

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT
April 18, 2012, 2:05 – 2:40
City Council Chambers

Members Present: Jason Wiener (chair), Ed Childers, Dick Haines, Bob Jaffe, Marilyn Marler, Dave Strohmaier, Jon Wilkins, Adam Hertz, Alex Taft, Caitlin Copple, Mike O'Herron

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dan Jordan, Monte Sipe, Doug Harby, Phil Smith, Steve King, Kevin Slovarp
Ken Jenkins, Bob Wachtel

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the minutes of – [April 11, 2012](#) – Approved as submitted.
- B. Announcements – Steve King, Public Works Director, announced the upcoming Bike Walk Bus Week starting April 28, 2012. Also announced; the Department of Transportation is currently working with Bruce Bender and Jason Wiener, on getting a consultant for the Russell Street project. Two consultant groups have applied. The consultants have been invited to make presentations on May 24, this will be an opportunity for anyone interested to meet and ask questions.
- C. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – None

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Resolution closing and vacating a 20' public utility easement and pedestrian public access easement on Lots 4 and 5 as shown on the subdivision plat of Whitetail Park – Phase 1. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Dan Jordan) (Referred to committee: 04/16/12) (Remove from Agenda)

Motion: The committee recommends the Council adopt a Resolution closing and vacating a 20' (Public) Utility Easement & Pedestrian Public Access Easement on Lots 4 and 5 as shown on the subdivision plat of Whitetail Park, Phase 1.

Dan Jordan, GIS Manager, presented the motion. He noted that the original resolution had 90 days from the date of the adoption in the resolution to file the amended plat. The owner representative requested a year due to financial implications. Dan stated that Steve King, Public Works Director and Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer both agreed to this change.

John Wilkins made the motion to approve.

Public comment: None

Motion as amended passed unanimously.

2. Resolution to confirm final ordering of curb and sidewalk improvements adjacent to properties in the Arthur Ave. – Beckwith Ave. to South Ave. area, Project 11-018 ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Monte Sipe) (Referred to committee: 04/16/12) (Remove from Agenda)

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council adopt the resolution to confirm final ordering of curb and sidewalk improvements adjacent to properties in the Arthur Ave. – Beckwith Ave. to South Ave. area, Project 11-018.

3. Review bids for curb and sidewalk improvements adjacent to properties in the Arthur Ave. – Beckwith Ave. to South Ave. area, award bid to lowest responsible bidder, and authorize return of bid bonds ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Monte Sipe) (Referred to committee: 04/16/12) (Remove from Agenda)

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council award the bid for Project 11-018, curb and sidewalk improvements adjacent to properties in the Arthur Ave. – Beckwith Ave. to South Ave. area, to CSS Contracting, Inc., for the sum of \$43, 914.45, and authorize return of bid bonds.

Monte Sipe, Senior Construction Project Coordinator, presented the motions. He explained that ten parcels were dropped from this project, leaving twenty-six properties. The ten properties dropped originally only had estimated work to include sidewalk grinding and crack sealing. The city has done the grinding using city staff and the crack sealing has been removed from the project. With those two items gone there was no other work for these ten properties.

Discussion:

- Committee asked if anyone protested or was upset regarding this project.
- Monte Sipe stated Public Works did hear from citizens with various concerns. Primarily the concerns were due to the discussion currently in committee and council regarding alternative funding mechanisms, questioning why the project wouldn't wait until decisions were made. It was explained to the citizens that in the formal resolution of order, everything done since January 1, 2012 has the additional whereas clause in it, that states if and when council decides on an alternative funding scheme it would apply to this project.
- John Wilkins asked will the sidewalks going in now have to be torn up and redone in the near future because of other projects.
- Doug Harby, Construction Project Manager, stated ramps had been put in with stimulus money. This is a small project to replace some hazardous sidewalks; there are no plans for major sidewalk replacements. The State will be doing an overlay project on the street and replacing driveways bringing them into ADA compliance as part of their project.
- Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, said a traffic impact study for the College of Technology did not say that extra capacity was needed on Arthur Ave. Some intersection improvements would possibly be needed.
- Bob Jaffe asked why the bids from the individual contractors tend to come in lower than the City's bids.
- Steve King, Public Works Director, explained various reasons for the cost differences. With City projects there are higher bonding requirements for performance, a bond that guarantees the quality of the work and the duration of the integrity of the work. Also in the City's bids, the traffic control, the permits, the surface restoration, and the coordination with pavement patch back are all included. Sometimes the concrete contractor bid is just the concrete and other things are left out such as surface restoration, and traffic control. When everything is compared, the City's bids compare very favorably to private contracts.

John Wilkins made the motion to approve.

Public comment: none

Motions taken together, passed unanimously

III. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion on the draft grant CMAQ budget and FY2012 contract ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Phil Smith) (Referred to committee: 04/16/12) ([Remove from Agenda](#))

Discussion:

- Phil Smith, Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, stated this is an ongoing grant. It provides for costs of program activities without taking funds from the City's general revenue. The City's general budget pays for Phil Smith's salary and basic office expenses but beyond that the funding has traditionally been from CMAQ money. Proposed activities for the new contract funds include installation of approximately 30 bike racks, the Bike Walk Bus Week program, and promotion of bicycle/pedestrian safety. Plans for promoting safety include television spots, and continuing the Bike Ambassador program. The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board is in strong favor of continuing the Bike Ambassador program.
- Alex Taft asked if this budget is driven by available federal funds, why is it less, who made that decision and could projects be found that could raise the funding.
- Steve King, Public Works Director, said this was a decision of metropolitan planning organization with reduced federal funding. All of the CMAQ sponsored programs have had reduced funding in this federal fiscal year. This is part of an overall reduction of federal funds for our community.

- Adam Hertz asked could part of this budget be used to increase the awareness of bike licensing and raise funds.
- Phil Smith stated the bike shops hand out cards regarding the licensing requirement. After some research it was found that without enforcement, the equivalent of a full time police officer, the licensing program could not be enforced. There would not be enough revenue generated by the licensing to support this enforcement. The licensing program is used mainly as a way for people to retrieve their stolen bike.
- Caitlin Copple commented some of the marketing could target Facebook and Twitter users and not just market through television and radio.
- Phil Smith stated at this time the City IT Department does not allow the use Facebook or Twitter.
- Steve King commented it is a current topic with IT and something that the IT Department is not allowing the staff of Public Works to utilize.

Public Comment: Bob Wachtel, Chair of Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board, commented that the Bike Ambassador Program is a great way for reaching out to cyclists particularly in the downtown area. It helps remind bicyclists of appropriate behavior on the road.

IV. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Resolution to change the speed limit on Reserve Street between Brooks and 39th Street. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Wayne Gravatt) (Referred to committee: 01/24/2011)
2. Discuss the timing of various traffic lights around the city. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 09/26/2011)
3. Discuss the school speed zones. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 09/26/11)

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Plummer, Secretary
City Public Works Department