

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 29, 2022, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, Tom Beckius, Ryan Huff, Rick Vest, Tammy Ward and Christa Yoakum. Paul Barnes, Rachel Christopher and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Pam Dingman, Lancaster County Engineer; Brian Praeuner of StarTran; and other interested parties.

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

Ward then called for a motion approving the minutes of the regular meeting held May 12, 2022. Motion for approval made by Beckius, seconded by Yoakum and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Vest abstaining.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP); A) US-77, PRINCETON ROAD TO N-33 – UPDATE PROJECT COSTS IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:

Rachel Christopher stated that this is an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP. This is the four year listing of federally and state funded projects. This is an amendment to an existing project for Highway 77 from Princeton Road to Highway 33. Nebraska Dept. of Transportation (NDOT) periodically does a review of their estimate projects costs. This reflects increased estimates.

ACTION:

Beckius moved approval of revisions to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program; a) US-77, Princeton Road to N-33 – update project costs in the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation Program, seconded by Yoakum and carried 6-0: Mayor Gaylor Baird, Beckius, Huff, Vest Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY 2022-2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP):

Christopher stated this is an amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program. This is the annual budget for PL activities. This updates funding amounts for the FTA section 5303 Transit Planning Work Program. When the work program was originally drafted, staff didn't have these amounts from NDOT. The amounts listed were placeholders. These are the amended amounts.

Mayor Gaylor Baird inquired if there were any surprises or unexpected items. Christopher responded no. Brian Praeuner agreed. He noted this is in line with what has been received in prior years.

ACTION:

Yoakum moved approval of revisions to the FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program, seconded by Beckius and carried 6-0: Mayor Gaylor Baird, Beckius, Huff, Vest Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'.

BRIEFING ON TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Brian Praeuner wanted to give some background. A Transit Development Plan was done in 2015. From that, there were some major changes in 2016. StarTran was able to increase some services as well. He believes it is good to do transit studies like this to review the system and needs of the community. It also identifies community priorities and includes a very robust public process. The overall goal is to make service more efficient and effective. There is an existing conditions evaluation. A strategic service plan is created which includes short and long term recommendations. There was a fare analysis component to this as well. A virtual town hall was held during Covid. Near term service improvements are implementable with existing resources and staffing levels. They are rooted in community priorities and existing service performance. On-time performance and reliability issues will be addressed. We will focus service where demand is the highest. Some minor changes can be made to a few routes that customers will notice the improvement. Looking ahead, the five year plan addresses growth, economic development and responds to public priorities. In order to make these improvements, we need to restore the core services back to 2019. Another improvement that was recommended was to expand the downtown trolley service to the Telegraph District. He showed a map of on-demand zones. A recommendation would be to have a vehicle that would respond to calls to take you to a bus stop. This might be a test in the future. He showed a phasing plan based on community input. They are looking at expanding late night service, expanding all service, adding Sunday service and introduction of different crosstown service. A fare analysis was done. Questions were posed to riders regarding making service enhancements or maintaining free fares. The answers were split about 50/50. They looked at ridership impacts along with other items. Peer review found that StarTran has the highest base fare of any peer agency looked at. StarTran is \$1.75 compared to the peer average of about \$1.25. StarTran has significantly lower prices for monthly passes. StarTran is one of two peers not to offer a day pass.

Beckius was interested in whether or not there was discussion or consideration given tying together StarTran and its' plan and what has become fixed routes over time that are maintained. He asked if there were any thoughts on the Planning Dept. looking at what rapid transit does in other communities for those

routes that are maintained long term. He also wondered about density. Praeuner stated that the LRTP (Long Range Transportation Plan) identified conceptual levels of corridors that could be possible candidate for a BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) system. Beckius didn't know if StarTran would have BRT. Paul Barnes added that the Planning Dept. talked about this during the comprehensive Plan update. The previous comprehensive plan had a section that talked about nodes and corridors. In conversations, staff thought for success in Lincoln, it would be good if we could focus along 'O' Street. He believes it is a matter of getting to a level of density and building up the neighborhoods along that corridor. It is a matter of which comes first. There is zoning to talk about as well. He believes we need to have more conversations in terms of what the vision is for that corridor. He believes it is hand in hand, but we need to detail a strategy further. Beckius would be very interested in seeing that work over the years. Potentially, as we see further work on Gateway, for example. He thinks it would be interesting and advantageous for the community. He would be interested in those conversations.

Yoakum wondered about the trolley going into the Telegraph District and asked if it maintains a fifteen minute circle. Praeuner replied yes.

Mayor Gaylor Baird commented regarding fares that were taken into consideration, the City Council budget offered those lower fares.

Ward supports the 'O' Street corridor, but would like to hear more about how northwest Lincoln would be addressed. Northwest Lincoln has a new high school, businesses and growth. This area was indicated as perhaps a new priority. Praeuner stated that years ago as part of the Northwest 48th project, we were able to install a few bus amenities in that area. StarTran has expanded the frequency of that route. There is a need for service in that area. The bus goes right by the high school. Ward noted that is great to hear. She believes there are a lot of students that live in that area that do not have a car or a way to get to school. She would like Praeuner to be more specific about the Kawasaki route. Praeuner stated there is one route in the morning. Ward asked if it returns for pickup at the end of the day. Praeuner stated the Gaslight route must be used to be taken back.

Praeuner continued with the Multimodal Transportation Center. StarTran received an award of \$23.6 million dollars. It will have a ground floor, climate controlled indoor passenger waiting area, restrooms, customer service center, administrative offices on the second floor, eighteen separated bus bays, capabilities for intercity transit buses between Lincoln Omaha and Grand Island, and protected passenger boarding and lighting. Environmental sustainability includes nine in-route charging stations for thirteen electric buses, a driver breakroom and vendor space. They hope to get more electric buses in the future. This is a partnership with the County. The funds are due to a 2022 RAISE Grant, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity. These grants are highly competitive.

Ward stated this is exciting. The other committee members agreed.

OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Barnes wanted to give a head up to members of the Officials Committee. The next meeting scheduled for November has a rather large agenda coming together. Staff will send out notices to other agencies to see if they have any more items for the agenda. Project costs are changing and other funds are available. He noted that the November meeting might be a little longer than usual.

Vest moved to adjourn, seconded by Beckius and carried 6-0: Mayor Gaylor Baird, Beckius, Huff, Vest Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.