

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 16, 2015

The Public Transportation and Parking Commission met on the above date at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Public Works Department.

Members Present: Mr. Charles Moore Mr. Brian Farkas Mr. Dave Schwartz
 Mr. Warren Daniels Ms. Jessica Faison

Staff Present: Mr. Kevin Mulligan Mr. Kenneth Jackson Mr. Lamont Jackson
 Ms. Stacey Pigford Mr. John Johnson Mr. Corey Barrett
 Ms. Amanda Braddy Mr. Steve Hawley

Guests: Ms. Tammy Fulcher Ms. Mildred Elliott

Council Liaison: Council Member Richard Croskery

I. WELCOME: Mr. Moore called the meeting to order and established a quorum was present.

II. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Schwartz to approve the August 19, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farkas and passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Street & Pedestrian Transportation Improvement Bond Presentation

Mr. Steve Hawley, Public Information Officer for the City of Greenville, was present to update the Commission on the 2015 Street & Pedestrian Transportation and Improvement Bond. The bond will allow voters to decide if the City of Greenville should be authorized to raise money through the sale of bonds and issue debt to pay for certain street and pedestrian transportation improvements. Mr. Hawley stated if growth in the tax base and other revenues cannot pay for the bonds, the tax rate would need to be raised about 2.25 cents per \$100 valuation.

The total bond amount being requested is \$15,850,000.00. This amount would allow funding for the following projects:

- a. Street Improvements (\$10,000,000.00) – Street improvements for milling, repair, and resurfacing. Streets being considered include Arlington Boulevard, Elm Street, portions of Hooker Road and several other major road segments.
- b. West 5th Street Streetscape (\$1,950,000.00) – Funds would continue streetscape improvements for several blocks from Cadillac Street to Tyson Street.

- c. 10th Street Connector Enhancements (\$1,750,000.00) – The funds would cover the costs associated with improvements that are above NCDOT’s standards which will allow for extended and larger sidewalks, street lighting, trees and other items which will improve pedestrian safety and encourage walking as a viable means of transportation.
- d. Sidewalks (\$1,400,000.00) – This project would build 9 miles of sidewalks at City Council prioritized locations to improve pedestrian safety and encourage walking as a viable means of transportation.
- e. East Side Greenway (\$750,000.00) – Funds for this extension would pay to plan the project to connect the eastern side of Greenville to the Greenway system.

Mr. Hawley also stated funding for the projects would not be borrowed in advance of the project but at the time the project is to begin. The City has a timeframe of up to seven years to request funding for the various amounts and would have up to 20 years to repay the bond.

Dr. Croskery concluded the discussion by stating City Council strongly supported the referendum request and encouraged members to present the information to the community where possible to inform citizens of their options.

2. Carver Library Parking

Mr. Farkas stated he has been approached by citizens that have expressed concerns regarding parking and overflow of vehicles during special events at Carver Library. Mr. Farkas asked if the property behind the library was City owned and, if so, could it be utilized for the overflow of parking. Ms. Elliott stated during special events there was no parking available in front of the library as well as the opposite side of the street. Mr. Barrett asked if there were no parking signs along the streets. Ms. Elliott responded there were signs at specific locations but the street was not designated as a no parking zone.

Mr. Barrett commented that he was unaware of who owned the property adjacent to the library; however, further stated that Code Enforcement Division made accommodations during special events as long as there were no traffic impediments. Mr. Barrett further stated he would investigate with Traffic Services the possibility of adding additional on-street parking along Douglas Avenue and ascertaining ownership of the vacant lot for the potential of parking as well and report back to the Commission in November.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. OTHER – FYI

1. Parking Ordinance/Fee Changes

Mr. Barrett stated an ordinance has been instituted by City Council that allowed Code Enforcement to tow and impound vehicles of vehicle owners with three or more overdue or unpaid tickets. This would permit the City the ability to collect unpaid citations and to discontinue the practice of wheel locks to immobilize these vehicles.

Mr. Barrett also stated Code Enforcement is proposing fee increases on parking violations. The changes being proposed would see a \$5.00 increase on parking citations, increase the hourly rate of parking from \$.75 to \$1.00, and the ability to issue multiple citations on extended parking over two hours. Mr. Moore asked how the Commission could help in moving the proposal forward. Mr. Barrett stated support from the Commission when presenting the proposal to City Council would be beneficial. Mr. Farkas asked to have the disparity in the Uptown parking area addressed as well. Mr. Moore stated this could be added to the agenda in October 2015 for further discussion. Mr. Schwartz made a motion to have the Commission endorse the changes being requested by Code Enforcement to City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daniels. The motion passed unanimously.

2. GREAT Route Adjustments

Mr. Lamont Jackson stated the new implementation schedule for the GREAT route adjustments has been revised. The new schedule would have the first phase begin September 2015 with new numbering on signs at bus stop locations and a demonstration bus would be available at the transfer station. The second phase would begin in November 2015 and would allow advertising of the new transition to the public. The complete implementation or route conversion would begin January 5, 2016.

Ms. Elliott asked if Carver Library would be affected by the route changes. Mr. Lamont Jackson responded no service would be eliminated but certain locations would be adjusted to better accommodate GREAT ridership and some stops would be consolidated. Ms. Elliott also asked if consideration had been given to partner with ECU in transportation needs for students as well. Mr. Lamont Jackson responded this was a future possibility; however, no discussion has occurred between the City and ECU at this time.

3. GREAT Monthly Report

Mr. Lamont Jackson presented the GREAT monthly report for review.

4. GTAC Update

Mr. Kenneth Jackson informed the Commission the property appraisals have been completed and the acquisition of properties should begin in the near future. The 30% design has been completed and projection of construction should begin late Spring 2016 and completion of the project in early 2017. Mr. Moore asked if the building will be constructed to LEED certified standards. Mr. Kenneth Jackson responded LEED certified standards are being incorporated into construction.

5. Crosswalks Update

Ms. Pigford presented the spreadsheet for crosswalks update. Ms. Pigford stated the location at Hooker Road near Walmart has been investigated and it is recommended that no action be taken as there are current high visibility crosswalk markings, and ADA ramps.

The second location being investigated is located on Hooker Road near Sedgefield Drive. Data has been collected and will be reviewed and reported back at the October 2015 Commission meeting.

6. Upcoming Projects & Meetings Information

Mr. Lamont Jackson stated there were no upcoming projects and meetings to announce.

Mr. Kenneth Jackson announced the Public Transportation and Parking Commission update to City Council will be October 5, 2015. Mr. Lamont Jackson will work with Mr. Moore to prepare a PowerPoint presentation to Council.

IX. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 21, 2015

- Recommendations for parking fees and Uptown parking concerns

X. ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Farkas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Braddy, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission