

Kendall County – Boerne – Fair Oaks Transportation Committee Minutes

**05 July 2022
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

In Attendance:

Don Durden, Bob Manning, Ben Eldredge, Bryce Boddie, John Kight, Jeff Carroll, Rich Sena, Northern Hendricks, Gary Louie, and Rankin D'Spain.

Not in Attendance:

Henry Acosta, Josh Limmer, Kim Blohm, Steve Sharma, Jonah Evans, Del Eulberg, Marcus Garcia, Stephen Zoeller, Bitsy Pratt, and Tim Bannwolf.

Item 1: OPENING REMARKS

Don Durden brings the meeting to order. He first wishes the Committee a Happy 4th of July and makes some comments about being thankful for the great country that we live in, and to let that motivate the members' participation in this process. There is not a quorum among the Committee members present, but he says there are a few things they can still discuss and cover.

Jeff Carroll notes that Erika Rowe, the scrivener, is out sick. He just asks that everyone speak clearly into the microphone.

Item 2: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2022

The minutes from June 21, 2022 are not ready for consideration at this time. This item is skipped until a later meeting date.

Item 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Durden opens the floor for the first opportunity for public comment.

Alex Rudd approaches the lectern. She has a few key concerns she wants to address. The first concern is about the mentioning of thoroughfare planning in the last meeting, which she reviewed online. Bitsy Pratt and

Northern Hendricks made comments about the drought, and Rudd has been looking at reports and information about the water resources in the area, including groundwater levels. She says that the City appears to refuse acknowledging the seriousness of the lack of water. She says although this is not the Water Committee, but the Transportation Committee has an opportunity to protect our recharge features. She says the area is vulnerable to losing recharge capacity and spills. She says that Kendall County is not meant for high-density development and that is not a sustainable path.

Wanda McCarthy is joining via Zoom. She asks that the Committee members respond to some of her commentary today. She begins by saying that several months ago, she made an expensive suggestion to try and fix some of the Highway 46 traffic; so far it has not been presented. She says that it seems some of the Committee members had discussion about it prior to the meeting because she has heard comments on how bridge work is too expensive to even consider. She requests that the information on whether there was a pre-meeting held on the subject be released to the public, or that John Kight would give an estimate on what the cost would be for a project of the sort. Her next question: she wonders if the Committee is aware of the price per square foot that was paid to Dana Green, the developer of Ranches at Creekside. She says that four years ago, she says her understanding is that there was a charge of \$15 per square foot for the Highway 46 ROW from TxDOT. She does some calculation and says that 23 million dollars per mile would have been acquired for the ROW. She says this covers karst and low water crossings where bridge work would be necessary.

Hendricks says that the Committee covered discussions on the extension to IH-10. It was not part of the Crowdsourcing documents, and it was not included in the report because TxDOT does not allow connections to the Frontage Road within too close a proximity to another access.

Durden says that McCarthy's suggestion was considered, it was just rejected. He asks Kight to weigh in on the estimated cost for the bridge work.

Kight says his estimate came to 100 million dollars for ROW that extended and tied into Herff Road and elevated to IH-10, not including the tie-ins to 46 and 10. After that, it would be closer to a 150-160 million dollar project.

Carroll says 100 dollars per square foot is the number he has been told for a long time for bridges, but more recently it's been closer to 150-200 dollars per square foot.

Item 4: REVIEW FINAL COMMITTEE SOURCED PROJECT SUGGESTION

Durden says that Kight has given the Committee a suggestion for Highway 46 and River Road.

Kight explains that this is a way to mitigate the flooding at the intersection of Herff, Esser, and Highway 46. He says this solution won't solve the flooding at Cibolo Creek, but there will be a high-water route along Highway 46. After some questions from Durden over concerns for 18-wheelers, Kight explains the design for two-way traffic; there would be a need for widening of the road and ROW acquisition from the nursing home. Kight says it's mostly City ROW.

Gary Louie chimes and in asks if this is a suggestion that would go in with the other ideas for this intersection. Durden says this is a variation of many of those, and that they have passed several of those along for consideration. Durden doesn't want to adopt it today but would rather have a full quorum to consider it.

Moving on, Hendricks sent out an email to the Committee members with remaining recommendations for discussion, including the one they just discussed from Kight and the Kreutzberg crossing on the Guadalupe River. Those are the only projects that she could find that they had not come to any conclusion on.

Bryce Boddie mentions the Blanco Road diet and a greenfield connection between Bentwood and Champion Heights, but Durden explains that those have been included in another category and have been addressed.

The Committee continues to review some of the projects they have discussed before, just ensuring that all projects have been accounted for and addressed in conversation.

The Committee has some discussion about Ref-ID number 30, which is the Champion Boulevard extension to the end of Esperanza. Durden says he is not able to find it in the list of those projects that made the cut for the report. Hendricks thinks the Committee decided on connecting them in some way and showing support for that, but not necessarily drawing any lines anywhere since it was a greenfield project. Boddie and Carroll note that this idea is represented on the City's Major Thoroughfare Plan.

Kight brings up the issues on City Park Road, but Durden notes that he has it written down that he is supposed to come up with an excerpt for that area. Other pending excerpts are from Marcus Garcia, Bobby Balli, and Jonah Evans regarding the Policy Section of the report.

Durden asks the Committee to review the last remaining items for discussion.

Durden also explains that eventually he would like the Committee to vote on the top 10 recommendations to include in the report. He says the Committee will be completed with their meetings on the third Tuesday in September (this includes the approval of the report), which is September 20th, 2022.

Item 5: CONSIDER RE-ADOPTION OF POLICY CHAPTER

Moving on, Durden notes that the subcommittee has been working on the final policy narrative. They plan to change the organization a little bit to make it more of a report rather than a list.

Ben Eldredge asks for clarification that even though they will be voting on the top 10, the other ideas will still make it into the report in some form. Bob Manning responds and says yes.

Durden says at the next meeting, they will hear from the Pedestrian/Trails Subcommittee. Eldredge says they will be presenting some policy

recommendations, but he hopes the Committee will see the vision the Subcommittee has created as well (regarding maps and trails). Much of it, he says, is aspirational.

Louie asks if their recommendations will be a part of the policy report or if they have their own document they have come up with. Eldredge explains that they did not want to disrupt the policy that has already been detailed, so the Subcommittee agreed to bring forth their ideas and strategy separately. Eventually, the idea is to merge the policies together for reporting.

Louie asks if the Committee will know which projects the City leans heavily in favor toward at some point. He says that having that knowledge would help them in their decision on what to prioritize, especially if they are already moving forward on some of the projects they have for recommendation.

Durden responds and says that as of now, there are two drainage structures on Adler Road that the City and County are cooperating on. There is also a bridge on Old San Antonio Road in the works. Carroll weighs in on this question, saying that the City has presented many roadway and intersection projects to City Council for discussion. He says there have been about 5-6 meetings discussing a possible bond election, which Council will decide on in August.

Louie also asks if the Committee's protocol's related to voting by Zoom if a member cannot attend in person. Durden says that the Committee has not decided that, but he has no objection to voting by Zoom.

Manning circles back to Louie's first question, saying that if the City has decided to move forward on a project, the Committee has already agreed to give their support and simply move on. There would be no more need for discussion at that point. As far as project that the City is leaning toward that they have not begun, he thinks it is very important for the Committee to express their support for any projects they think would be most beneficial for the community. Adding onto that, even if they knew the City was not leaning heavily toward any project, this Committee's goal was to be the voice of the people, and whether the City agrees or not is not a good

enough reason not to voice their support for a project they feel strongly about.

Item 6: REVIEW DRAFT REPORT

This item is skipped until there is a quorum of Committee members.

Item 7: REVIEW ASSIGNMENTS FOR CROWDSOURCE PROJECT SHEETS

This item is skipped until there is a quorum of Committee members.

Item 8: PUBLIC COMMENT

Durden opens the floor for the last opportunity for public comment.

Alex Rudd approaches the lectern once more. She brings up the crossing of the Guadalupe using Kreuzberg Road. She asks if the Committee can share what the disposition of that item is. The Committee looks through their notes to find what the outcome of the discussion over that item was. Rich Sena says it is not in the most current packet of project items, which means that the recommendation did not move forward for the report. Kight makes comments that it would have been a potentially viable option since it would have tied into the fire department and led to several schools as opposed to having to come all the way down to Boerne. Another connector would have been useful, and he thinks safety is the biggest factor for justification for that project. Rudd argues that it is a connector between to major highways, which would detract from the rural nature of the community in that area. Durden chimes in saying that they cannot find it anywhere in the documents for the report; it was not included for consideration. Rudd thanks all, including Kight for his input, and steps away from the lectern.

Denise Dever is joining via Zoom and has comments for the Committee. She mentioned that the Zoom meeting lost a lot of audio but cleared up when Rudd took the microphone for Public Comment. She expresses concerns about the historic information from the Committee's time together being available into the future. Their website is hosted by an elected official

by way of personal funds, and she is concerned all the work the Committee has accumulated will be lost. She also adds that she has some regrets that Dr. Veni's information was only on video, and while it is compelling, it is not reduced to writing, so she is also concerned that that will be lost.

Wanda McCarthy is also joining via Zoom and says that she had another question. Pertaining to Kight's suggestion for a high-rise around River Road, she asks if the option that he has presented would still allow for a roundabout to be used in that area. Durden responds and says that his understanding is the current option that was presented today does not facilitate the use of a roundabout at that intersection. McCarthy moves on to another question. She asks if the Committee is aware that the City came out in the paper last week, saying that impact fee funds are being used to purchase property in the County outside the ETJ to supplement high density development with The Lookout Group. She says that the City should have used those funds to purchase property within the City limits, specifically to benefit the intersection at Herff and Esser in front of the gas station. She asks the Committee for their support on the purchasing of that property because she believes it will be money better spent.

Durden says he is not aware of any of that information and asks if any other members are aware of it. Carroll weighs in and says the Water Utility is looking to purchase a property to build a second connection point to the GBRA line that runs cross-country. He believes that is what she is talking about.

Eldredge comments on Dever's concerns about the loss of the website, saying he doesn't believe that Mayor Handren will pull the plug on the information there. He says that Hendricks has most of the information on her computer anyway since she is the one who keeps up with the website. He thinks that certainly an archived copy of the website could be created in-house, perhaps through the County. Hendricks says she does own the database. Many Committee members concur with keeping the information out there for the public to look back on.

Item 9: ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:00 p.m.