

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, April 13, 2006
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Abdo New River Room

ROLL CALL

BOARD PRESENT: Alan Hooper, Chair
Peter Feldman, Vice Chair
Jack T. Loos, Secretary
Gale Butler, Treasurer
Charles B. Ladd, Board Member
Doug Eagon, Board Member

ABSENT: William R. Scherer, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT: John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director
Elizabeth Veliky, Planning & Design Manager
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator
Erin Emmons, Planning Assistant
Eric Zahn, Planning Intern
Neil Sterling, DDA Governmental Liaison
Patti Hitchcock
Eric Liberman
John Lafferty
Phil Smelley
Jonathan Roberson
Rebecca Horwitz
Jeff Weidner
Susan Lesser
Andrea Scarborough
Errol Taylor
Roger Desjarlais
Ron Hicks

PRESIDING: Alan Hooper, Chair

Mr. Hooper called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. Roll call was taken by Mr. Wren. All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Scherer.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Hooper called for a motion approving the items on the Consent Agenda. **Mr. Loos made a motion to approve and Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. None opposed.** The following items were unanimously approved:

- C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow-ups from the March 9, 2006 Board Meeting.
- C-2) Approval of the Financial Audit and Financial Statements as submitted by the DDA's Auditor, Keefe, McCullough & Co., LLP.

Chairman Hooper then went onto the items on the Regular Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Report

Major Kiley reported that crime was about the same and that during the period of March 2005-March 2006, crime was down. He stated that the homeless usually come out between 2:00-8:00 p.m. on Second Street. He is working with an outreach officer on this issue. He stated that there have been vehicle burglaries across the street and they have arranged parking enforcement to stay at night which has reduced the number of burglaries. He mentioned that Cinco de Mayo and Fleet Week were forthcoming and that there will be adequate staffing levels.

Chairman Hooper thanked Major Kiley for his help and said that the Board is appreciative.

At this time, Chairman Hooper invited Jeff Weidner to sit at the table. Chairman Hooper then asked Mr. Wren to give an update on his recent trip to Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

Jonathan Roberson and Rebecca Horwitz were invited to sit at the table.

R-2 Downtown Transit Circulator Update

Mr. Wren stated that a subcommittee was formed and that Jeff Weidner has taken the leadership role. Mr. Wren stated that they met with the new State Secretary of FDOT, Denver Stutler on March 31st. He said that John and Neil have been meeting with County staff for interim support. Mr. Wren stated that they went to Washington, D.C. to meet with Husein Cumber and received good support within the Department as well as Senators and Congresspersons. He went on to say that they are requesting \$4.6 million and he feels they will get a large share of that. He went through the next steps in the process and stated that the start date for the first phase, depending on the outcome of the analysis, is 2009. He said that the FTA wants to include the extensions in the analysis. Mr. Wren said that the ITS number was low and that it has been updated. He said they met with the MPO and that they pledged \$100,000. He said they have been meeting with the County and BCT staff and that they are all assembled here at the meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Smelley thanked Mr. Wren and said this experience has been very pleasant. Mr. Smelley said his group has been coordinating with partners, pursuing funding, and getting organized. He indicated that the new transit picture displayed in the presentation will be incorporated into future pictures and slides. He went on to give his presentation.

He stated it is nice to have a Regional Transit Plan. He indicated that if we qualify for the TRIPS Program, we can get up to 50% back of the capital cost. He said that the overall project is now called the Downtown Transit Corridor Program which includes the Downtown Transit Circulator (DTC), Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), and Streetscape. He stated they had successful funding meetings with Denver Stutler, Lowell Clary and Ed Coven and have conducted follow-up conversations with all of them. Mr. Smelley said that the primary focus in the next 4-6 weeks is the scoping process, a public meeting and meeting with different agencies. He continued with his presentation.

Mr. Wren said that they requested \$2.5 million from three different grants for the Streetscape Plan and asked for confirmation on the timeline being this summer to start seeing the money. Mr. Smelley said they should receive \$495,000 in the next 60 days and the balance before August.

Chairman Hooper asked if any Board members had any questions.

Mrs. Butler asked how we could go forward without Federal money. Phil clarified Federal money would only be eliminated for the DTC and it is possible to get enough local support for it.

Mr. Weidner indicated the consultant was selected for the PE. He indicated it was an 18 month schedule and then spoke about the East/West connection. He indicated there are still alignment issues.
SEE ADDENDUM

Mr. Roberson said that the MOS has to be approved and that the alignment needs to be figured out. He said there are 21 miles of Light Rail which may get cut in half to get something built. He indicated that most communities do 6-10 miles at a time and then proceed with a Phase 2.

Chairman Hooper asked for clarification on what MOS is. Mr. Smelley said MOS is Minimal Operating Segment.

Mr. Roberson said the published date for the East/West connection on its own is projected for 2015.

Mr. Weidner stated they are targeting the next 5-year transportation bill.

Chairman Hooper said that at their meeting yesterday, the City Manager had questions and that our deal has more legs.

Mr. Weidner said the main thing is to get one of the projects started and that the success of the FDOT project and our project depends on each other. He said the DTCP is unique because it has private sector support, which is forcing the public sector. It is an economic generator.

Mr. Roberson said the FTA will be very interested because of our success and more apt to fund County-wide projects in the future.

Mr. Smelley said this will be the poster child for the Small Starts Project.

Mr. Eagon mentioned that even without regional connectors, our DTCP will be successful by itself.

Mr. Wren discussed his trip to Washington, D.C. He mentioned that Senator Nelson was sending two of his staff down here and that he was going to take them for a downtown tour along our proposed route.

Mr. Wren then asked for direction from the Board regarding a field trip where other Light Rail projects have been done similar to what we are trying to accomplish. He said he discussed this while in D.C. and with City Staff yesterday. He said that as we move forward in the process and we find out all the details, we should see how other areas maintain their system and what it looks like. He asked if the Board would like him to incorporate that.

Mr. Loos said that these are tight budgetary times but feels a fieldtrip makes sense. He said Mr. Wren should go and possibly legal counsel and that any Board members wanting to go should cover their own costs.

Chairman Hooper asked the Board if they should invite partners at the County, City and State levels.

Mr. Wren said he would put together a schedule.

Mr. Eagon asked if Mr. Wren had any areas in mind. Mr. Wren then deferred to Mr. Smelley who responded that Portland, Houston, San Diego and San Francisco would be good choices. He said they usually pick 3 or 4 with the most similarities and that they usually invite members of the press and chamber if the Board agrees with that.

Chairman Hooper said the City Manager asked for examples and Portland came up often in the conversation.

Mr. Loos said he feels we should include those people that are critical to the continued success of the project.

Mr. Eagon asked how many people Mr. Smelley usually takes and he responded that a group would be around 24 and that an average would be between 8-12.

Ron Hicks from the City of Fort Lauderdale said he was interested.

Chairman Hooper said he will wait to hear back on the details.

R-3 Downtown Beach Shuttle – Update on City’s Partnership

Mr. Wren said he is seeking authorization to release \$600,000 of partnership money for the beach shuttle to operate vehicles. Mr. Wren discussed the proposed routes as follows: Operating from the Performing Arts Center all the way down Las Olas north to Alhambra then circling back and connecting with the convention connection. The City wants to start with Thursday-Sunday. Mr. Wren discussed the hours of operation and said further details will be brought back to the Board.

Chairman Hooper stated that Mr. Wren was also looking for a six month extension.

Mr. Wren confirmed that he was looking for six more months to work out the details. **Mr. Wren asked for a motion authorizing the \$600,000, a six month extension and to have a decision on**

the routes made at a later time. All Board members approved the motion except Mr. Loos who voted “no”.

Chairman Hooper asked if there were any ongoing DDA items.

D-3 Resolution for State’s Sadowski Trust Fund Allocations

Mr. Wren said that Elizabeth Veliky sent out the Sadowski Act. Ms. Veliky sent the approved Resolution to the Florida Delegates and stated she’s received responses from Jack Seiler and Commissioner Moore in support of the Resolution.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Mr. Ladd asked for a status on the Workforce Housing item. Mr. Wren asked Ron Hicks if he knew where the City was with this item and he responded that he didn’t know.

Chairman Hooper asked if there were any questions on the Sadowski Act and said he wanted to add something.

Chairman Hooper asked who was handling marketing for the Board and asked if they could get together with Mark from PACA. He said there are grants out there. Elizabeth Veliky and Mrs. Butler will get together to check into this.

Mrs. Butler discussed the lighting for the Huizenga Park and gave an update. She said the lighting will be very interactive and will also serve a security purpose. She stated they have been working with Dan Corson, the Light artist hired by the County for their 30th Year Celebration of Culture Project.

Mr. Loos said that we should work towards making this a permanent enhancement, committing the financial resources.

Chairman Hooper said that he and Mr. Wren have discussed Riverwalk and the fact that it doesn’t have good lighting and that the bridges do not have lighting emphasizing the river.

Mr. Loos said that since this will be part of the transit project, it’s easy to include lighting enhancements.

Chairman Hooper asked if there was anything further from the Board.

Mr. Wren said that Mrs. Butler and staff have been updating the website. He further stated that there are lots of dogs in the downtown and that staff is looking into having an event, such as the “dog days of summer” where the Mayor will give a bone to the City to a dog. He said this will be an educational approach on how to clean up after your dog.

Mr. Loos suggested taking pictures of the downtown and sending them to City Commissioners, the City Manager, Legislators, etc. in a package thanking them for their support in developing the

downtown as a way to share in the success. Mr. Loos said the Board should allocate money to do this and made a motion.

The motion was seconded. All Board members approved the motion.

As there was no other business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

A taped recording of the full proceedings of the April 13, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board is on file in the DDA office – 305 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 301.

Addendum to the Minutes (regarding Jeff Weidner's comments)

Chris/Alan, I need to clarify my statements from this morning on the status of the Central Broward East/West Study. We are not in a FTA "PE" per se but are moving forward with somewhat of a hybrid scope of work on our next Phase which includes the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the initial PE. Please share with your Board and maybe add to as an addendum to the minutes.

When FDOT/MPO completed the AA we did not submit our formal application because we would have received a low rating. Rather than receive the green light from FTA to move forward with a DEIS/PE we did receive a green light to move forward with the DEIS. The current scope is funded 100% state and we have moved forward to include in this Phase the DEIS and initial PE.

We have just completed selection and are now negotiating the contract. This can take several months. However we will be analyzing initial design in the latter months of the contract (18 mos).

Although we continue to move forward there will be a number of issues to address early in the new scope:

Sunrise and 136th Ave corridor

Alignment through Davie - controversy over south side of road and extending beyond University Dr City of Plantation definitely wants the system to go beyond University to a station to access midtown Plantation but doesn't want the system on SR 7

The downtown to airport segment could be replaced by FEC service or using the DDA route

Location of maintenance facility

Analysis of Minimum Operating segment (Downtown to Davie), (Downtown to SR 7)

Good news is that the segment between I-95 to downtown is ahead of all others and we are working now through City Admin to introduce the station area plans for 15th Ave and 7th Ave approaching downtown .

Sorry if I got the Board overly excited about moving into PE - Design but we are moving forward with DEIS, Initial PE. Once this is complete we will move to Final EIS/Formal PE, then Design. It is anticipated we should be in the middle of design when the next transportation bill comes through which will position well for funding.