

TRAFFIC INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

June 13, 2012

Members Present: Brian Alsaker, Tama Theis, Bob Johnson, Hazel Youngmann, Abdi Hassan, Steve Ludwig, and Joan Vincent

City Staff Present: Steve Foss, Mike Williams, Mayor Dave Kleis and Cheryl Malikowski, Recording Secretary

Meeting Time: 12:00 p.m.

Introductions were made by each member of the Board.

Discussion ensued as to the direction and guidance of what Mayor Kleis wanted the Board to focus on. Foss stated that some of the earlier tasks assigned to the Board include quantifying the dollar amount of a bond, guidance of where the Board's focus should be and direction to priorities of where to target the money and also the scope of the projects. There will be an aggressive schedule if the Board wants to have a ballot question ready for a referendum bond for infrastructure projects, at least by late July.

Mayor Kleis welcomed the members and thanked them for joining the committee. The aggressive schedule was not something he originally wanted but the school district is looking at doing a referendum next year and he would prefer not to have a ballot question the same year. Based on the resident survey, the number one issue facing St. Cloud is traffic congestion. Road conditions were in the top ten of the survey. Mayor Kleis stated the main focus would be on the areas that the City funds through property taxes and special assessments. The projects we use municipal state aid or federal and state government funds on would not be considered. We tend to struggle with this each budget year because of limited resources. If we don't do something like the referendum bond, it will continue to become more and more difficult as we move forward each year to prioritize.

If there is a ballot question, the goal is to get the Board's recommendation to the City Council by the August 6th meeting. The Board could still go to the Council on August 20th at the latest if need be.

Mayor Kleis and Williams discussed that the ballot question could be broad but that it should have some areas of interest listed. Vincent asked Mayor Kleis what the odds were of getting the ballot question passed. Mayor Kleis thought there was a decent possibility if the projects were phased in and reasonable.

Vincent asked if a representative from the Police Department should be added to the Board as an ad hoc member in looking at issues with public safety and traffic congestion. For now, Mayor Kleis did not think it was needed but they could always ask someone to attend a meeting in the future.

Foss suggested getting a structure to the committee as far as who the chair and vice chair would be and when and where the meetings would be held.

Mayor Kleis stressed that the referendum was a potential idea but if it is something that the members think is a bad idea or is too aggressive, it was just an idea. He appreciated their willingness to be on the committee. He suggested to the members to organize the group as they see fit. Discussion ensued on the ½ cent sales tax issue with the state legislature. Mayor Kleis stated it passed the legislature but it was included in a controversial bill that got vetoed. He has confidence that it will get passed next year if it goes in a non-controversial bill. The City has until 2018.

Johnson asked Mayor Kleis what the main charge of the committee was. Mayor Kleis stated priority should be focused on transportation and infrastructure, the multi-modal aspect of the roads. The committee would possibly be the first group to advise the Planning Commission of areas to be included in the CIP.

Johnson wanted possible updates of other advisory groups that may be focusing on traffic improvements so there is no duplication between groups. If they are making some progress somewhere, this committee does not want to reinvent the wheel.

Mayor Kleis also suggested that the committee would look into public transit. He noted that some of the other groups, such as the APO, focus more on federal and state funded projects. Williams stated that this committee could be where some issues would get funneled through, such as the Complete Streets Policy. If the committee was created previously, the policy would have gone through this committee. Mayor Kleis mentioned that the committee is on a 2-year trial basis.

Foss mentioned that one task would be working on the CIP and having the group advise what projects should go into the CIP as it gets updated each year. Mayor Kleis mentioned having this group give feedback on different trail ideas and public transit routes.

Transportation Infrastructure Advisory Board Minutes

June 13, 2012

Page 3

Vincent questioned when the committee should be meeting and how long the meetings should be. Discussion ensued as to the best time and dates to meet due to the deadlines needed. It was decided among the committee to meet for one hour on the following dates at 12:00 p.m. (Conference Room 1 has been booked for these dates):

- June 18, 2012
- June 29, 2012
- July 6, 2012

Foss discussed the different areas they would be looking at as far as transportation and infrastructure, looking at the core neighborhoods that need work. Theis asked if the community survey had specific areas as far as traffic problems. Williams stated there was not a real pattern as far as the areas. He will get the survey results to the members.

Vincent questioned how the group should be structured. Williams stated they would need a chair and vice chair. There would also be some by-laws they should follow. A copy of the ordinance creating the committee will be given to members. Johnson nominated Vincent as Chair of the Board. Vincent nominated Ludwig as Vice Chair. Members voted unanimously in favor of the nominations.

Theis asked the difference between arterial, collector and local streets. Mr. Foss gave a brief description as to the differences. Collectors are ones that provide connection with the locals and arterials. Different streets were discussed and described as arterial or collector. Youngmann mentioned possibly getting a description. Foss mentioned that if a member had a project area of interest, we could provide them with the infrastructure age so they would know if it's old or not.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Enclosures: Board member list

2013 – 2018 CIP

Ordinance creating the committee

Survey results

Description of arterial and collector streets

Sample of by-laws (will be coming once received from Legal office)