

MEETING RECORD

Advanced public notice of the Officials Committee meeting was posted on the County-City bulletin board and the Planning Department's website.

NAME OF GROUP: OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: September 16, 2021, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 303, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, Ryan Huff, Deb Schorr, Rick Vest and Tammy Ward; (Richard Meginnis absent). David Cary, Allan Zafft and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Brian Praeuner of StarTran; Elizabeth Elliott, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities; and other interested parties.

Chair Rick Vest called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Vest then called for a motion approving the minutes of the regular meeting held July 20, 2021. Motion for approval made by Schorr, seconded by Mayor Gaylor Baird and carried 5-0: Mayor Gaylor Baird, Huff, Schorr, Vest and Ward voting 'yes'; Meginnis absent.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY 2022-2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP): A) NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, I-80, AIRPARK – I-180; ADD PROJECT AND PROGRAM FEDERAL FUNDS AND B) NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, I-80, MILFORD – LINCOLN; ADD PROJECT AND PROGRAM FEDERAL FUNDS:

Allan Zafft stated that this is an amendment for construction on I-80 at two different locations. This affects the 2022-2025 TIP. This appeared before the Technical Committee and they recommended approval. It was out for public comment and no comments were received.

ACTION:

Motion for approval of revisions to the FY 2022-2025 TIP: a) Nebraska Department of Transportation, I-80, Airpark – I-180; add project and program federal funds and b) Nebraska Department of Transportation, I-80, Milford – Lincoln; add project and program federal funds, made by Mayor Gaylor Baird, seconded by Ward and carried 5-0: Mayor Gaylor Baird, Huff, Schorr, Vest and Ward voting 'yes'; Meginnis absent.

REPORT ON THE STARTRAN 2021-2022 TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Brian Praeuner appeared. This was presented to the Technical Committee. This is an update to the 2016 Transit Development Plan (TDP). Back then, a number of route changes were made. We are coming back to look at our system again. We believe it is always a good idea to look at the system and make sure it is

effective. This process was started in June. A major component is that we are trying to get ridership back to pre-pandemic levels. We are starting to see some riders come back. We are looking at paratransit, as well as buses. We want to make sure we are meeting the needs of our customers. Right now, we are wrapping up an on-board survey. We did a community survey about one month ago. We have also talked to our bus drivers and transit staff. We have held stakeholder meetings. There is a group of community organization representatives that are giving input as well. There will be some route and schedule improvements, along with short and long-term recommendations. We held a town hall in August. The consultants are working on a service and market analysis. Later in the fall we will be working on some draft service alternatives and present those to the public in December. We hope to wrap up the project in February or March of 2022. We have a lot of internal work to do after that. He showed a map of the existing StarTran network. He pointed out the areas of high ridership. They are in the process of wrapping up a survey. He showed some survey results. Some of the more open ended responses spoke to frustration about having to go downtown to connect to another bus line. There was desire for better amenities such as stops and shelters. Safety and cleanliness is something they are always working on. The consultant is developing three distinct service scenarios. They will present these and get reactions from the public. They will be finalizing the existing conditions report, developing service concepts and presenting those to the TDP Working Group and the community in October.

Vest believes it is interesting to put all the pieces together. He inquired if they had seen any changes on destinations. Praeuner responded that with more teleworking and the pandemic, ridership has been down.

Ward is trying to remember when services were cut back. Praeuner responded that weekday service was reduced during the pandemic. There is generally less ridership during the summer. There are five routes with reduced service. Elizabeth Elliott added that there were more drastic modifications during the pandemic. StarTran was also down six operators at the time. They hope to have those filled soon.

REPORT ON THE 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP):

Zafft stated that the recommended funding plan was selected. The fiscally constrained plan was developed. The LRTP update process was started in spring of 2020. We are wrapping up the plan development and have just started Phase Three outreach. The draft document is available online at www.planforward2050.com, along with an Executive Summary. Overall, the cost for the plan is \$4.6 billion. He showed the breakout of the programs. \$4.6 billion seems like a lot of money but when you look at the needs based plan, it goes to \$7.8 billion at 5% inflation in 2050. We have more needs than revenue. There are 26 projects in the rural road and bridge capital program. There are 41 projects in the urban roadway capital projects. There are 31 trail projects. There is a virtual public meeting from September 13 to October 6 at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8409a0d9034147aa83a801340b3f4573/>. Displays will be available at some of the libraries, Anderson, Eiseley, Gere, Walt and Bennett Martin. There will be three in-person public meetings on Sept. 28 at the Jayne Synder Trails Center, Sept. 30 at Spring Creek Prairie and Oct. 5 at Southeast Community College. There will be a Planning Commission public hearing in late October or early November. The public will have many opportunities between now and then to provide comments on the draft plan. We are using other avenues for additional outreach such as social media, an email blast and a newspaper ad. Planning staff is also available to present at

neighborhood and community organizations. November or December 2021 will be the date that staff presents this to Technical Committee and Officials Committee for adoption of the LRTP.

OTHER:

- Praeuner mentioned as part of the TDP, they are doing a fare analysis. They are considering going fare free.

Mayor Gaylor Baird believes this is not a direction, just making sure we have the information. Praeuner responded she was correct. They are analyzing scenarios. The consultant is looking into this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.