

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 22, 2011

The City Council Community Planning and Transportation Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:34 p.m. in the Conference Room on the 22nd day of September, 2011, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Gallagher Kovach, Lockett, and
Chairman Dillingham

ABSENT: None

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Cindy Rosenthal
Ms. Susan Connors, Planning and Community
Development Director
Mr. Angelo Lombardo, Traffic Engineer
Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works
Mr. David Riesland, Traffic Engineer
Ms. Julie Shelton, Administrative Technician
Ms. Karla Chapman, Administrative Technician

STAKEHOLDER VISIONING COMMITTEE: Mr. Chris Applegate, Red Earth Group, Sierra Club
Ms. Teresa Capps, Chair, SVSC
Mr. Harold Heiple, Attorney, Norman Developers' Council
Mr. Doug Myers, OU Parking and Transportation
Administrator
Mr. Chris Nanny, Chair, CART Disability Advisory
Committee
Ms. Janice Oak, Progressive Independence
Ms. Renee O'Leary, United Way, Senior Council/Positive
Aging Initiative
Ms. Helen Robertson, Representative/Bicycle Community
Mr. Tom Sherman, Chair, Chamber Transportation
Committee
Mr. Joe Sparks, Chair, Norman Convention and Visitors
Bureau
Mr. Walt Strong, Administrator, Westheimer Airport
Mr. Chuck Thompson, Chair, Central Oklahoma Regional
Advocacy Alliance
Mr. Larry Walker, Chair Public Art Board
Mr. Brad Worster, Commercial realtor/Norman Next

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Mark Campbell, Interested Citizen
Mr. Todd Cochran, Schemmer and Associates Engineering
Ms. Vicky Holland, Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART)
Mr. Kevin Kokes, Lochner
Mr. Cody Ponder, CART
Ms. Sadie Robb, Lochner
Mr. Charlie Schwinger, Lochner
Mr. Wayne Wickman, OU, CART Transit Operations
Manager

CART RIDERSHIP REPORT.

Chairman Dillingham said the August 2011 Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) Ridership totals have been distributed and mentioned the City continues to work with Norman Regional Hospital (NRH) to improve and increase the awareness of transportation needs on the CART system. She said there would be more focus on the CART ridership report as well as an NRH update at the October Community Planning and Transportation Committee (CPTC) meeting.

Chairman Dillingham recognized Mr. Cody Ponder, CART Planner and Grant Specialist, for being named to "Mass Transit" magazine's *Top 40 Under 40* list and said he is featured in the September/October issue of the magazine. Chairman Dillingham said this is not only an honor for Mr. Ponder but also to the City of Norman because of his continued commitment to the public transportation system.

Items submitted for the record

1. Cleveland Area Rapid Transit Ridership Totals for the Month of August 2011

PRESENTATION BY CHARLIE SCHWINGER, LOCHNER, REGARDING THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN SCOPING STUDY FOLLOWED BY A BUS TOUR OF THE CITY LOOKING AT VARIOUS TRANSPORTATION RELATED ISSUES.

Mayor Rosenthal thanked the proposed Stakeholder Visioning Committee (SVC) members for attending tonight's kick-off meeting for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Scoping Study and said she appreciated their willingness to volunteer and guide the CTP scoping study process. She said the SVC members will be officially appointed next Tuesday at the City Council meeting on September 27, 2011. Mayor Rosenthal said this will be the first CTP for the City and will essentially be the foundation for future land use decisions. She said a CTP will certainly drive economic choices that are made by both the City as well as the private sector and a CTP will address the accessibility for everyone in the community which is critical. Mayor Rosenthal said an emphasis for multi-modal transportation is at the forefront and options for Norman and the entire metro area will be looked at as well.

Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works, also thanked the SVC members and said the City is very excited to complete a CTP. He said currently the City has a 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan (LUP) but the focus is primarily on the land use/development management and much less on transportation. Mr. O'Leary said the SVC will be providing very important visions for a twenty-five year CTP and stated he appreciated their readiness to assist with this incredibly vital process.

Mr. O'Leary said City Staff, to include Traffic Engineers Mr. Angelo Lombardo and Mr. David Riesland, has done a great deal of work to get to this point and also assisted with selecting the best regional transportation engineering firm that the City could find. He introduced Mr. Charlie Schwinger, Lochner, and said the engineering firm Lochner is located in six states, including Oklahoma, and has been in business for 65 years. Mr. O'Leary said Lochner will provide information and an overview of the CTP scoping process and end the meeting with a bus tour of the City looking at various transportation related issues.

Mr. Schwinger introduced the other two members of Lochner, Ms. Sadie Robb and Mr. Kevin Kokes, and said he was very impressed that the SVC was such a diverse representation of interest in the community. The SVC members, and others present in the audience, introduced themselves, stated the organization or primary interest they represented, and what they envisioned transportation in Norman being in twenty five years to include:

- ❖ Population growth and more public transportation
- ❖ Improved transportation that is safer and more accessible in and around Norman
- ❖ More buses, light rail, and bicycle routes
- ❖ Connectivity and visual/public art
- ❖ Public transportation options from Norman to Oklahoma City, visa versa

- ❖ Connectivity to and for the business community
- ❖ Collaboration with all entities involved in this process
- ❖ Better arterial access for vehicles and better pedestrian access/routes
- ❖ Fluid connectivity with the Regional Plan
- ❖ Multi-modal options
- ❖ Emphasis on all commercial business access – not just new development
- ❖ Equal transportation opportunities for everyone, disabled and/or non-disabled

Mr. Schwinger thanked everyone for their comments and felt the overall audience consensus not only pertained to transportation issues but ultimately about the quality of life in Norman. He said the purpose of the CTP project is to determine the future transportation system and set transportation planning goals for Norman by involving the community in the decision-making process as much as possible. He said during this phase of the CTP, Lochner will not be developing the full CTP, but merely developing a scope of services for the CTP, i.e., what and how goals will be accomplished during the next phase of the CTP project, as well as an estimated project budget for the development of a CTP. Mr. Schwinger said the Council Community Planning and Transportation Committee (CPTC) will serve as liaison as the *Steering Committee* and the SVC will serve as the *Visioning Committee*, providing a synergistic exchange of ideas and perspectives from the community at large.

Mr. Kokes said the CTP work plan is essentially broken into three parts: Kick-Off, Listen and Vision, and Envision. Tonight's Kick-Off meeting will include base data collection, an awareness bus tour, and Lochner scheduling future interviews with the SVC members. The bulk of the CTP process will be done in October and November during the Listen and Vision portion of the work plan and will involve public dialog and input, idea gathering, SVC workshops, Public Council Ward meetings, and a community transportation survey. All information and data collected during the Listen and Vision portion will be gathered and processed by December for the Envision portion including a goals workshop that will assist in shaping the CTP work plan and a City Council Study Session to finalize the CTP work plan.

Ms. Robb said social media works and Lochner will use social outreach tools to include Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, web page links, You-Tube video clips, and E-news in order to get more of the community involved. She said a draft of the community transportation survey will be reviewed with the Committees in October and said the survey will provide statistically valid feedback and citywide results and offer tools to identify issues and validate priorities.

Mr. Schwinger said key visioning components to remember during the CTP scoping process include regional, state, and federal framework because certain guidelines have to be addressed; access, safety, and mobility; connecting neighborhoods and nodes; multi-modal system; context sensitive solutions, i.e., one size does not fit all; sustainable solutions, i.e., preserve current streets or build new streets; and implementation and financing strategies to assist the City with the CTP.

Mr. Schwinger said tonight's handouts include a Comprehensive Transportation Plan "Awareness Tour Think-Sheets" that included various questions about commuter rail, Porter widening, railroad grade separations, medians, bicycles, etc. Lochner also distributed disposable cameras so that pictures could be taken during the bus tour and Mr. Schwinger said the cameras could be taken home so that pictures of any traffic/transportation concerns not included in the bus tour could be taken. He encouraged the members to get the "Think-Sheets" and cameras returned to City Staff as soon as possible in order to start processing all the feedback.

Mr. Schwinger requested the CPTC and SVC members state what they felt was their most important transportation issue in Norman. The following issues were identified:

- Funding
- Campus Corner congestion
- Safe roads
- Connectivity to neighborhoods

- Internal flow
- Access and funding
- Arterial road access
- Expanding transportation options
- Multi-modal
- City wide connectivity
- Disability access

The CPTC and SVC members, along with Staff, boarded a CART bus at approximately 6:15 p.m. and returned to City Hall at approximately 7:40 p.m. The bus tour included a route through Norman with two stops at 24th Avenue N.W. and Rock Creek Road and Lindsey Street at Van Vleet Oval.

Items submitted for the record

1. Comprehensive Transportation Plan Steering Committee and Visioning Committee Kick-Off/Meeting #1 agenda scheduled for September 22, 2011
2. Proposed Visioning and Steering Committee Lists for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
3. Proposed Project Schedule of the CTP updated September 19, 2011
4. PowerPoint Presentation entitled "Moving Forward," presented by Lochner
5. PowerPoint Presentation entitled "Encompass 2035 Draft Plan Summary – Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study," dated March 2011
6. Norman 2025 Land Use and Transportation Map

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION.

None.

The meeting and bus tour adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor