

INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

10:00 AM

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember W. Reed Williams, *Chair, District 8*
Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Leticia Vacek, *City Clerk*; Roderick Sanchez, *Development Services Director*; Mike Frisbie, *CIMS Director*; John Jacks, *Development Services Assistant Director*; Veronica Zertuche, *Deputy City Attorney*; Gabriel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Keith Parker, *VIA Transportation*; Pricilla Ingle, *VIA Transportation*; Brian Buchanan, *VIA Transportation*; Emeka Ovuegbe; Doug Poneck, *Escamilla, Poneck & Cruz*; Donald Oroian, *ADA Consulting*; Viana Daria, *Express News*; Dan Kossel, *B. Herblue, Inc.*; Ryan Sweeney, *Martin Drought PC*

Call to Order

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Citizens were addressed during corresponding items.

2. Approval of Minutes from the November 16, 2011 Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Lopez moved to approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2011 Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, the committee addressed Item 5.

5. Briefing on the VIA Transportation Plan

Presented by Keith Parker, CEO, VIA Transportation

Brian Buchanan provided an overview of the VIA Primo Bus Rapid Transit Project to include: a) The South Texas Medical Center Transit Center; b) Primo Stations; c) Westside Multimodal Transit Center; d) Primo Vehicles; and e) Downtown Bus Circulator.

Councilmember Lopez asked if any components of the proposed system committed the City to a light rail initiative. Mr. Buchanan responded that the proposed improvement project does not commit the City to a light rail initiative but it will connect those centers/stations to the Downtown Bus Circulator.

Councilmember Soules asked of the pricing strategy for the Bus Circulator System. Mr. Buchanan responded that currently the cost was \$1.10 and noted that he was unsure of future costs. Councilmember Soules spoke of exploring options for free bus service. Keith Parker stated that VIA was exploring pricing options and would return to the Committee with an analysis of those options.

Chairman Williams spoke of subsidizing incremental costs associated with the BRT and Downtown Circulator. He proposed exploring the feasibility of Downtown Trolley usage in an effort to save money. He also spoke of providing public information regarding the ATD and the definition of a light rail system.

Mr. Parker reported that the first Primo Station would be located on Commerce and Navarro Streets and construction would be completed in the first quarter of 2012.

6. Briefing on the City's Downtown Transportation Study

Mike Frisbie, Director, Capital Improvements Management Services Department

Luis Maltos provided an overview of the City's Downtown Transportation Study. He reported that the City was still in the beginning phase of the study with a final project list to be completed by March 2012. He stated that the final study would be completed in May 2012 and that every mode of transportation would be analyzed.

Chairman Williams requested that staff meet individually with Committee members for further discussion.

3. Consideration of Applicants to the Planning Commission (2 slots)

Leticia Vacek, City Clerk, TRMC/CMC

Leticia Vacek reported that applicants Daniel Kossl, Donald Oroian, Emeka Ouegbe, and Ryan Sweeney were present for the second round of Committee review. She stated that applicant Isa Fernandez had withdrawn her application from consideration. She noted that the Committee's recommendation for appointment would be forwarded to the full Council for consideration on January 12, 2012.

Councilmember Lopez moved to recommend Daniel Kossl and Donald Oroian for appointment to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of appointments to the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Trustees (2 slots)

Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk, TRMC/CMC

Ms. Vacek reported that the first slot for consideration was the At-Large category. She stated that Douglas Poneck was present for Committee review. She noted that Kelly Beevers was not

present and had submitted a statement. She added that Isa Fernandez had withdrawn her application from consideration. Ms. Vacek reported that the second slot for consideration was the Union Representative category. She stated that Gwendolyn J. McMahan was present and that Katherine A. Thompson-Garcia and Michael Muniz were not present.

Union Representative Category

Gwendolyn J. McMahan stated that she had been an Employee of Southwest Airlines for 26 years and recently retired. She noted that she was a member of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers, serving 19 years as Shop Stewart.

Councilmember Soules requested to postpone the recommendation for appointment to the Union Representative Category to allow Katherine Thompson-Garcia to address the Committee.

Councilmember Lopez moved to postpone recommendation for the Union Representative category to the January 2012 Meeting. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

At-Large Category

Councilmember Saldaña cited Douglas A. Poneck's planning and management experience and asked if he had experience in transportation. Mr. Poneck responded that he did not have experience in transportation but that he represents governmental entities.

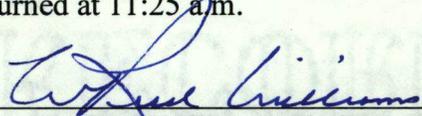
Councilmember Lopez moved to recommend Douglas A. Poneck for appointment to the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Trustees At-Large Category. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consideration for future meetings

There were no items discussed.

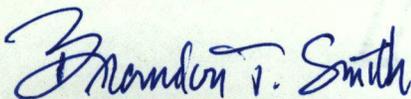
8. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.



W. Reed Williams, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk