

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2010, at 7:12 p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works

1. CIP Programming Update

Councilmember John Paulson excused himself from the meeting.

Transportation Manager Garrin Coleman stated this item is to move two CIP projects that are currently stalled because of right-of-way acquisition problems. These projects are T-008, which is a Roswell Road Streetscape from Cliftwood to Hammond Drive, and T-0012, which is a Roswell Road Streetscape project from Johnson Ferry to Abernathy. Staff is trying to reprogram some construction funds that are on two other Capital Improvement projects. The other projects are T-0019, which is the Roswell Road Streetscape from the City Limits, and T-0021, which is the Lake Hearn at Peachtree-Dunwoody at I-285 intersection improvement. Staff is trying to reprogram construction money from these two projects to right-of-way funds for T-008 and T-0012.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked to hear the explanation on how the money is going to be moved.

Transportation Manager Coleman stated money would be moved from T-0019, which is the Roswell Road Streetscape south of I-285 from the City limits north to Long Island Drive for the first three thousand feet. There is construction money on this project currently that was reprogrammed from Riverside Drive and Windsor Parkway. Staff would like to move construction money from projects T-009 and T-0021 to T-008 and T-0012, which are in the City center. Staff would also recommend that T-0019 be advanced through the process and that staff apply for additional construction money for that project to backfill.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnery asked if the money is permanently being removed from putting in streetscape at the City's gateway.

Transportation Manager Coleman stated construction money will be moved that is currently funded for that project.

Mayor Galambos stated staff will ask for the construction money to be replaced.

Transportation Manager Coleman stated correct. That project is covered in an active LCI area. Staff can apply for LCI funding, which is set aside priority transportation funding, to backfill that project for construction.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery asked if we are assured we will receive the LCI funding.

Transportation Manager Coleman responded no.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated Northridge Road is receiving funding as well as a pedestrian bridge at Roswell Road and the Chattahoochee River. When will the City receive the Livable Centers Initiative streetscape for the gateway to the south?

Councilmember Ashley Jenkins stated from what she recalls there is money in ten different areas and none of the projects have been moving forward. What staff is trying to do is put all the money in one area to complete one project. She is happy to move T-0012 off and place T-0019 higher up. She would like to consolidate the City's money and have the projects in the center of the City fixed first. She asked what we are doing with the utilities. She does not see a cost estimate.

Transportation Manager Coleman stated Georgia Power wants to be paid to come up with a detailed cost estimate for moving the utilities underground or relocating them mid-block. Georgia Power does not want to tie their staff up on this unless they are compensated for it.

Mayor Galambos asked how the City managed to get the utilities moved behind the buildings for the revitalization part of the project.

Director of Community Development Nancy Leathers stated the City paid Georgia Power for the design and the relocation of the utilities behind the buildings.

Mayor Galambos asked if Director of Community Development Leathers remembered the cost of moving the utilities from Hildebrand to Hammond Drive.

Director of Community Development Leathers stated she does not recall the cost. Public Works probably has the records now.

Transportation Manager Coleman stated he does not have the cost on hand.

Councilmember Jenkins stated she asks about the utilities every time. Please include the cost estimate in the report. She does not understand why everyone wants to expand where the City is putting streetscape without doing a good job on the ones that will be constructed. She would like to see a cost estimate of what it would cost to place the utilities behind the buildings or under the ground for T-0008.

Mayor Galambos stated Director of Public Works Tom Black has the ballpark figures and the cost runs into the millions.

Director of Public Works Tom Black stated he will get that number for Council. He is trying to separate the two, if possible. If the City now has money for right-of-ways, his position is that the City is widening the roads, so that requires the utilities to be moved to the back of the right-of-way for free. The City may then want to do something to fund moving the utilities behind the buildings. Burying the utilities can be very costly.

Councilmember Jenkins stated she has said from the beginning that if the ugly brown poles are not being removed, the streetscape does not do a whole lot.

Councilmember Meizen McEnergy stated she agrees with Councilmember Jenkins.

Mayor Galambos stated removing the brown poles in the area where they were removed did make a difference. It would be helpful for staff to give Mayor and Council a cost estimate for moving the poles.

Director of Public Works Black stated staff will get the pricing on that. He is trying to push in this direction because staff is under pressure from the Atlanta Regional Commission and others to do something with this money. They are considering pulling the money back from all the entities that have not spent it. That is why staff is trying to reprogram and move forward. Staff may be able to find an energy grant or something similar that can help with the relocation of the utilities.

Mayor Galambos asked if the City is in danger of losing the money that will be used in the center of the City.

Director of Public Works Black stated if staff does not have the money committed and the right-of-way acquired, the City could be in danger of losing that money next spring. If Council approves this, staff can move forward. There is a PI number where staff can get a review by GDOT. Until we can show GDOT how the right-of-way will be paid for, they will not take the plans and move them forward. As soon as they see that we have the funding, then they start following the process.

Mayor Galambos stated there is a time factor in this decision tonight.

Director of Public Works Black responded yes.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio stated speaking for himself and Councilmember Meinzen McEnery; they are more concerned with the entire development of Sandy Springs than they are their individual Districts. He would be supportive of moving forward with this for the general good of the City.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnery stated she would like to see estimates of when staff will reapply for that streetscape funding up to Long Island Drive.

Director of Public Works Black stated every single time there is an opportunity.

Councilmember Jenkins asked if Mayor and Council can be given the ballpark figures on moving the utilities before the next Council meeting.

Director of Public Works Black stated he will get a ballpark figure, but it will not be accurate. He is trying to make an engineering judgment about what Georgia Power is telling staff. Georgia Power previously gave staff a number that was approximately \$9.5 million from Johnson Ferry Road up to Abernathy Road.

Councilmember Jenkins stated she is not concerned about the Johnson Ferry Road to Abernathy Road section. She would like the figures for the center of the City.

Director of Public Works Black stated he believes the utilities can be moved there at a fairly reasonable price.

Mayor Galambos suggested looking at what it cost to move the utilities from Hildebrand to Hammond.

Director of Public Works Black stated staff will do that.

There was general discussion on the parking and shuttle bus needs for the inaugural Sandy Springs Veterans Day Celebration on November 11, 2010.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Date Approved: November 2, 2010



Eva Galambos, Mayor



Michael Casey, City Clerk