



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

September 19, 2017

Summary and Motions

In Chair Farmer's absence, Vice-Chair F. Brown called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Committee Members Stinnett, Moloney, Gibbs, Evans, Mossotti, Plomin, Bledsoe and Scutchfield were present. Council Members Kay, Smith, Lamb, and J. Brown were also in attendance as non-voting members. Chair Farmer was absent.

A motion was made by CM Plomin to amend the order of the agenda by switching item #3 and item #5, no second required. The motion passed without dissent.

I. Approval of Committee Summary – August 22, 2017

A motion was made by CM Scutchfield to approve the August 22, 2017 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary & Motions, seconded by CM Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Road Exchange with KYTC

CM F. Brown said this item has been presented before and asked that Commissioner Hoskins-Squier answer any questions council members may have. He would also like to see this item move forward due to time constraints.

Dowell Hoskins-Squier, Commissioner of Environmental Quality and Public Works, presented an update on the Road Exchange with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. She said this updated plan removes South Ashland from the Road Exchange. Instead, it will now be down Cooper Drive allowing High Street and Tates Creek Road in front of Cassidy, Morton and Chevy Chase to be a city street.

A motion was made by CM Stinnett to separate out Jefferson Street Viaduct for approval, seconded by CM Moloney. The motion passed with a vote of 6-3. (Yes: Stinnett, Moloney, Evans, F. Brown, Bledsoe and Scutchfield. No: Gibbs, Mossotti and Plomin).

CM Moloney asked if the city has worked with the church to resolve the parking situation. CM F. Brown said to his knowledge, they have not. Commissioner Hoskins-Squier said project manager, Brandi Peachner, sent an email to Council to let them know she will be meeting with the church on September 25, 2017. CM Moloney asked why we are voting on this now when there is no definite plan for the church parking. Hoskins-Squier said that in order to allow any parking, it will need to be transferred to the city.

CM Bledsoe said she doesn't want to see other roads delayed in the approval of this exchange if they do decide to separate Jefferson Street from the remaining roads.

CM Mossotti said she agrees with CM Bledsoe; she said she would not like to separate them and have some that do not go through this process.

CM Kay said he agrees as well. He does not see anything gained with separating them out. Hoskins-Squier said KYTC does prefer they stay as one package so we have an equitable trade.

CM F. Brown asked if it harms the resolution(s) to separate them out and if there is a problem accepting more than one resolution. Tony McGaha from KYTC said it does not matter how many resolutions it takes, as long as all of the roads are swapped as stated. He said some changes have been made, but the swap is still equitable.

CM Stinnett clarified that his motion is not to split and have two resolutions, but it is just to move the Jefferson Street Viaduct portion out of committee and onto the docket given the time constraints with the \$240 million Lexington Convention Center project.

CM Evans asked if Jefferson Street moves forward today, but the others do not, then what will the outcome be. McGaha said there is one proposed package and once Council agrees on all parts of it they will move forward. Evans asked what the time frame is if the other streets are held up. Hoskins-Squier said there isn't as much urgency to approve the other roads and move forward with those as there is with Jefferson Street. Evans asked for clarification that if one street doesn't pass then none of them will pass. Hoskins-Squier said that is correct; it doesn't matter how many resolutions it takes for Council to agree on the Road Exchange, but they would like the entire package to move forward. CM Evans said a decision needs to be made today on all proposed streets so Jefferson Street is not held up.

CM Moloney said he supports CM Stinnett's motion because of the urgency of Jefferson Street and the Lexington Convention Center project. He said he is opposed to the entire package.

VM Kay suggested the committee not separate the roads and instead have a discussion on the package as a whole. He said if the committee is not willing to move forward with the entire package that is when we discuss separating Jefferson Street.

CM Bledsoe said she has no problem with separating out roads if certain councilmembers would like to vote no on certain roads. She said she does understand why this is being discussed if no other roads are being offered as alternative roads in the exchange.

A vote was taken on this motion.

A motion was made by CM Bledsoe to approve the remainder of the Road Exchange Package as recommended by the Administration, seconded by CM Gibbs. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1 (Yes: Stinnett, Evans, F. Brown, Bledsoe, Scutchfield, Gibbs, Mossotti and Plomin. No: Moloney).

CM Stinnett asked about Greendale Road being initially included in the package. McGaha said Greendale Road was not as important to the state anymore and would serve better as a city street as more development occurs. CM Stinnett asked if they have any input in zone changes and he said they have input on getting permits out to developers. He asked if Parkers Mill Road was the alternative to Greendale Road. McGaha said yes. CM Stinnett asked if they consider Oliver Lewis Way a connector between US 25 and US 60. McGaha said it is. CM Stinnett asked what the next step would be if this is approved. McGaha said it will go to Planning in Central Office and then it will be signed off on by the Transportation Secretary and Engineering which can take as little as two weeks to complete.

CM Moloney said Avenue of Champions is on UK's campus and should remain a state-owned road. He said Cooper Drive goes through a residential area as well. He does not feel comfortable gaining a section of Parkers Mill either. He believes waiting until the next budget cycle makes more sense than moving forward with this now.

CM F. Brown supports passing the motion and moving the entire package forward.

A vote was taken on this motion.

A motion was made by CM Stinnett to approve Jefferson Street as part of Road Exchange Package, seconded by CM Scutchfield. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by CM Bledsoe to move the Road Exchange with KYTC forward for consideration at the work session today, September 19, 2017, seconded by CM Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

CM Stinnett asked how soon the Council will know about the schematics of Jefferson Street. Peacher said they are finalizing the schematic design that they will share with the church on Monday, September 25. She said she is hopeful that what they have is good for both parties. CM Stinnett asked who will be paying for Jefferson Street bridge removal if the city owns it. Hoskins-Squier said she is not sure.

CM Evans asked what will be presented to the church and if there is room for negotiation. Peacher said she is not sure how the partnership will work out and is unsure about the design. CM Evans said she is concerned whether this is a take it or leave it situation. Peacher said it is a discussion to be had on the design.

CM Moloney asked if tearing down the viaduct is part of the Convention Center budget. CM Stinnett said that has not been voted on or confirmed. He said he does not believe we can afford to pay for the tearing down of the bridge. CM Stinnett said if it is part of the new design of the Lexington Convention Center, it will be incorporated into those costs. He said if it is not part of the Convention Center then it will be part of the park.

CM Lamb addressed the readings of the Road Exchange. She said the first reading will not take place until Thursday, September 28 and the second reading can take place the same day or may not be until October 12.

A vote was taken on this motion.

III. Snow and Ice Removal Plan

Dowell Hoskins-Squier, Commissioner of Environmental Quality and Public Works, presented the item. She reviewed the snow season expense comparison, salt usage and the current amount of salt available, route rankings, service levels, changes to the snow removal plan, sidewalk snow removal and the snow plow tracker.

CM Moloney commented on the short CDL license and the outside contract. He asked if we have tried to get some of retirees to come back on a temporary basis. He said he believes we could save money by hiring some retirees considering all of the overtime hours that go into this. Hoskins-Squier said that HR has recently pulled a list of CDL licensed retirees. She said there aren't as many as you would think and many people do not maintain their CDL license when they retire. She said an alternative to this is that they have met with Crown Temporary Services and they provide CDL temporary drivers through which they are trying to develop a pool of drivers.

CM Bledsoe commented on the snow plow tracker and how it will be beneficial to constituents. She said the level of service LFUCG has offered in the past has set a high level of expectation that we may not be able to provide any longer, which may result in constituent complaints. She is very concerned with taking roads out of the plan. She would like to find the \$200,000 to fund the contract and believes it is a basic service we should offer. She asked if we have checked into getting a 3rd party to apply for an economic development grant as a resource for us.

CM Plomin asked about rural snow removal. Hoskins-Squier said nothing has changed with those miles. CM Plomin asked about the ranking of those roads. Albert Miller, Director of Streets and Roads, said where they start is dependent on the type of snow that is expected. She also said she would like to see those roads that are dense in the 12th district taken care of when it comes to plowing.

CM Stinnett asked if it's \$250,000 that we are saving on the contract from last year to this year. Hoskins-Squier said the total FY17 budgeted amount was \$267,000 and the same was budgeted for FY18 as well. He asked if CDL drivers are only being used in Streets and Roads and Water Quality. Hoskins-Squier said that in addition to those two, Parks and Recreation can dedicate four drivers and Waste Management may also be able to dedicate 4-5 drivers depending on the scenario. She said they are working on trying to get as many drivers as possible. He asked if all divisions were asked, specifically fire. She said most were contacted and that fire cannot provide any drivers. He asked if it would help if the time to clear the roads be lengthened from 24 hours to 36 hours. She said that keeping all of the lane miles but extending the time to 36 hours is a compromise that can be made. He asked how many snow events can be handled under the current budget. Robert Allen, Deputy Director of Streets and Roads, said on average we mobilize for 22 snow events. CM Stinnett asked if lane miles are not reduced, will there still be enough apparatus and salt to cover 22 snow events or if they may need to come back in February and ask for more money. Albert Miller said it would most likely only be salt that they would need more of.

CM Evans agrees with extending the time as a compromise. She asked about the roads proposed for removal ones that were added last year and if they are all rank 4. Hoskins-Squier said they are all roads that were added within the last couple of years, but she cannot say for certain if they are all rank 4. CM Evans asked about adding a rank 5. Hoskins-Squier said that will have the same outcome.

VM Kay asked what we received with the budgeted amount. Hoskins-Squier said the \$267,000 budgeted in FY17 got us the fit up charge (approximately \$170,000), plus 11 snow mobilizations of the contractor trucks. He asked if we would have had 6 more snow events, would we have had to have found additional money. She said last year we spent \$182,000 instead of the budgeted amount due to less snow events taking place. He asked if not spending the \$170,000 on insurance fit up is a possibility. Hoskins-Squier said that is an option but we will not know if it is possible until we have encountered one full snow event. Allen added that per 12-hour shift, a driver can do approximately 30 miles or 150 lane miles per shift and that contracted services may not need to be called out. Last year this allowed us to use fewer monies than budgeted.

CM Bledsoe asked for clarification on our priority on the contractor's list. Miller said that in years past, we were not always top priority and that the state had priority at times. The setups now allow the city to have top priority and contracted trucks are dispatched within an hour or so. CM Bledsoe also added that snow removal is not a service that is provided like trash refuse.

CM Mossotti asked if there is a middle ground. Hoskins-Squier said she has waited to see how discussion at committee went before any further actions were taken. She said she would like to hear feedback from Council first to point her in the preferred direction.

CM Lamb added that she believes there will be bigger financial issues encountered during this budget cycle.

A motion was made by CM F. Brown to keep the existing Snow Plan and extend the time by 36 hours as a compromise, seconded by CM Evans, the motion passed without dissent.

VM Kay asked if this was for a new plan or a change to the existing plan. CM F. Brown said that it is just to extend the hours for the existing snow plan.

CM Bledsoe asked if it is 24 hours for the quick time and extra 12 hours for the rank 4. Hoskins-Squier said going through one snow event will allow them to determine if that is enough time. Miller said within 36 hours for a typical snow, ranked roads should be completed.

CM Stinnett said he is supportive of the motion and of them asking Council for more monies if there is a need.

CM Moloney asked about our salt vendor. Miller said we currently use a vendor that stores the salt off of Versailles Road and that was the lowest bid. CM Moloney asked how much a second salt barn would have helped. Miller said it would have been a little quicker but would have also allowed for 10,000 tons of salt.

A vote was taken on this motion.

IV. Man O War Small Area Plan Study

CM Stinnett introduced the item and how it came into committee. He said the Man O' War study done in 2007 showed Alumni to the interstate and between Tates Creek and Nicholasville Road to have the most congestion on Man O' War. This presentation is the result of a study in which the state paid for half.

David Filiatreau, Traffic Signal Systems Manager, presented the item. He said the state actually paid for 80% of the study. He discussed how the goals of the study were to reduce congestion, improve safety and mobility for all travel modes, improve route reliability, reduce demand at some intersections and increase supply at other intersections. He discussed the type of data that was collected and evaluated, which included traffic volume for simulations and projections, crash data for frequency and type, traffic signal timing, current traffic queues and spill-overs, zoning and future development and GIS information. He went over recommended projects from the most to least cost beneficial. The most beneficial is an I-75 Southbound auxiliary lane from US 60 to Man O' War and a third lane for Eastbound US 60. He said some of the potential funding strategies are TA and CMAQ, SLX and USDOT/KYTC.

CM Plomin spoke on the need for the widening and a traffic signal at the I-75 Southbound off-ramp. She said the area is growing and there are several car accidents that occur at that location. Filiatreau said the state will most likely revisit that area.

CM Scutchfield spoke on the Todds Road expansion and the possibility of getting an interstate interchange there. Filiatreau does not think this is high on a priority list.

No further comment or action on this item.

V. Fiber Broadband Technology

Aldona Valicenti, Chief Information Officer, presented the item. She discussed the purpose of the study, which was to see if this is feasible in Fayette County, to develop scenarios of how broadband can be deployed and to develop cost estimates. She discussed who participated in the study, which consisted of Fayette Alliance members, various Fayette County businesses and individuals, Keeneland representatives and more. Scott Shapiro, Senior Advisor, discussed the findings and recommendations, and what the next steps will be. He said businesses outside the urban services boundary (USB) have limited connectivity options and that Windstream and Spectrum have limited plans for expanding to rural parts as well. He said the economics of building broadband in rural areas is also difficult, but it is something they want to explore and there may be some opportunities. He said one of the recommendations is to build a middle mile alternative, which will entail constructing a 113 middle mile fiber network to pass City of Lexington facilities and more than 230 farms and businesses and hook up to 60 priority sites. That option would cost around \$11 million. The other option is to build a network to every business and home, which would cost around \$43 million. He discussed the other options, which includes pursuing small cell technology and Kentucky Wired Fiber Access, talking with rural businesses and farms to develop demand aggregation models, and maintaining lines of communication with Windstream and Charter.

CM Moloney said he believes this is the future and that we are behind on this opportunity and the possibility to make money. He asked what the total cost would be for the entire city to have fiber broadband. Valicenti said it would be around \$120-180 million. CM Moloney would like to keep this in committee to see what can be done by the city. Valicenti said that idea was not overlooked and that other cities that took on the responsibility were not successful.

No further comment or action on this item.

VI. Items Referred to Committee

No further comment or action on this item.

A motion was made by CM Mossotti to adjourn, seconded by CM Scutchfield. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

A.M.L. 10.5.17