

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the August 9, 2006, Meeting

Page 1

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2006, at the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Richard S. Staub, Vice Chairperson Charles Des Jardins, and Members Shelly Aldean, Mitchell Dion, Larry Hastings, Dennis Taylor and Michael Zola

**STAFF PRESENT:** Redevelopment/Economic Development Manager Joe McCarthy, Deputy Public Works Manager Mark Jackson, Principal Planner Lee Plemel, Transportation/Transit Program Manager Patrick Pittenger, RTC Engineer Harvey Brotzman, Park Planner Vern Krahn, and Recording Secretary Katherine McLaughlin (CAMPO 8/8/06 Recording 5:31:10)

**NOTE:** Unless otherwise indicated, each item was introduced by staff's reading/outlining/clarifying the Request for Board Action Report and/or supporting documentation. Staff members making the presentation are listed after the Item's heading. Any other individuals who spoke are listed immediately following the staff listing. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours.

**A. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM** - Chairperson Staub convened the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Roll call was taken. The entire Board was present constituting a quorum.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:31:40)** - Member Aldean moved to approve the Minutes from June 14, 2006, meeting for the Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization as presented. Members Des Jardins and Hastings seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Member Dion abstaining.

**C. MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (5:32:12)** - None.

**D. STAFF PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (5:33:01)** - Deputy Public Works Manager Mark Jackson introduced Transportation Program Manager Patrick Pittenger. Chairperson Staub welcomed him.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT (5:33:53)** - Joseph Murphy explained his use of the City's website and calendar. CAMPO, RTC, and the Airport Authority agendas are not on the calendar or the agendas are not for current meetings. He also indicated an intent to attend the next Board of Supervisors meeting. Chairperson Staub indicated that as the City's "Black Sheep" the agenda for CAMPO/RTC are not always placed on the City's website. Member Aldean explained that the City's website is under construction. Additional public comments were solicited but none were given. No formal action was taken.

**F. DISCLOSURES (5:35:21)** - None.

**G. PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS (5:35:11):**

**G-1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN CARSON STREET VIDEO-**  
Redevelopment/Economic Development Manager Joe McCarthy, Principal Planner Lee Plemel, Parks Planner

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the August 9, 2006, Meeting

Page 2

Vern Krahn, Joseph Murphy, Nancy Sweetland - Mr. McCarthy explained that the plan and video had been introduced approximately six weeks ago. There have been a number of presentations made in the community. They have been well attended and community feed back indicates support for the downtown restoration program. The program's purpose and elements were limned. The program's desirability places it as a high priority for the community. Redevelopment has been occurring for decades in the downtown area, however, a shortage of parking and lack of pedestrians remain. Completion of the freeway and improvements to Roop, Fairview, and Stewart will make the program feasible. Justification for his statements indicating that the public wants the program development was provided. He believed that its development is feasible and doable as indicated by his list of other communities who have pursued similar programs. Additional reasons for pursuing the program were provided. The virtual tour was then shown. Its highlights were described. The video is on the City's website or a disk of it is obtainable. Benefits of the proposed Washington Street drainage channel/stream were limned. The pedestrian friendliness of the plan was stressed. Mr. Plemel acknowledged that the traffic flow as indicated in the video is not at the current level and may not be as modeled by the City's consultant DKS Engineering. DKS has indicated, based on future growth, that six lanes on Carson, Roop and Stewart Streets will be needed in the future. Expanding Roop and Stewart Street to four lanes each with the two lanes on Carson Street will be able to handle this projected traffic level. Staff is working with DKS on a block by block basis to determine an easy method for traffic to flow from east to west. Public Works Director Andrew Burnham has allegedly estimated that the improvements from Musser to William without the Washington Street drainage/stream will cost less than \$11 million. He purportedly had included a 50% "fudge" factor in his calculations. A funding source could be the NDOT funds that will be provided to bring Carson Street up to a standard when NDOT turns it over to Carson City as a four-lane road.

Mr. McCarthy then explained the need for additional parking in the downtown area and the parking inventory that had been conducted. Parking solutions used in another community/ies were limned to illustrate that a solution is possible. He also indicated that a quality residential component will assist in making the downtown area successful. Chairperson Staub thanked them for the presentation. The project contains challenges for CAMPO/RTC.

Member Zola suggested that the riparian area concept along Washington Street be used along another street to direct people to the Brewery Arts Center rather than the use of signs.

Member Hastings felt that a majority of the cities who have used the proposed concept were located "back east" or in California. They are not 24-hour towns or centered around gaming. He questioned whether these concepts will work here. He acknowledged that a lot of work is necessary to complete the concept. He also indicated that he will have a lot of questions from a traffic stand point. He felt that it would be difficult to give away traffic lanes when there aren't enough now. He acknowledged that Sparks had done a good job with its redevelopment, however, it has a lot of parallel east/west streets. He opined his belief that six lane roads may not be adequate to meet the traffic demand. Mr. McCarthy indicated that a number of other people have voiced the same concerns. He also indicated that the project will not commence until there is hard data to support it, the freeway is constructed to Fairview, and an understanding of how traffic will be moved is determined. The concept may have to start with four lanes of traffic. Some cities have developed such concepts. Good signage and street scape are needed for them to be accomplished. He also committed to not proceeding with the concept until they are sure it can be accomplished as he did not wish to make a mistake. The project is in the design phase. Additional comments were solicited.

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the August 9, 2006, Meeting

Page 3

Mr. Krahn explained for Mr. Murphy that the landscaping in the downtown area currently uses potable water. Using reclaimed water is an expensive option, however, it is doable. The concept is for all of the landscaping to be on drip lines. Mr. Murphy expressed his opinion that the amount of landscaping required for commercial sites is being reduced. He also questioned what will happen if the freeway is closed. How will traffic be rerouted? He opined that Carson Street should remain four lanes until the answers to his questions have been found. Additional comments were solicited.

Mr. Plemel explained for Ms. Sweetland that the concept removed the center medians so that the Nevada Day Parade can continue to use Carson Street. The streams from Ash and Kings Canyons were used to create the Washington Street stream. Ms. Sweetland explained that a lot of children were playing in the Mills Parks creek during the Rendezvous. The stream could be a liability to the City.

Member Aldean explained that the City had not relaxed the landscaping requirements for commercial sites. She opined that they are focusing on different landscaping for the downtown area. They will recognize the irrigation needs. She also suggested that metal strips be strategically placed on the benches to prevent skateboarders from using them for skating features. Mr. Plemel indicated that drip irrigation is being used in the downtown area now. Some of it will have to be relocated. Chairperson Staub suggested that the benches be tied down. Additional comments were solicited but none were given. Chairperson Staub thanked staff for the exciting concept. He also reminded them that RTC's purpose is to move traffic. The concept will be challenging and very expensive. He expressed his intent to consider the plan with an open mind. No formal action was required or taken.

**G-2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE V&T RAILROAD PROJECT**

**(6:18:22)** - Capital Engineering Project Manager of the Design Team for Reconstruction of the V&T Railroad Ken Dorr listed the other team members and its task. The original design and construction timeframe for the railroad were described and compared to the current design development, construction, and acquisition of right-of-way. A private railroad was reconstructed from Virginia City to Gold Hill in 1974. The Commission to Reconstruct the V&T Railroad was established in 1992. Funding for and the status of the project were limned. Construction is occurring in phases. The amount of additional right-of-way that is needed to get the railroad to Carson City and the status of their acquisition were provided. Mr. Dorr hoped to complete final design and acquisition of both permanent and temporary rights-of-way by December or early January. It will then be put out to bid. The status of Phase 2C, which will construct the railroad across Highway 50, was described. Work to reopen a tunnel was described. Final design depends upon what is discovered when it is opened. Funding for the project was included in the explanations. NDOT is overseeing the project and will ensure that Federal guidelines and NDOT standards are maintained. Mr. Dorr felt that all the agencies he is working with have been helpful and believe the project is doable and will be a reality. He appreciated the assistance he had received from the agencies. Potential funding sources for completion of the project were provided, however, may fall short of the total needed unless additional right-of-way donations are granted. Discussion noted the intent to seek \$8 million in funding from the State Legislature under the original grant terms of a no interest loan and repayment to be achieved from a \$1 fee on the tickets. Mr. Dorr then explained that an "RFP" has been issued for an operator. The desire is to find a professional operator who has a proven track record with a tourist railroad. Discussion justified the change in the depot location and for seeking "verbiage" from the bidders regarding the possibility of starting the operation before the railroad is completed to the depot as well as providing assistance with the final design of the Carson City

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the August 9, 2006, Meeting

Page 4

terminal/depot. Drako Way is the ultimate location for this depot/terminal. Challenges were noted regarding the interim depot, the Drako Way depot location, and the desire to have the train run along the Carson River.

Joe Murphy explained that he had been a resident for only five years. Several years ago some of the Commission's meetings were televised. This has stopped. Since that time there has been one surprise after another. The current estimated cost for the reconstruction, Mr. Gray's desire not to connect to the railroad, and the need to purchase rights-of-way were cited as examples of those surprises. Reasons the decisions were made to blow up the tunnels were cited to show that a vision was established in the 1950s. He felt that, as the very least, every V&T Commission meeting should be televised. Mr. Dorr indicated that he could not respond to all of his comments. The Commission meets at 3 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at the NACO building on the corner of Second and Roop. The public meetings are agenzized and advertised. Jim Thorpe had televised the meetings but is no longer able to do so. Volunteers are needed by the local television station who could televise the meetings. Discussion also explained that CAMPO had not given any money to the Commission. Mr. Murphy indicated that he will ask the Board of Supervisors this question at its next meeting. No formal action was taken or required regarding this Item.

**H. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (NON-ACTION ITEMS) - FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:39:33) - None.**

**I. ADJOURNMENT – CAMPO** - Member Aldean moved to adjourn. Member Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Chairperson Staub adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The Minutes of the August 9, 2006, Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting

ARE SO APPROVED ON September 13, 2006.

/s/

Richard S. Staub, Chairperson