

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
December 3, 2009
MINUTES

A meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee was held on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, 5221 N. O'Connor Boulevard, Mustang Room-Williams Square. The meeting was called to order by Robert Martinez, Vice Chairman at 3:36 p.m. Members present: Robert Martinez, Arnold Martin, Beth Bowman, CD Heinen, Clayton Dobson, Don Moulton, Donald Jensen, George Shackelford, Gerry Hedgcock, Jeff Martinez, Jim Cline, Jim O'Connor, John Danish, Michael Gallaway, Mike Overby, Pat Daly, Rick Bidne, Stanford Lynch, Chris Wallace, Carlos Huerta, and Jessica Torneten. Guests present were John Hoppie, DART, Janie Pena, DART, Jeff Heimer, Azteca-Omega Group, Luis Spinola, Azteca-Omega Group, Councilman Rick Stopfer, and State Representative Linda Harper-Brown.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October meeting by Arnold Martin; second by Clayton Dobson. Minutes were approved with no objections.

Committee members were presented with a meeting booklet that contained documents relevant to the agenda items. The booklet is made part of these minutes by reference. Reference in these minutes to page numbers are to the booklet.

Robert Martinez opened discussion by introducing Irving City Councilman Rick Stopfer. Councilman Stopfer discussed relevance of the November 23, 2009 luncheon/visit of Congresswoman Corrine Brown (page 5). Congresswoman Brown is from the Third District of Florida. She has been a member of the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure since coming to Congress. Early in the 110th Congress, Brown was picked to Chair the Transportation Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials.

The 7th Annual 26th Congressional District/TxDOT Transportation Summit was November 30, 2009 at the Texas Motor Speedway (page 6). Keynote speaker was the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, The Honorable Ray LaHood. Summit was to include informative presentations and panel discussions by federal, state and local officials regarding the Federal Highway Reauthorization Bill. Special focus was to be given to the transportation issues affecting North Texas. Robert Martinez attended the Summit and said this was a good opportunity to network.

The next State of the City (page 7) is scheduled for January 21, 2010 with keynote presentation by Mayor Herbert Gears at the Westin DFW Airport North Hotel. Robert encouraged members of the Committee to attend and take advantage of the sponsorship opportunities.

The Transportation Management Association ("TMA") is continuing to move forward. The 2009-2010 Recommended Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Goals (page 8) includes the TMA as item three of the five goals. The Goals were open for vote to move to the Chamber Board of Directors. A motion was made by Don Jensen to approve the goals and submit to the Chamber; Rick Bidne second. Vote was unanimous and the goals will move forward.

Beth Bowman thanked the DART representatives for attending and then proceeded to point out the DART Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application. (pages 9-38). A copy of the booklet is included in the package.

John Danish provided the Committee with a DART Board Report. At this time, Danish said the construction is moving ahead and on time. He emphasized the more we get legislative support, the better we are. With the completion of the new rail lines, we truly will be the heart of the Metroplex.

At this time the meeting shifted to the presentation from DART. The presentation was not included in the booklet but copies were passed out to all attending. Beginning the presentation was Chris Masters, Assistant Vice President Rail Programming Development, DART. Masters' portion of the presentation covered the Irving 1 and Irving 2. Included was a brief project overview, design progress, description of the art and design program, construction progress that includes upcoming construction activities and actual pictures of the work that is taking place. Masters said in about six weeks we should be able to see examples from the Art and Design Program. Irving 3 portion of the presentation was given by John Hoppie, Planning Project Manager, DART. Hoppie included in his portion description of the Irving 3 - what is taking place now, what has been completed and what is still to be addressed. Meetings are continuing – DART meets with the FAA every two weeks and with airport representatives every two weeks.

Robert Martinez gave an update on SH 183 and SH114; please see pages 39-43 in the booklet for overview and project details.

Councilman Rick Stopfer introduced State Representative Linda Harper-Brown to the Committee. (the presentation handout is not part of the booklet but copies were passed out to the Committee). Representative Harper-Brown explained she will present an explanation of the role of government agencies, an assessment of transportation systems, the necessity of planning, the role of metropolitan planning organization, describe the internal processes at TxDOT, describe construction/management methods, discuss the design/build – advantages and disadvantages, and finally describe the current methods of finance – planning and construction. Harper-Brown is working diligently to bring transportation to the forefront. One move in the right direction and should be helpful is the Texas Railroad Commissioners have selected a new executive director. Representative Harper Brown went on to explain that we all are waiting on the reauthorization of the Transportation bill. Working with TxDOT has its challenges and Harper-Brown would like to make some changes - we must make sure TxDOT works "effectively and efficiently". The Committee was given a handout that illustrates the Project Development Process of TxDOT. Councilman Stopfer ended the presentation by listing activities and projects that he and Harper-Brown are involved: attend breakfast/meeting with Mayor, monthly DART meetings; projects include I-635, IH 35, 121, I 635 funnel into airport, SH 114, Northwest Highway, SH 183, Loop 12, Irving Boulevard redevelopment, and Right-of-Way costs.

With the conclusion of the Representative Harper-Brown's presentation, Robert Martinez thanked her for attending and giving the Committee the in-depth presentation. Meeting moved next to George Shackelford's report from Dean International. George reminded the Committee of the 3rd Annual Transportation & Infrastructure Convention (page 44-48) scheduled for March 10-13, 2010 in Washington, D.C. Prominent speakers include Congressman James Oberstar (not confirmed at this time), Congressman John Mica (not confirmed at this time), Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Congressman Pete Olson, and Congressman Nick Rahall.

Beth Bowman provided the Staff Report. She began with informing the Committee of the Mobility 2035 Workshops that are scheduled in the month of December: 7th in Denton, 8th in Waxahachie, 15th in Forney, 16th in Arlington, Weatherford, and Burleson (pages 49-50). Cotton

Belt Corridor Strategy Meeting minutes are included in pages 51-57 in the booklet. A copy of TxDOT's invitation to attend the 5th Annual Texas Transportation Forum planned for January 6-8, 2010 in Austin is included (page 58). Beth encouraged members of the Committee to attend if you cannot attend the convention in Washington, D.C; contact Beth if interested in attending the Forum in Austin. Copy of the BNSF Corridor Strategy Meeting presentation is included in the booklet (pages 59-91). Various new clippings are included on pages 92-99. Beth closed with pointing out TxDOT's Drive Safely Over The Holiday program with examples of the posters. If interested in obtaining a copy of the posters, go to www.txdotholiday.com and enter code TXEMP.

Robert ended the meeting with a quick announcement: Luncheon Honoring William "Bill" Velasco, Chairman of DART and Ben Muro, Chairman of DFW Airport is scheduled for December 4, 11:30 a.m. at the Las Colinas Country Club. The luncheon is hosted by Azteca-Omega Group and Estrado Hinojosa & Co.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.