Planning and Public Works Committee Meeting September 9, 2014 Summary and Motions

Chair Bill Farmer Jr. called the meeting to order 1:00 p.m. Committee members Mossotti, Ellinger, Kay, Ford, Beard, Henson, and Clarke were in attendance. Committee members Gorton and Lawless were absent. CMs Akers and Stinnett were also in attendance.

1. July 1, 2014 Special Committee Summary

Motion by CM Ellinger, second CM Ford to approve the August 12, 2014 committee summary. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Permanent Barricading of Agape Drive

CM Clarke introduced the item, and discussed concerns with regard to removing the existing barricade on Agape Drive to provide a vehicular connection. He asked that the committee move this item forward to the full Council for additional consideration.

John Yozwiak spoke in favor of barricading the northern terminus of Agape Drive. He provided information related to increases in traffic that would result from the connection of Agape Drive, and stated concern for the impact on the existing Dogwood Trace community. Mr. Yozwiak stated in favor connecting Twain Ridge Drive rather than Agape Drive.

Roger Schnabel stated that the proposed development and connection would bring a tremendous amount of traffic to Agape Drive, and stated that Twain Ridge Drive would be a more reasonable connection point.

Mark Sok provided a petition in favor of permanently barricading Agape Drive, which was signed by more than 75 percent of the affected community (more than 500 signatures). He stated that Agape Drive does not have an adequate pavement width to be classified as a connector. Twain Ridge should be developed as a connector. Mr. Sok stated safety concerns with connecting Agape Drive. He provided goal and objective language from the Roadway Manual supportive of the request to barricade Agape Drive, and asked that the committee move this item forward for a full Council vote.

Bob Pattie stated safety concerns with the connections to Harrodsburg Road. He stated that traffic backs up at Military Pike on both sides of Harrodsburg Road.

Donna Bruszewski stated that the left turn movement into Dogwood Trace from Harrodsburg Road is hazardous due to the curve on Harrodsburg Lane near the turn, and the addition of additional traffic will cause additional traffic issues. Ms. Bruszewski spoke in favor of a permanent barricade on Agape Drive.

Chris King stated that the Planning Commission, the Planning Department, Traffic Engineering, Police, and Fire oppose the permanent barricading of Agape Drive. He provided exhibits from the 1988 Comprehensive Plan and current Comprehensive Plan, and discussed the development and connectivity adjacent to the subject area.

Mr. King explained that the LFUCG cannot legally require connectivity of Twin Ridge Drive, and stated the importance of the Agape Drive connection. Agape Drive was reduced from 36 feet to 31 feet wide at the time of construction with approval from the LFUCG as a traffic calming measure, and in recognition of the localized nature of traffic that will use the street. He shared an exhibit showing that the majority of streets in Lexington-Fayette County are 31 feet in width or less.

Dowell Hoskins-Squier stated that the Division of Traffic Engineering does not support the barricading of Agape Drive at its northern terminus for reasons of connectivity and safety. Connectivity reduces travel times, and reduces service times. She stated that the traffic study showed approximately 100 peak hour vehicle trips using Agape Drive, which is a relatively small number of trips.

Captain Greg Lengal provided a comparison of access points in adjacent communities, and related this to response times. Fire does not support the barricading of Agape Drive.

CM Henson requested clarification regarding access points to Dogwood Trace; clarification was offered with regard to a second point of access from Jessamine County.

In response from a question from CM Mossotti, Chris King clarified proposed access to the community. CM Mossotti stated concerns with safety and access.

CM Stinnett asked if cost estimates had been completed to extend Twain Ridge. Mr. King responded that the LFUCG is in the early stages of producing those estimates. In response to a question from CM Stinnett, Mr. King stated that a future Council could vote to remove the barricade. CM Stinnett stated that the decision is premature until the properly directly to the north is developed. CM Stinnett requested additional clarification regarding emergency access and secondary access points.

In response to a question from CM Kay, Mr. King replied that the recommendation for connectivity of Twain Ridge would have remained regardless of the lawsuit issue. CM Kay asked if development of the adjacent property to the north would result in additional access points to Harrodsburg Road. Mr. King responded that direct connections to Harrodsburg Road would not be provided, due to safety and roadway capacity issues. Connectivity issues will be addressed at the time that property is developed.

CM Henson stated that Agape Road is too narrow to be a connector street. She stated that speeding in neighborhoods is an issue.

CM Mossotti stated that Council had decided not to utilize barricades in 1997, and received confirmation from the Law Department that this issue would be revisited when the parcel to the immediate north is developed.

In response to a question from CM Stinnett, Mr. King stated that staff would advocate for the right-of-way to remain open. He stated the existing homes on Agape Drive need the existing paved stubout for access.

CM Kay asked if construction of Twain Ridge would affect staff's opinion regarding Agape Drive. Mr. King stated that the staff recommendation would be for both roadways to be available. CM Kay stated that this decision should be made at the time the property to the immediate north is developed, and that he is not in favor of moving this item forward to Council at this time.

CM Henson stated that a pathway should be considered rather than a street for park access.

CM Farmer asked for clarification regarding the proposed location of a barricade, and CM Clarke responded that the barricade would be placed at the northern terminus of Agape Drive. CM Farmer asked for clarification regarding a waiver, and CM Clarke responded that he had followed that process.

CM Clarke stated that Agape Drive should not be a connector street. He refuted staff objections to the barricade.

Motion to approve to request Law to draft a resolution to permanently barricade Agape Drive at the northern terminus in order to protect the character of the Dogwood Trace Neighborhood and place the resolution into Work Session for full Council consideration. Seconded by CM Beard. Motion passed unanimously.

CM Ford asked if two cars could pass on Agape Drive if cars are parked on both sides of the street. Mr. King stated that it depends on the type of vehicles, but the width of the street would provide traffic calming. He stated that excess road width encourages speeding, which is detrimental to the character of neighborhoods. In response to a question from CM Ford, Mr. King stated that Agape Drive is shown as a collector street in the Comprehensive Plan.

CM Kay stated that he is not in support of closing the street at this time, but would vote in favor of moving the item forward to Council for discussion.

CM Mossotti stated that the street is already barricaded. CM Clarke responded that he was seeking language formalizing permanent barricading of Agape Drive.

3. Municipal Aid Program (MAP)

Commissioner Paulsen reported the Law Department has determined that KRS 177.365 allows for the use of Municipal Aid Program (MAP) funds for the construction of trails. He presented the use of MAP funds by LFUCG divisions over the past five years, with a summary of projects.

CM Stinnett stated that the LFUCG needs to establish a local policy regarding the use of MAP funds. He stated that there is no long-range plan for trails, and formulation of a local policy should be part of that plan. In response to a question from CM Stinnett, Commissioner Paulsen stated that a bicycle plan is being developed, and a monthly meeting with divisions receiving MAP funds and Finance is being held for coordination purposes. CM Stinnett stated that the need exists for one staff person that coordinates planning, construction and maintenance of trails.

In response to a question from CM Beard, Commissioner Paulsen stated that shared use pathways are not necessary adjacent to roadways. He clarified that shared use paths are not necessarily designed for vehicular access.

4. Todd's Road Widening Phase II

Keith Lovan stated that the project is currently in the right-of-way acquisition phase, and 9 of 52 necessary parcels have been acquired. Utility relocations are underway. District 7 of the Highway Department will begin construction in Spring 2015, and the project will be completed by August 2016.

CM Stinnett asked if fiber optic lines will be installed adjacent to the road during construction, and stated that the city needs to take advantage of the opportunity to install fiber optic lines during roadway construction projects.

5. Fiber Optic Technology

Aldona Valicenti, CIO, presented the item, discussed cities that have self-invested in fiber optic infrastructure, and provided approximate costs for same. She discussed financing models, which include investing through utility structures and bonding, discussing investment with cable providers, exploring public-private partnerships, and exploring non-traditional models such as selecting several broadband service providers.

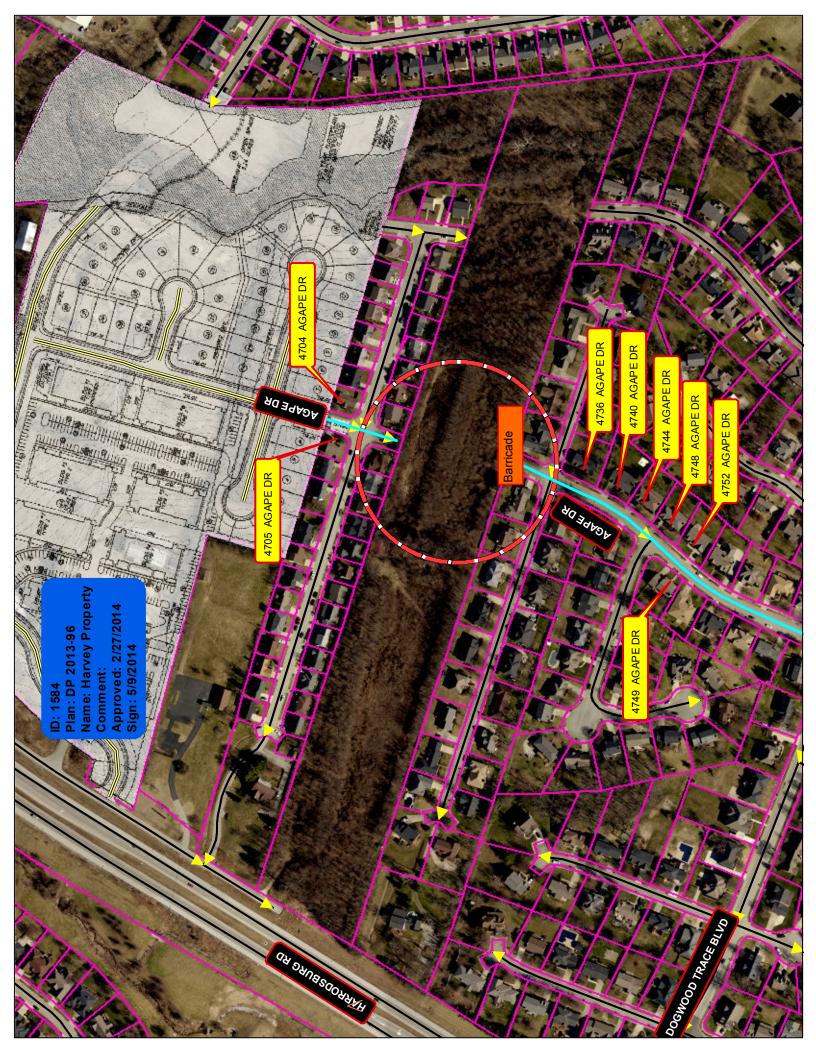
CIO Valicenti stated that the Traffic Division is in the eighth year of a ten year plan to install fiber optic cable along major corridors for better communication with traffic signals and streaming video. The city has formed a Fiber Team with representatives from each department, and has had discussions with several companies. Conversations will continue with potential providers, with the goal to issue an RFI and eventual RFP.

CM Stinnett stated the need to provide free WiFi access to the community. CIO Valicenti responded that the implementation of broadband infrastructure is the first step in that process.

CM Farmer stated that the Mayor has announced that Lexington is taking steps towards becoming a Gigabit City, and thanked CIO Valicenti for her presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.

CLB 2014-09-29



Draft

RESOLUTION NO. -2014

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THAT AGAPE DRIVE BE PERMANENTLY BARRICADED AT ITS NORTHERN TERMINUS POINT.

WHEREAS, in order to protect the character of Agape Drive it is necessary that Agape Drive be barricaded at its northern terminus point (meaning the northern point just past LaCross Court at the current stub street point of Agape Drive); and

WHEREAS, permitting Agape Drive, a small residential street with on-street parking, to be converted into a connector would cause traffic congestion and endanger the safety and welfare of the residents of Agape Drive; and

WHEREAS, the portion of Agape Drive that would be extended is currently too narrow to be considered a major thoroughfare and barricading Agape Drive at its northern terminus point will not effect the adequacy of the ingress and egress points for the residents of this portion of the street; and

WHEREAS, historically, traffic flow on Agape Drive has not been a problem and sufficient evidence has not been presented to demonstrate that granting the barricade requests will create a traffic flow problem in the area.

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

Section 1 – That the Council agrees to waive the procedure for action on requests to dead end a public street, provided in Resolution No. 339-81.

Section 2- That the Division of Streets and Roads take whatever action is necessary to erect a permanent barricade at the northern terminus point of Agape Drive (meaning the northern point just past LaCross Court at the current stub street point of Agape Drive), and Traffic Engineering take whatever action is necessary to rename any Agape Drive street remnants created by this barricade.

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

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

	MAYOR	
ATTEST:		