

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the December 8, 2004, Meeting

Page 1

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, December 8, 2004, 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 Steve Reynolds, and Members Shelly Aldean, Kent Cooper, Charles Des Jardins, Dan Holler, and Michael Zola

**STAFF PRESENT:** Deputy City Engineer John Flansberg, RTC Engineer Harvey Brotzman, and Recording Secretary Katherine McLaughlin (MPO 12/8/04 Tape 1-0008)

**A. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM** - Chairperson Staub convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present. Members Aldean and Cooper arrived during Mr. Des Jardins' correction to the July 29<sup>th</sup> Minutes--5:32 p.m.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 7/29, 8/11 AND 9/8/04 (1-0025)** - Member Des Jardins corrected Page 2 of the July 29<sup>th</sup> Minutes to read: "He was uncertain what effect expanding the boundary in Lyon County may create." Member Reynolds moved to approve the Minutes as corrected. Member Des Jardins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (1-0060)** - Chairperson Staub indicated that Item F-3 would be considered before Items F-1 and F-2.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS (1-0066)** - None.

**E. DISCLOSURES (1-0070)** - Chairperson Staub disclosed that he had discussed Item F-3 with Gene Lepire on two occasions.

**F. PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS**

**F-3. ACTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO RECOMMEND TO THE NEVADA DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION (NDOT) A PROJECT TO INCREASE THE NORTH BOUND LANES ON HIGHWAY 395 FROM TWO LANES TO THREE LANES FROM NORTH SUNRIDGE DRIVE TO US 50 WEST (1-0085)** - Deputy City Engineer John Flansberg explained how staff became aware of additional commercial development occurring in the Sunridge/Topsy Lane area that will require a third traffic lane. Three lanes currently begin at Old Clear Creek Road. Justification for asking the State to widen the entire length to three lanes was provided. An alternative to widening the entire area to three lanes would eliminate one of the two left turn lanes onto Old Clear Creek Road. The transportation improvement plan (TIP) will have to be amended to reflect the proposed third lane. The standard noticing process will be used to notify the business owners, Douglas County and NDOT of the proposed revision to the TIP. Mr. Flansberg agreed that the corridor study should include the area. Member Aldean suggested that a development agreement be used to obtain reimbursement for the improvements if NDOT is unable to widen the entire stretch at this time. She explained her reasons for retaining the dual left turn lanes. Chairperson Staub indicated for the record his agreement with Member Aldean and objection to any change being made to the dual left turn lanes. Member Holler explained Douglas County's discussions with NDOT regarding the need for three lanes and the dual left turn lanes. He also supported retention of the dual left turn lanes and

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the December 8, 2004, Meeting

Page 2

widening the entire strip to three lanes. He indicated that Douglas County was also interested in having a right turn lane. He agreed that NDOT could use either a development or reimbursement agreement. These details are still be worked out. Chairperson Staub supported including a right turn onto Lupine. Drivers are presently using the bicycle lane and "jumping the curb" to make right turns at this intersection. Discussion indicated that Mr. Flansberg did not have an updated accident report illustrating an increase in accidents at this intersection although he felt that staff personally had observed a minimum on one accident a week at this intersection. He felt that additional side swipe accidents will occur if a transition from three lanes to two lanes is required. Member Zola explained his belief that the speed needed to be reduced to 40 miles per hour from Mica. He suggested that a comprehensive study of the entire traffic pattern be conducted.

Gene Lepire explained that he represented the owners of Bodines and the management of Costco. He also indicated that he had not received any notice about the CAMPO meeting until today. Neither he nor the individuals he represented support removal of one of the left turn lanes. He suggested that the developer be required to acquire some of the Clear Creek Mobile Home Park and straighten the intersection. Justification for this requirement was limned. Additional public comments were solicited.

Judy Lepire explained a letter she had received from NDOT delineating the freeway's design status. She felt that the widening and right turn should be made a part of it. Mr. Flansberg explained that part of staff's discussions with NDOT had included this proposal. Ms. Lepire pointed out that the developer will not complete his project until April 2005. Member Holler explained that the design work will determine whether the project's improvements can be added to the freeway. He did not want to wait for completion of the project before the design is finalized. Ms. Lepire urged the Board to work with NDOT and keep the freeway. Member Holler explained that the developer's construction timetable may be ahead of the freeway. He agreed that additional money would help develop the entire area. Additional public comments were solicited.

Member Holler explained to Margaret Kehres that the development on Highway 395 is between Topsy Lane and Old Clear Creek Road. Mr. Serpa's project is still a court matter. Ms. Kehres pointed out that a portion of Old Clear Creek Road is privately owned. She also expressed her belief that the road is on the agenda. Mr. Flansberg apologized for the confusion on the agenda. Mr. Serpa is meeting with the Forest Service regarding access issues. Member Holler explained his understanding that Mr. Serpa had a settlement conference today and could be involved in the settlement process for two or more months. If this process fails to reach a conclusion, the process goes on the court docket. This could occur within two months or sometime in the next two years. Ms. Kehres asked to be kept informed about the progress. Additional public comments were solicited. None were given. Chairperson Staub closed the public comment period.

Member Aldean moved to direct staff to recommend to the Nevada Dept. of Transportation a project to increase the north bound lanes on Highway 395 from two lanes to three lanes from North Sunridge Drive to U.S. 50 West and added without the elimination of the dual left turns at Old Clear Creek Road. Member Des Jardins seconded the motion. Member Cooper indicated that he would abstain. The motion was voted and carried 6-0-1 with Member Cooper abstaining.

**F-1. ACTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED ON CONTRACT NO. 0405-57 FOR THE "MPO ASSISTANCE PROJECT" THAT WAS PROVIDED BY STRATEGIC PROJECT MANAGEMENT, 10 SUDA WAY, RENO, NV 89509-3046 AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER**

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the December 8, 2004, Meeting

Page 3

**INTO AN AGREEMENT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2005, WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS FOR A CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$58,320 (1-0375)** - Deputy City Engineer John Flansberg explained the purpose of the contract. Only one bid was received even though there was a lot of interest in it on the website and from telephone calls to the office. Staff's recommendation was explained. Discussion explained that the \$58,320 is for only the work spelled out in the Board packet. The two-year extension of the contract will occur only if additional tasks or future uniform work programs create the need. The contract will be amended by Board action approving the additional task orders and amounts. Mr. Hall's recommended changes had been made to the contract and did not change the dollar amount. They relate to staff's desire to have the ability to extend the contract for two years. The original contract had been for only one year. The proposed contract total is \$58,320. The cost of the renewal will be added at the time the additional task order is submitted to the Board for approval. Public comments were solicited but none were given. Member Aldean moved to accept the proposal received on Contract No. 0405-57 for the MPO Assistance Project that was provided by Strategic Project Management, 10 Suda Way, Reno, Nevada 89509-3046 and authorize staff to enter into an agreement through December 31, 2005, for a contract amount not to exceed \$58,320 with the option to renew the contract for two additional years. Members Reynolds and Zola seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

**F-2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN (1-0445)** - Richard Weiner of Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates gave a slide presentation on the current program and its shortfalls. It was felt that the poor condition of the equipment may be the cause of reduction in ridership. This issue will be reconsidered in two months after the new equipment is put into service. There has been limited marketing which may reduce the community's knowledge about the service. Riders are denied service when the buses are full. The riders must sign up for service. Improvements to the registration process are needed. Riders must register with both Aging Services and Carson Community Transit. The lack of registration with Aging Services hampers their ability to obtain reimbursement. He felt that less than one-third of the trips are reimbursed at this time. The riders cannot be required to register with Aging Services. It was hoped that once a City transit person is hired, he/she will be able to provide oversight of the program and improvements can be made. He then explained the lack of transportation for students and OARC individuals outside of their workshops and the belief that a \$4 fare was too high for Latinos. The Senior Center is concerned about the potential loss of its service. Coordination with PRIDE and DART is desired. Transit needs for Lyon County and for other residents of the City were noted. The public needs to be made aware of the lack of service for these residents. Employer support for the program was suggested. The transit market survey indicates that a lot of seniors are currently using the service. The number of individuals 85 and older will increase by 50% by 2010. Twenty percent of the ridership have disabilities. Six-and-a-half percent of the households currently do not have a car. One-third of the households have only one car. Discussion indicated that the study had considered only Carson City and not the entire MPO area. Demand projections were then limned and included a fixed route system. Mr. Weiner also explained that once a fixed route system is implemented, an ADA paratransit obligation must be met. He indicated that they have tested some potential bus routes/configurations and will submit recommendations/proposals to the committee groups. Funding options will be considered. Written recommendations will be submitted to the Board in the future time. An action plan with maps defining the routes, service level, and financial impact will be included in this report. Member Reynolds pointed out that the report clearly shows what has been done but not the market desires. Discussion indicated that demographics were taken from the U.S. Census report, the State Demographer's figures, the Chamber of Commerce reports, and economic development reports. It was pointed out that there is more busing capacity except during periods of high usage. Mr. Weiner also pointed

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the December 8, 2004, Meeting

Page 4

out that the City is in an unusual position of having both new equipment and increased Federal funding. The new buses will carry between 12 and 16 passengers. This will allow their use in neighborhood areas but may be too small for use by the general public. Discussion pointed out that the college students may use the service if it is opened up for them. Other potential users may be seniors or individuals needing medical services or trips to the hospital. Member Reynolds repeated his contention that the current service had met a need, however, did not meet the demand.

Discussion indicated that the current service provider has no incentive for having people register with Aging Services. If an individual is assigned this task, it may be possible to increase the reimbursement ratio. Member Des Jardins explained his personal knowledge of the Central Valley areas used in the comparison chart. Mr. Weiner felt that Logan, Utah, was similar to Carson City and a better comparison than Lodi, California.

Nelson/Nygaard Consultant Doug Langill explained that the Central Valley figures include a lot of agricultural workers who may be one car families. They use the transit system to go to school, shopping, and obtain medical services. Porterville and Tulare were cited as examples of areas with a "captive" ridership which Carson City does not have.

Member Aldean suggested that the Department of Aging Services provide pamphlets on the buses urging the riders to register and providing information on the benefits of registration. Mr. Weiner reiterated the need for increased marketing. Mr. Flansberg indicated that the new transit person's responsibilities will include getting the riders to register with both Carson City Transit and Aging Services. Mr. Weiner also indicated that, while his study included only Carson City, his recommendations will include the entire MPO area. Clarification explained that the six new vehicles were replacement vehicles and not additional vehicles. A small increase for riders was provided as two of the buses are larger than the vehicles they replaced. Mr. Weiner also indicated that his recommendations will include consideration of the new medical facility's location and future development including the new Walmart.

Member Cooper encouraged him to include the entire MPO area in the study. Public comments were solicited but none were given. Chairperson Staub thanked Mr. Weiner for the report. No action was taken or required.

**g. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (NON-ACTION ITEMS) (1-0867)** - Member Aldean requested that the Clear Creek Road issue be agendaized. Member Holler explained that former Member Nunes had retired from his position with Douglas County. He indicated that either he or Carl Ruschmeyer will be attending the meetings until the Douglas County Commission can act on an appointment. Chairperson Staub wished Mr. Nunes well in his retirement. No formal action was required or taken.

**h. ADJOURNMENT** - Member Aldean moved to adjourn. Member Holler seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Chairperson Staub adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

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.

The Minutes of the December 15, 2004, Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting

CARSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the December 8, 2004, Meeting

Page 5

ARE SO APPROVED ON February 9, 2005.

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard S. Staub, Chairperson