

## CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

April 2, 2013

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a study session at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 2nd day of April, 2013, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at 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 Castleberry, Gallagher, Griffith, Jungman, Kovach, Spaulding, Williams, and Mayor Rosenthal

ABSENT: Councilmember Lockett

Item 1, being:

### UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PREPARED BY FREESE AND NICHOLS.

Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works, said Council approved a contract with Freese and Nichols for a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) in December 2012. Since that time, representatives from Freese and Nichols and Public Works Staff have been working with a 45 member CTP subcommittee.

Mr. Eddie Haas, Freese and Nichols, provided an overview of the scope and schedule of the CTP including guiding principles and goals and objectives; existing transportation systems; assessment of transportation needs; forecasting transportation conditions; developing a long range improvements plan; transportation policies and programs; and implementation.

Mr. Haas said the subcommittee has met three times and there has been great participation from four modal groups that consist of autos and parking; transit service; pedestrian, bike, and streetscape; and freight, airport, and emergency response. He explained the structure of the meetings and said they begin with an open collaborative session then move into independent work groups with a combined wrap-up session. He said one of the successful tools the subcommittee and lead team (City Staff and Freese representatives) have been using is the E-Builder site. All information is placed on the E-Builder site to provide easy access for the lead team and subcommittee.

Mr. Haas said in the first meeting the subcommittee set the parameters and goals of the transportation system using five guiding principles with refined goals and principal objectives. The five guiding principles include how to make Norman a special place to live; mobility; maintaining and improving existing infrastructure; fiscal stewardship; and enhancing economic vitality.

Mr. Haas said Freese and Nichols met with Planning Department Staff in a Land Use Planning Workshop to discuss growth trends. They also compared the Association of Central Oklahoma Government's (ACOG) Comprehensive Plan Model for 2035 to Norman's 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan. He said the plans are similar and include population density, roadway links, and capital improvements. Councilmember Kovach asked if there has been any characteristics in the type of residences that would determine what kind of transportation solution is needed in other studies Freese and Nichols have completed. Mr. Haas said there is nothing in the studies to that effect, but Norman's 2025 Plan includes strategies for the potential of mixed use development. He said land use strategies need to be found to help reduce dependence on automobiles and provide options for other mobile choices including walking, bicycling, public transit, etc.

Councilmember Castleberry asked if the CTP is coordinated with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) long term plans and Mr. O'Leary said ODOT does not have a CTP; they have an eight year construction plan and are one of the few DOT's that do not have a CTP. He said Norman is coordinating the CTP with ODOT and ACOG. Mr. Haas said Freese and Nichols will meet with ODOT to understand where their priorities are in terms of capital improvement projects and how these projects might relate to Norman's programming of potential projects for short and long term actions.

Mr. Haas said in the second meeting, the subcommittee reviewed existing transportation conditions consisting of roadway networks; access management (existing impediments); daily traffic volumes; daily congestion in major corridors; parking inventory and demands; freight movements and impact; aviation land use and access; roadway inventory and maintenance; system improvements; passenger rail service; bike and pedestrian accommodations; sidewalk gaps and planned projects; and transit service. He said the subcommittee will review ways to create capacity in traffic corridors for long term utilization.

Mr. Haas said social media has been beneficial and highlighted ways the CTP can be accessed on social media sites including posting the plan on the City's website, Facebook, and Twitter. He said messages regarding a public meeting on April 15th are being pushed out onto media sites. The meeting will be the first chance to explain the process to the public and get feedback. He said Freese and Nichols is still working with the lead team on the arrangement of the meeting and are considering an open house prior to the meeting for a thirty minute presentation with general questions and answers.

Mr. Haas highlighted the next steps that include an assessment of transportation needs; forecast transportation conditions; developing a long range improvements plan; transportation policy and programs; and implementation.

Councilmember Gallagher asked what considerations are being given to Westheimer Airport and Mr. Haas said the Airport Freight Emergency Response Committee reviews airport issues. He said there has been a lot of input regarding the airport including protecting the airport, protecting development from encroaching onto the airport, changing development activity around the airport, etc. He said the airport is key to the community and is being incorporated into the process for long term use.

Councilmember Gallagher asked if crosstown traffic is being reviewed and Mr. Haas said yes, signage seems to be a problem with people accessing the University of Oklahoma (OU) so the general idea is to place wayfinding signage for people accessing State Highway 9 from I-35 going to OU from the south. He said there are east/west issues that need to be addressed as well. Councilmember Gallagher suggested Sooner Road be made four or six lanes to alleviate traffic along I-35 traveling to Tinker Air Force Base and Mr. O'Leary said that project is in ODOT's long range plan.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Norman Comprehensive Transportation Plan," CTP update, City Council Study Session, April 2, 2013

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works
2. Mr. Eddie Haas, Freese and Nichols

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor