

Planning Commission Work Session

May 27, 2014

NDS Conference Room

Commissioner's Present

Dan Rosensweig - Chairperson
Kurt Keesecker
Lisa Green
Natasha Sienitsky
John Santoski
Mike Osteen

Staff Present

Missy Creasy
Lisa Robertson

Mr. Rosensweig convened the meeting at 5:05 pm and turned the meeting over to Ms. Creasy.

Ms. Creasy introduced Sarah Rhodes, Program Manager for the Charlottesville – Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Ms. Rhodes started off by saying this meeting is to provide the planning commission with an update on the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She said that this 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan update will replace the existing plan 2035 United Jefferson Area Mobility (UnJAM 2035) Plan. She said that these plans are federally-mandated documents that outline the region's future transportation vision and included a list of projects for achieving this vision.

Ms. Rhodes gave a brief synopsis of the final phase of the project. She stated that the current structure includes the US 29 Western Bypass project which is funded by the state's Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP). She said due to recent events involving this project, there would be a degree of uncertainty regarding the region's future transportation vision.

Further stated that the MPO Policy Board has decided to continue forward with the 2040 LRTP as it is currently structured in order to meet the deadline (May 28th) for renewing the 2040 LRTP.

Ms. Rhodes concluded by saying that once the approach to improving congestion and mobility in the US 29 corridor is better defined, the MPO staff will begin working with its

committees to develop a method for addressing these issues in the 2040 LRTP document, which will be discussed during the May 2014 meeting cycle.

Dan Rosensweig thanked Ms. Rhodes for the presentation and recommended the Planning Commission be included in the LRPT process at the beginning of the next review.

Ms. Sienitsky remarked that the Comprehensive Plan/LRPT is important for community transportation planning continuity.

Mr. Osteen stated that there is great value in both of these planning processes, and questioned the possibility of adjusting the time frames of the LRPT to match those of the Comprehensive Plan?

Mr. Rosensweig noted the procedure used by the planning commission for the CIP review and felt a similar process could be used for the LRTP.

Ms. Creasy said that the MPO Tech committee provides the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with input on the process and the planning commission representative can express these comments.

Mr. Rosensweig feels strongly that the planning commission does not want to rely on memory to assure that we are included in the process for the next 5 year plan. He recommended drafting a letter to Kristin Szakos, chair of the TJPDC outlining the request to become a formal part of the process.

Mr. Santoski, Ms. Green, and Mr. Keesecker agreed that this is a good idea.

Once drafted, Ms. Creasy will send a copy to Ms. Rhodes to distribute to all the TJPDC members.

This portion of the meeting was adjourned and Commissioners moved to City Council Chambers for a presentation to be followed by a focus group as part of the Street Design Charrett.