



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

March 10, 2015

Summary and Motions

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. All committee members were present: Brown, Evans, Farmer, Ford, Gibbs, Kay, Lane, Moloney, Mossotti, and Stinnett. Council Member Akers was also in attendance.

I. Approval of Committee Summary

Farmer requested a correction of the spelling of Kirwan-Blanding from the February 24th, 2015 Summary. He also noted that "Cooper Drive is currently...construction only" is incorrect and requested correction of that item.

A motion was made by Ford to approve the February 24, 2015 Committee Summary, seconded by Stinnett. Motion passed without dissent.

II. Streetlights- Analysis of Lighting Types, Installation/Lease Costs, Etc.

Dowell Hoskins-Squier, Director of Traffic Engineering, presented an update regarding streetlight installation. She stated that street lighting has been mandated within the Urban Service Area since 1984, and the majority of existing streetlights in the city are leased. Hoskins-Squier reviewed the streetlight styles, and explained that the Cobrahead light is the standard for new installations. She presented revenues and expenses associated with the program, and discussed the costs associated with LED streetlights. A total of 757 lights remain on the list to be installed, including 354 that are part of corridor lighting projects.

In response to a question from Mossotti regarding the determination to change to the new lighting fixtures, Jeff Neal from Traffic Engineering stated that the Cobrahead lights were chosen as a result of ongoing costs. Neal stated that Cobrahead lights are installed unless a different style already exists in a neighborhood. In response to a question from Mossotti, Neal stated that there is currently no formal process in place to obtain neighborhood input on lighting style.

Stinnett stated he believes neighborhoods should have an option. Commissioner Holmes stated a viable funding mechanism for neighborhoods has not been developed. Stinnett inquired about the type of bulb being used for the Colonial streetlight, and if a brighter bulb

could be used to lower the cost. Neal stated the larger bulb creates glare that does not meet criteria. Stinnett stated Council needs a policy going forward, and inquired if they had talked with KU about the installation of the upcoming 757 lights, and if they would install them this year. Hoskins-Squier stated that the budget will allow the installation of 400 streetlights this year.

Evans inquired when the lights at Summerfield would be installed. Neal stated they are in the process of being installed. Evans stated her desire to see detailed options in the future. Hoskins-Squier reiterated that the Cobrahead model is currently being installed, unless a different style currently exists in the neighborhood.

Moloney commented about the need for a more formal process for streetlight selection and installation. Commissioner O'Mara provided background regarding funding for streetlights, and stated that streetlights are currently funded with property taxes with a supplement from the General Fund (\$2.5 million).

Akers asked why we have four options and how they were chosen. Neal provided a history of the utilization of streetlight styles. Akers inquired when the remaining lights would be installed. Hoskins-Squier stated she would provide Council with more installation regarding the streetlight installation progress.

Stinnett stated he would like to see a policy created to determine what lighting is utilized going forward.

Mossotti asked if Traffic Engineering meets with Developers to discuss their input on lighting and Hoskins-Squier replied that they do not. Mossotti stated that this should be considered for consistency.

Moloney inquired about the use of franchise fees for streetlights. O'Mara said there is approx \$2.5 million in supplements from the General Fund to the streetlight fund to fill in remaining gaps in the streetlight program. In response to a question from Moloney, O'Mara replied that the franchise fee increase resulted in approximately \$4 million in revenue. O'Mara stated that streetlights were not underfunded, and that the transfer from the General Fund to the streetlight fund has been adequate to meet the needs of the streetlight program. O'Mara clarified that the property tax street fund revenue is short, but the total program is funded from two sources, and the difference is made up from the transfer from the General Fund.

Lane stated the franchise fee went from 3% to 4% and is applied also to electricity and natural gas and inquired which other utilities are taxed. O'Mara replied that telecommunications are not able to be franchised and that the fee was applied to electric and gas. O'Mara stated water was not up for renewal at that time and would be up for debate this year. Lane inquired if Council is able to raise the amount up to 5% under current contracts and stated his preference to tax only homeowners receiving those services.

Kay inquired if there is a way to earmark the funds for a specific use. Andrea Brown from Law responded the franchise fees are collected as the right to use the public rights-of-way and will report back to Council with an answer. Kay stated he thinks this is why there were two decisions made in the past. Farmer stated he would like to see information about adding LED lights in the next presentation.

A motion was made by Stinnett to move the funding mechanism discussion on the revenue stream for street lighting to Budget & Finance, seconded by Mossotti. Motion passed without dissent.

III. Safe Routes to School

Myron Thompson with the Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) Department of Risk Management gave a presentation of Safe Routes to School, a partnership between LFUCG and the FCPS. The program is intended to delineate and provide improvements to preferred routes for students that walk to school. Thompson reviewed the benefits to student health resulting from walking to school, and presented the pilot program in the East End. He explained that routes will be approved by FCPS, and Traffic Engineering and Streets and Roads will assist with crosswalk and other improvements.

Hoskins-Squier spoke about the Division of Traffic Engineering's grant submission to the MPO that is intended to provide \$200,000 in funding for this program. She stated that the funding would be used to evaluate crosswalk markings and school zone signage around elementary schools throughout Fayette County.

Ford stated this is a good opportunity to work with Fayette County Schools. Brown asked for clarification about safe routes and their status on priority routes. Thompson stated he will follow up.

A motion was made by Ford to approve the resolution supporting the Safe Routes to School Program, seconded by Brown. Motion passed without dissent.

IV. Speed Reduction on Cromwell Way Between Clays Mill Road and Cornwall Drive to 25 mph

Mossotti introduced the item, and explained the reason for the request. She reviewed the report provided by the Division of Traffic Engineering.

A motion was made by Mossotti to approve the resolution designating the speed limit on Cromwell Way between Clays Mills Road and Cornwall Drive as 25 mph, seconded by Ford. Motion passed without dissent.

V. UK Forest Health Research & Education Center

Gibbs introduced Professor Jerrell “Red” Baker, Chairman of the UK Forestry Department and Founder of the UK Forest Health Research and Education Center. Baker introduced Dr. Bert Abbott, a senior scientist at UK Dept. of Forestry and Dr. Dana Nelson, a visiting scientist at UK and the project leader for the US Forest Service Southern Research Center. Baker presented the current threats facing various tree species and requested the Council’s support of the proposed resolution.

Farmer inquired if the proposed resolution gives them a standing within the community. Baker replied that it does give them better standing as they seek delegation in DC and the US Forest Service and as they search for funding and partners. Farmer asked if they have been involved in the drafting of the resolution, to which Baker replied they have.

Lane stated he was supportive of their efforts.

A motion was made by Gibbs to approve the resolution supporting and encouraging the establishment of the Forest Health Research and Education Center at the University of Kentucky, seconded by Kay. Motion passed without dissent.

VI. Items Referred to Committee

A motion was made by Stinnett to remove the Capacity Analysis referral item, seconded by Kay. Motion passed without dissent.

Stinnett stated the Waste Management Funding Options item will be heard in April.

Vice Mayor Kay agreed to take ownership of the Distillery District Update and asked for an update for recent activities in the District in May 2015

A Motion was made by Kay to remove the Distillery District Update from Committee. Motion failed by a 5-5 vote. (Yay: Brown, Ford, Lane, Moloney, Stinnett. Nay: Evans, Farmer, Gibbs, Kay, Mossotti)

Gibbs agreed to take ownership of the Urban Forestry Management Plan, originally referred by Clarke.

A motion was made by Kay to consolidate the Snow Removal plan and Snow & Ice Control Plan, seconded by Gibbs. Motion passed without dissent.

Brown stated he would like to see this on the agenda by May. Stinnett stated this was the annual approval plan and it would make sense to merge the two. Gibbs stated he would like to see the pedestrian impact included in the discussion as well.

Mossotti agreed to take ownership of the Streetlights Analysis item, originally referred by Myers.

A motion was made by Mossotti to remove Woodland Avenue Pedestrian Enhancement from Committee, seconded by Gibbs. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Gibbs to remove Columbia Heights No Through-Trucks from Committee, seconded by Kay. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Gibbs to remove Ferndale Pass & Buck Lane Multi-way Stop Study from Committee, seconded by Kay. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Mossotti to remove West Second Street Speed Limit Analysis from Committee, seconded by Kay. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Mossotti to remove Speed Reduction on Cromwell Way between Clays Mill & Cornwall Drive from Committee, seconded by Brown. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Gibbs to remove UK Forest Health & Education Research Center from Committee, seconded by Lane. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Lane to Adjourn, seconded by Ford. Motion passed without dissent.

This meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2015

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAM, A PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SAFE ROUTES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS BIKING AND WALKING TO SCHOOL IN LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government ("LFUCG") and the Fayette County Board of Education have proposed the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program in an effort to designate safe routes for students and parents walking and biking to school in Lexington-Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of pupils is a priority for the Board of Education and LFUCG; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and LFUCG recognize that heart disease, stroke, and diabetes are responsible for two-thirds (2/3) of deaths in the United States, and a major risk factor for those diseases is sedentary behavior formed during childhood; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for SRTS lists the five following health benefits of walking or biking to school: (1) weight and blood pressure control; (2) bone, muscle, and joint health and maintenance; (3) reduction in the risk of diabetes; (4) improved psychological welfare; and (5) better academic performance; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County Public Schools and LFUCG seek to provide and promote opportunities for physical education, like walking or biking to and from school, in order to foster lifelong habits of healthy physical activity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and LFUCG Divisions of Police, Planning, Traffic Engineering, and Streets and Roads have been identified as critical partners for the establishment and maintenance of safe routes to school; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Traffic Engineering has submitted an application to the Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), under the Transportation Alternatives Program, for Fayette County Elementary School Zone Enhancements in the SRTS project category; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this project is to ensure that school zones are

provided with consistent signage and markings throughout the county in a manner that adheres to the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices; and

WHEREAS, if constructed, these improvements will encourage alternative modes of accessing school facilities by providing safer school zones and connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian routes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 - That the above recitals are incorporated herein as if fully stated.

Section 2 - That the Urban County Council of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government supports the SRTS Program, a proposed partnership between the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and the Fayette County Board of Education, for the establishment and maintenance of safe routes for children and parents biking and walking to and from school in Lexington-Fayette County.

Section 3 – That the Clerk of the Urban County Council is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Fayette County Board of Education.

Section 4 - That this Resolution shall become effective on the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. ____-2015

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE SPEED LIMIT ON CROMWELL WAY, BETWEEN CLAYS MILL ROAD AND CORNWALL DRIVE, AS 25 MILES PER HOUR, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIVISION OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING TO INSTALL PROPER AND APPROPRIATE SIGNS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DESIGNATION.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Code of Ordinances Section 18-51 and other authorities, the Division of Traffic Engineering is authorized and empowered to maintain traffic-control signs, signals, and devices deemed necessary to regulate traffic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 18-66 of the Code of Ordinances, the Urban County Government may determine that certain speed regulations shall be applicable on certain streets or in certain areas; and

WHEREAS, the Urban County Council has determined that the speed limit on Cromwell Way, between Clays Mill Road and Cornwall Drive, should be 25 miles per hour.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 - That the speed limit on Cromwell Way, between Clays Mill Road and Cornwall Drive be and hereby is designated as 25 miles per hour and the Division of Traffic Engineering is authorized and directed to install proper and appropriate signs in accord with that designation.

Section 2 - That this Resolution shall become effective on the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2015

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOREST HEALTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER (FHC) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, FOR THE EXPANSION OF CRITICAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND TO ADDRESS INCREASED THREATS FROM INVASIVE PESTS AND PATHOGENS ON TREES AND FORESTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

WHEREAS, a growing number of experts, public officials, and citizens recognize that tree and forest resources critical to our country's economy and urban and natural landscapes are facing numerous threats, including a variety of pests and pathogens with the demonstrated potential to completely destroy foundational tree species, degrade forest productivity, and deteriorate ecosystem value; and

WHEREAS, several tree species (e.g. American chestnut, ash, hemlock) have been lost or are disappearing at an alarming rate, and other valuable tree species such as oak (a foundational tree species compromises nearly 50% of hardwood sawtimber volume in Kentucky and also contributes to this region's distinct bourbon industry) are equally imperiled; and

WHEREAS, the University of Kentucky ("UK"), the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southern Research Station, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry have partnered to form the Forest Health Research and Education Center ("FHC") on UK's campus; and

WHEREAS, the FHC plans to assemble a core group of researchers and educators to collaborate with experts around the world with the goal of solving the region's most pressing forest health challenges; and

WHEREAS, the FHC will conduct: (1) biological research to understand and enhance tree resistance and forest/ecosystem responses to biotic and abiotic stressors; (2) social research on the economic and cultural impacts of tree/forest/ecosystem loss, as well as factors affecting adoption of new technologies and approaches in order to improve forest health; and (3) outreach programs meant to educate stakeholders and researchers on forest health issues, connect these parties through participatory research networks, and develop resistant trees and improve forest resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government has been awarded

the 'Tree City USA' designation for twenty-six (26) years by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of Foresters, for its strong commitment to the management of its urban forests; and

WHEREAS, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government acknowledges this project's potential to maintain the environmental and social benefit of trees in urban and natural forests, and to provide important economic opportunities throughout the region.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 - That the above recitals are incorporated herein as if fully stated.

Section 2 - That the Urban County Council of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government hereby supports and encourages the establishment of the Forest Health Research and Education Center at the University of Kentucky, for the expansion of critical research and educational programming and to address increased threats from invasive pests and pathogens on trees and forests throughout the region.

Section 3 – That the Clerk of the Urban County Council is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the University of Kentucky, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southern Research Station, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Section 4 - That this Resolution shall become effective on the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL