

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
March 19, 2012 EPC Meeting

EPC Members in Attendance

X	Peter Pennington (Chair)	X	Danielle Fidler	✓	Kurt Moser
✓	Jennifer Hovis	✓	Patrick Hagan	X	Phil Voorhees
✓	Heather Schaefer	X	Scott Barstow	✓	Geoffrey Goode
X	Kristen Nelson	✓	Josh Sawislak	✓	Rebecca Jablon

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Khoa Tran, Bill Skrabak

Begin 7:35 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Pat Hagan, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

- None

Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study, Steve Sindiong, Principal Transportation Planner, T&ES

- There are three corridors as part of the study for expanded transit service:
 - o Corridor A: North-South
 - o Corridor B: Duke St/Eisenhower Ave
 - o Corridor C: Van Dorn St/Beauregard St
- The study looked into different transit modes: bus, bus rapid transit and streetcar, and looked into a number of possible station characteristics, and analyzed which would be more suitable for each corridor.
- The next step is an alternatives analysis/environmental assessment for Corridor C, which is currently the highest priority.
- The High Capacity Transit Work Group, established by City Council, to garner citizen input on the study. The Work Group meetings focused on providing recommendations for each corridor. Monthly meetings were held over nearly a year and a half; their last meeting was held March 15th.

Hybrid Buses versus Diesel Buses, Jim Maslanka, Division Chief, T&ES Transit Services

- Bill stated that the T&ES staff is putting together a budget memo quantifying the costs and benefits of hybrid trolleys and DASH buses. The City Manager has not yet made his final recommendation.
- Jim presented those costs and benefits of the hybrid vehicles.
 - o Considering the positive environmental impacts, comparable costs over the life of the vehicle and increased public satisfaction with hybrid buses, the T&ES staff recommends hybrid buses.
- The EPC will revisit its previous letter of support and re-send if needed.

Staff & Commission Members Update

- CSO Permit Update, Bill Skrabak
 - o The City is still in discussions with the State on the draft permit.
 - o A meeting with DEQ was postponed; T&ES will have more information once that meeting takes place.

- T&ES will have some discussions with City Council as this moves forward
- Green Business Recognition Program
 - Rebecca announced that she is now the point of contact to the ACVA for the program; and that 4 businesses have applied thus far.
 - The ACVA has reached out to those businesses they knew were already certified, so that they can potentially speak at the official roll-out meeting on April 20th.
- Outreach
 - Danielle and Jennifer staffed the Del Ray meet and greet, though it was a small turn-out
 - Jennifer will attend the bus stop dedication for the smoke free bus stop campaign on March 21st.

Earth Day Update

- Jennifer announced that the posters are ready and asked EPC members to take and distribute the posters.
- Laura Medhurst, a former EPC member, kindly volunteered to help with the activity for the EPC's table; our outreach efforts will be a complement to Laura's kid activity.
- Unfortunately, the individual lined up to MC the event is moving out of state. Jennifer is looking into a new MC.
- The deadline for exhibitors is this Friday, March 23rd.
- Ellen Pickering Award:
 - Geoff announced that thus far, one nomination has been received; ACVA and the Chamber will each submit a recommendation
 - Announcements have gone out through all the city channels
 - The nomination process has been extended until March 31st
 - A brief mention was written up in the Patch today

Administrative Items

- Minutes were approved from February 27th and March 5th.

2011 Eco-City Progress and Key Environmental Indicators

- The Key Environmental Indicators will be presented to City Council on April 10th. The EPC is invited to attend the session.
- Please provide any more comments to Khoa by Friday, March 23rd.

Review of the EAP 2030

- Josh went through the comments posted from EPC members to the transportation chapter. Such comments and discussions included:
 - A discussion on stormwater issues should be included in the discussion on complete streets
 - Throughout the chapter, where "alternative transportation" is meant, it should not be called "public transportation."
 - EPC members discussed the viability of decal fees versus raising parking fees. Both were thought to be not viable.
 - Bill S. will check on the frequency of the streetscape audits
- Josh will look into alternative methods to Google Docs.

Adjourn 9:45 PM