

Planning and Public Works Committee
May 8th, 2012
Summary and Motions

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Council Members present were CM Ellinger, VM Gorton, CM Kay, CM Ford, CM Blues, CM Lawless, CM Beard, and CM Martin. CM Henson arrived during the discussion of Item 1.

Downtown Traffic Management and Revitalization Study

Chris King presented an update on the 2-way street study that is on the May 10th, 2012 docket for first reading. King told Committee members that Stantec had been awarded the contract and would begin their work immediately once the Council passes the resolution. The study will assess the ability of the Downtown Lexington street system to accommodate current and future year traffic conditions with all existing one-way streets converted to two-way operation. Stantec will undertake the following activities throughout the 12-14 month study:

- Traffic Model Development
- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Future Travel Demand
- Alternatives Identification and Evaluation
- Community Involvement

King told Council Members that LFUCG had been awarded a grant and the project cost is \$465,000. Stantec will provide information, data, and updates throughout the process.

There was a discussion about what two-way streets will do to traffic flow, pedestrian safety, commute times and downtown business activity. King said that two-way streets will calm and slow traffic. Numerous Council Members expressed the need to make Lexington's downtown more livable. King noted that downtown Lexington is the core for government, law, banking, and some residential living.

King spoke about the Newtown Pike extension and the possible renovations to Rupp Arena and their importance in the study. King also said that the Mayor will appoint the Policy Advisory Group and Council Members expressed the importance of having representatives from the neighborhoods actively participating in that group.

King told Committee members that the downturn in the economy hurt downtown housing, but said that based on National studies; empty nesters and young professionals want a walkable, livable downtown.

Martin asked King about the impact of two-way streets on traffic congestion. He mentioned making left turns and the number of delivery trucks that currently stop on our downtown streets to make their deliveries. He expressed concern about causing long traffic delays. He also mentioned that many cities that have successful two-way street systems have bypasses around them.

Lawless told the Committee that many of her constituents have expressed interest in at least conducting a two-way street study to see how it would impact them. She mentioned the speeding down Main Street during evening hours.

There was a discussion about downtown parking and it being a reason that people do not frequently visit Lexington's downtown.

Farmer asked King if the study would also take the status quo into consideration. King said that yes, there is always the option not to make the conversion to two-way streets. King said that the study will see how Lexington could convert, how much it would cost, and provide pros and cons to converting.

Ultimately, King told the Committee members that many of their questions would be answered upon the completion of the study.

Oliver Lewis Way Project Update

Andrew Grunwald described the next 4 phases of the project:

- Phase I (Redevelopment/Mitigation Area)

Community Land Trust – The KYTC has approved the third installment of payment to the Community Land Trust.

Combined utility and construction costs for the redevelopment are estimated at \$10.5M; funds are programmed but not yet authorized.

- Phase II (Versailles Road to South Broadway)

Should be under construction by the summer of 2014.

Utility costs are estimated at \$5.4M and construction costs at \$16.1M; funds are programmed but not yet authorized.

- Phase III (Scott Street Connector)

Utility costs are estimated at \$3.5M and construction costs at \$8.7M; funds are programmed for beyond 2014.

- Phase IV (Main Street to Versailles Road)

Utility companies continue to work through the KYTC to bury cables. Only one communication cable remains to be buried. (Grunwald said it may be buried now.)

Todds Road Widening Phase II Update

Bob Bayert provided the update. He said that the project will begin on Todds Road near Andover Forest Drive and extends 1.6 miles southeast to the future Polo Club intersection just east of the 1-75 overpass. The project will widen the existing rural 2-lane section of Todds Road to an urban 2-lane section plus a center turn lane, bike lanes, curb, and gutter and sidewalks.

The design plans are approximately 60% complete. The project will be split into 2 phases:

- Phase 2A: Kinbolton Drive/Cypress Point Way to Andover Forest Drive/Forest Hill Drive
- Phase 2B: Polo Club BLVD to Kimbolton Drive/Cypress Point Way

Bayert said that when the design is nearly complete, the right of acquisition process may begin. \$1M is programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in FY2012 for right of way acquisition. Approximately \$12M is programmed in the TIP in FY2013 for utility relocation. Finally, construction funding, which is currently estimated at \$10M is beyond FY2014 in the TIP.

Items Referred to Committee

Farmer reviewed the items in committee. No action was taken.

Motion by Farmer to adjourn at 2:10pm. Seconded by Gorton. The motion passed without dissent.

Respectfully submitted by Jenifer Benningfield, Council Administrative Specialist