienzo stated that this is a programming document. This is a document produced by the MPO. The TIP is a Federal requirement. It is a coordinated list of projects designed to meet Federal requirements for projects that receive Federal funds or are subject to Federal action. The document is then coordinated with the State. The State provides oversight. This covers four Federal fiscal years. Projects sometimes appear for multiple years for design and construction. Projects must come from the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan. The TIP is coordinated with the City, County and State Capital Improvement Programs. We are following the programming process identified in the Long Range Plan. We are beginning to look at updating the transportation plan now. Next year, Planning Commissions will see an updated version of the Long Range Transportation Plan. There will be a planning process that starts with City staff. State provides us their projects. The TIP is divided into sections. You will notice several projects that are being coordinated with the County. NDOR, County Engineering, Public Works street projects, StarTran, Airport Authority, RTSD and Ped, Bike & Trail projects are all included in the TIP.

Beecham noticed a project for fiber optic cable in the TIP. Brienzo replied that is a State project. They are using fiber optic to connect their ITS projects. The City has an ITS program also. These projects will allow coordination of signals so traffic flow is much smoother.

Brienzo continued that the MPO Technical Committee provides oversight. The Officials Committee is the decision making body. The Planning Commission is the citizen advisory group. This group makes sure that the issues of the general public are understood. The Planning Dept. receives comments. Those will be documented and become part of the TIP. The Nebraska Dept. of Roads will include the Lincoln TIP in the State TIP, which includes this by reference. Other agencies can use the TIP to identify funding. April 30, 2015 is the MPO Technical Committee meeting. May 13, 2015 is Planning Commission public hearing. May 21 is MPO

Technical Committee meeting and June 4, 2015 is the MPO Officials meeting. Then, the MPO submits the TIP to the State to be included in the State TIP. The NDOR holds public review of the State TIP and the MPO TIP. They then submit it to the FHWA and FTA. October 1, 2015, the final TIP goes into effect.

Hove wondered about the South Beltway. There seems to be nothing in the State budget either. Brienzo stated that the State is updating the environmental document right now. They are going through the study portion, making sure the right-of-way is in place, and that the design meets the criteria that is needed for an expressway. They are working with the EPA and FHWA to have the document done. Funding is out a few years because of the Build Nebraska Act. He expects construction to begin in 2020.

Hove commented that it seems ironic this is an environmental issue. Brienzo stated that the original document included the East and the South Beltway. Due to the age of the 2002 EIS and some missing elements, the EIS must be reviewed and updated. The State is being very cautious. The funds are in place through the Build Nebraska Act for a specified timeline. You will see the City has committed to twenty percent of the funding. They have already been working on their part. Everything is moving forward according to the current schedule. The Build Nebraska Act has prioritized projects throughout the State.

Scheer questioned if the design teams are on schedule or if there were any surprises that may delay the construction. Brienzo replied that they went through this process in 2005 when the plan was for all smaller interchanges. Since we found alternative funding, the designs have changed. The footprints have changed a little, but this is on schedule for State funding.

Cary stated that all of the funding won't be in place until 2020. It will take three, four or five years to construct this. This is the way it is laid out.

Sunderman heard that at one time, there were plans for Highway 2 to be constructed for six lanes. Brienzo stated that is in the LRTP. It was decided not to move this project ahead of the beltway. Once the beltway is done, that will be re-evaluated. The City has to work out arrangements with the State to transfer Highway 2 to the City. There are a lot of issues that need to be worked out.

Scheer questioned for Highway 2 to continue to operate until 2023 or 2024, what can be done to it? It cannot continue the way it is. Brienzo stated there have been discussions on how to keep it functioning which will likely require a number of intersection improvements. There are things that need to be done. The resources do not exist at this time to program it now.

Beecham noted when the Chamber had meetings with their consultant, they talked how the driver of the economy is attracting the millennials. One of those attractants is bikeable infrastructure. She questioned if Brienzo can speak to how bike lanes are a part of this.

Brienzo replied that the N Street Bikeway project is moving forward. It is a matter of how fast we can move on some of the other projects. The Beal Slough Trail project will tie into 56th Street. Beecham wants to make sure it is part of the discussion to think outside the box of the traditional model. She wants to make sure that bike lanes and trails are part of the discussion.

Cary stated that the TIP is a useful document to plan transportation projects. It also speaks to what is happening in the Comprehensive Plan and public modes of travel. On the biking side, a lot of work is going on. The N St. Bikeway is an important project. We are working very diligently on street projects, along with bicycle and pedestrian projects. Significant trail projects are included. There is a lot going on. Brienzo added there are a lot of trails being worked on right now. One project not in the TIP is a downtown project. The Bike Share project is being worked on. Cary noted that is meant for short trips, but it is another piece of the puzzle.

Kellee Van Bruggen believes it is very exciting that we received funds from the Nebraska Dept. of Roads for Bike Share. We will start with 15 bike stations.

Hove wondered about NW. 48th Street and if the Airport pays for any of the road improvements. Brienzo replied those are State and local funds. NDOR is using interstate funds for a new interchange at NW 48th and I-80. The City is picking NW 48th Street it up from there. There is also some rehab going on north of Adams. The Airport Authority is working on an industrial park. They have activity going on.

Cary noted that staff is about to begin the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The study will be going on for 18 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jeanelle Lust, Dennis Scheer, Lynn Sunderman, Michael Cornelius, Maja Harris, Ken Weber, (Tracy Corr, Cathy Beecham, and Chris Hove absent); David Cary, Steve Henrichsen, Brian Will, Christy Eichorn, Mike Brienzo, Geri Rorabaugh and Amy Huffman of the Planning Department; media and other interested citizens.

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: Regular Planning Commission meeting

Chair Jeanelle Lust called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the back of the room.

[Planning Commission Record of the MPO Special Public Hearing Agenda items.]

SPECIAL HEARING AND ACTION

THE DRAFT OF THE FY 2016-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE LINCOLN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO).

PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION: May 13, 2015

Staff Recommendation: A finding of general conformance with the 2040 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan.

There were no ex parte communications disclosed on this item.

Staff presentation: **Mike Brienzo of the Planning staff**, reported that each Planning Commission member should have a copy of this year's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is also available on the MPO's website. Brienzo noted that the TIP covers four years from FY2015-16 through FY2018-19 and is a program of projects developed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which identifies transportation projects that will be supported with federal funds, require federal review, or have regionally significant impacts. The document is fiscally constrained with federal and local funds for a priority set of projects implemented from the Long Range Transportation Plan. The primary purpose of the TIP is to develop a 4-year list of transportation improvements for federal funding, which will be sought, and to alert other agencies and the public on transportation improvements that are forthcoming. The TIP

is basically an extension of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The TIP is developed in cooperation with the Nebraska State Department of Roads, Lancaster County Engineering, City of Lincoln Public Works and StarTran, Airport Authority, the Lower Platte NRD, and Parks and Recreation programming, and the City of Hickman. It was recommended to the Planning Commission by the MPO Technical Committee for public review. They are seeking the Planning Commission's review and finding of conformance with the 2040 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan. Brienzo noted that any comments will be included as part of the TIP and are presented to the Technical Committee and Policy Board for their review.

Staff Questions - None.

ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION:

May 13, 2015

Sunderman moved to approve a finding of general conformance with the 2040 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan as presented; seconded by Harris.

Cornelius stated that the Planning Commission was briefed on the TIP two weeks ago in depth and noted that it is fiscally constrained and they are somewhat bound by the budgetary limitations of the city in considering its conformance with the comprehensive plan.

Motion carried 6-0; Hove, Beecham, Scheer, Cornelius, Corr, and Sunderman; Lust, Harris, and Weber absent.

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: April 30, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 113, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: David Cary - Acting Director of Planning Dept., Miki Esposito - Director of Public Works & Utilities; Gary Bergstrom of the Health Dept.; Roger Figard and Randy Hoskins of Public Works & Utilities; Thomas Goodbarn and Brad Zumwalt of Nebraska Dept. of Roads; Wynn Hjermsstad of Urban Development; Lynn Johnson of Parks and Recreation; Ron Neal of County Engineer; Brian Praeuner of StarTran and Kellee Van Bruggen of Planning Dept. (Pam Dingman and David Haring absent). Mike Brienzo and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Dept.; Sara Hartzell of Parks and Recreation; Thomas Whitman of Nelson Nygaard; Gary Bentrup; Justin Luther of the Federal Highway Administration; Bill Bivin; and other interested citizens.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON THE PROPOSED FY 2016-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:

Brienzo stated that the TIP is updated annually. It is a four year document. The program includes projects that we are seeking Federal funds. It also requires projects that require Federal review or have significant impact on the transportation system. The document is also used to coordinate projects, is fiscally constrained and is coordinated with the Long Range Transportation Plan. We make sure that capital projects are selected from the priority list in the LRTP. Others such as maintenance, ITS and operations projects are considered in general conformance with the Plan. We solicit projects early on and put together a draft program for the Project Selection Committee's review. We work all transportation agencies including the Nebraska Dept. of Roads, County Engineering, Lincoln Public Works, StarTran, Lincoln Airport Authority and the Parks and Rec. Dept and NRD. We list projects from other agencies as needed, such as the Railroad Transportation Safety District. With the Tech Committee's recommendation, this Document will advance to the Planning Commission for public review. They will hold a public hearing, take comments and will forward those back to the Technical Committee on May 21, 2015.

Figard believes Thomas Schaefer has a few revisions to the TIP. Funds need to move from one year to another.

Thomas Shaefer proposed the following corrections to:

C – Public Works section:

- page C-1 - Coddington & West Van Dorn – numbers in the 2016-17 column for PE, PE, Util, Util, ROW and ROW need to move to 2015-16, numbers in the 2017-18 column for Construction/CE and Construction/CE need to move to 2016-17;
- page C-2 – 66th & Fremont – numbers in the 2016-17 column for ROW, ROW, Utilities and Utilities need to move to 2015-16, numbers in the 2017-18 column for Construction/CE and Construction/CE need to move to 2016/17;
- page C-3 – Item 6, South Beltway needs to be removed;
- page C-5 – Engineering Services Division: Traffic Engineering – Traffic Operations & Maintenance – add 1,758.9 GR to 2018-19; and

G – Ped, Bike & Trails section:

- The map on first page of section to be updated to include project 6 – Cavett Elem. to Grainger Connector and project 7, Stonebridge Trail.

Gary Bergstrom proposed a correction to the Joint NDOR-MPO Certification Statement on page viii of the Introduction. “Carbon Monoxide (CO);” needs to be removed from Item 2. The Health Dept. does not operate any CO monitors any more. The Health Dept. was informed we would not have to continue monitoring for carbon monoxide. Esposito stated, that without any objections, it can be removed from the certification statement.

ACTION:

Zumwalt moved approval of the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program with the following corrections:

Section C – Public Works section: page C-1 - Coddington & West Van Dorn – numbers in the 2016-17 column for PE, PE, Util, Util, ROW and ROW need to move to 2015-16, numbers in the 2017-18 column for Construction/CE and Construction/CE need to move to 2016-17;

page C-2 – 66th & Fremont – numbers in the 2016-17 column for ROW, ROW, Utilities and Utilities need to move to 2015-16, numbers in the 2017-18 column for Construction/CE and Construction/CE need to move to 2016/17;

page C-3 – Item 6, South Beltway needs to be removed;

page C-5 – Engineering Services Division: Traffic Engineering – Traffic Operations & Maintenance – add 1,758.9 GR to 2018-19; and

Section G – Ped, Bike & Trails section: map on first page of section to be updated to include project 6 – Cavett Elem. to Grainger Connector and project 7, Stonebridge Trail.

Introduction, page viii – item 2: remove “Carbon Monoxide (CO)”

Motion for approval as amended seconded by Goodbarn and carried 12-0: Bergstrom, Cary, Esposito, Figard, Goodbarn, Hjermsstad, Hoskins, Johnson, Neal, Praeuner, Van Bruggen and Zumwalt voting ‘yes’; Dingman and Haring absent.

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: May 21, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 113, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: David Cary - Acting Director of Planning Dept., Pam Dingman – County Engineer, Miki Esposito - Director of Public Works & Utilities, Michael Davis of StarTran, Roger Figard and Erin Sokolik of Public Works Engineering Services, Tom Goodbarn and Noel Salac of Nebraska Dept. of Roads, Lynn Johnson of Parks & Recreation, Kellee Van Bruggen of the Planning Dept.; (David Landis and Chris Schroeder absent); Mike Brienzo and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Dept.; Sara Hartzell of Parks & Recreation; Kari Ruse and Brad Zumwalt of Nebraska Dept. of Roads; Rick Haden of Felsberg, Holt & Ullevig; and Nancy Hicks of the Lincoln Journal Star.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON THE PROPOSED FY 2016-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:

Brienzo stated that the TIP was advanced with minor revisions for public hearing before Planning Commission. They did not receive any comments. This was also posted as a public notice. There is one revision being proposed today to the RTSD section. The project at 33rd and BNSF Railroad, south of Cornhusker is in the proposed TIP, but Roger Figard was reviewing it and believed that funds needed to be added to show the full cost. The full scope of funding for the years of 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and Cost Beyond Program need to be shown for a total project cost of \$77 million dollars.

Roger Figard wants everyone to know that no final designs have been done yet. This is for preliminary work. The RTSD has a long range plan. Having funding dollars in place for the long range is a necessary tool. For FHWA to participate, you need to have a plan in place. This is a step to make sure the opportunity is there for Federal funding in the future.

Pam Dingman asked what is covered in the \$600,000.00 for 2015-16. Figard replied that is part of the preliminary study. Any money not expended has to be re-budgeted and carried over.

Cary wondered if the minutes from the Planning Commission briefing on the TIP will be available. Brienzo stated that as soon as the minutes from that briefing are available, they will be added to the comments section of the TIP once they are approved.

Salac inquired if this will be looking at alternatives, along with the feasibility study. Figard replied we are still working on the scope. We don't want any fatal flaws. Salac further inquired if the FHWA is involved yet. Figard replied yes. They will continue to involve them.

ACTION:

Figard moved approval of the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Dingman and carried 10-0: Cary, Davis, Dingman, Esposito, Figard, Goodbarn, Johnson, Salac, Sokolik and Van Bruggen voting 'yes'; Landis and Schroeder absent.

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: June 4, 2015, 1:20 p.m., Mayor's Conference Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Roma Amundson, Mayor Chris Beutler, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Trent Fellers, Larry Hudkins and Moe Jamshidi. Roger Figard of Public Works & Utilities; Brian Praeuner of Star Tran; Kyle Fischer of Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; and Mike Brienzo, Kellee Van Bruggen and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Dept.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON 2016-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:

Brienzo stated that we worked with many different agencies. Public Works lists their projects that use federal funds. StarTran projects are also identified in the program. Lincoln Airport Authority participates in this program. There are no Section 5310 projects at this time, nor any Ped, Bike or Trail projects. We do have an RTSD project. It is a study that is being undertaken.

Figard stated that 77 million is not all intended to come from the Railroad Transportation Safety District. This gives you an idea of the magnitude of the project. The RTSD meets Monday and will have some budget amendments. What is before the RTSD is the contract for preliminary engineering and environmental work.

ACTION:

Hudkins moved approval of the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Amundson and carried 6-0: Amundson, Mayor Beutler, Gaylor Baird, Fellers, Hudkins and Jamshidi voting 'yes'.

Hudkins wondered about the work to be done on the N. 10th St. and Military Bridge in Lincoln. Brienzo replied that is programmed for this coming fiscal year. Hudkins inquired if it is to be replaced or widened. Figard stated that the work involves determining whether it is more cost efficient to repair or replace it. Hudkins questioned if a determination had been made for a pedestrian crossing. Figard replied yes. Brienzo understands they are working with the state.

Hudkins also noted that downstream from Theresa Street, there is a lot of work to be done on support piers. This was possibly caused by city aftermath of the heavy rains and flooding.



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