



City of Farmers Branch

City Hall
13000 Wm. Dodson Pkwy
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Meeting Minutes

Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting
Microsoft Teams

City Hall

This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams teleconferencing in accordance with the temporary suspension of the Open Meetings Act to allow telephone or videoconference granted by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Present 10 - Mayor Robert Dye, Tina Firgens Director of Planning, Kyra McCardle Planning Consultant, Brian Campbell Planning Technician, Marc Bentley Public Works Director, Shane Davis Director of Sustainability and Public Health, Pam Smith Parks Landscape Manager, Giovanni Zavala Planning and Zoning Commissioner, Matthew Peters Public Art and Cultural Board Member, and John Land Deputy City Manager

Absent 1 - Cristal Retana

A. AGENDA ITEMS

A.1 20-213 **Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force.**

Mayor Dye called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Mayor Dye thanked the task force members for their attendance.

Mayor Dye opened discussion on Agenda item A.1 Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force.

Ms. Kyra McCardle, Planning Consultant, gave a brief presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities of the task force.

Mayor Dye discussed the following: the importance of this task force; the importance of beautification and improving aesthetics within the corridor since this corridor acts as a "front door" to the City; the lack of betterment improvements for the Interstate 635 (I-635) corridor within the City; improvements within the IH-35E corridor related to development within the Station Area; and the importance of identifying where potential betterment improvements can be incorporated into the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Request for Proposals (RFP) for the IH-35E widening project.

Mayor Dye and Ms. McCardle discussed the city's potential responsibility for paying for certain IH-35E betterment improvements.

Ms. Tina Firgens, Director Planning, discussed Phases One and Two of TxDOT's IH-35E betterments project.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Mayor Dye closed discussion on this agenda item.

A.2 [20-214](#)

Discuss the 2019 Texas Department of Transportation IH-35E widening schematic.

Mayor Dye opened discussion on Agenda item A.2 Discuss the 2019 Texas Department of Transportation IH-35E widening schematic.

Ms. McCardle and Ms. Firgens gave a presentation regarding TxDOT's IH-35E widening schematic, including: providing background information related to the IH-35E Phase Two widening project; current conditions within the corridor; changes in the current schematic from that of the approved 2010 schematic; properties within the corridor that would be impacted by the project; urban character design guidelines and aesthetics related to the project; intersection design guidelines related to the project; and the proposed exit ramp from eastbound Interstate 635 (I-635) to Valley View Lane.

After much discussion, it was the consensus of the task force that the rose design may not be ideal for the abutment walls graphic located at Valley View Lane, and that alternate options should be considered taking into consideration the redevelopment of the station area and that this graphic will be present for decades.

Mr. Matthew Peters and Mr. Giovanni Zavala, both task force members, discussed if there were potential opportunities for murals on the abutment walls, and that TxDOT typically requires entities to have to work within their approved color scheme. It was the consensus of the task force to inquire with TxDOT regarding the potential for murals on the abutment walls.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Mayor Dye closed discussion on this agenda item.

A.3 [20-215](#)

Discuss prioritizing potential betterment improvements including the process for making recommendations to Farmers Branch City Council.

Mayor Dye opened discussion on Agenda item A.3 Discuss prioritizing potential betterment improvements including the process for making recommendations to Farmers Branch City Council.

Ms. McCardle gave a presentation regarding potential betterment improvements and the process for making recommendations.

Mayor Dye asked about the deadline for providing TxDOT feedback, of which Ms. McCardle replied August 1, 2020.

Additional discussion occurred amongst the task force related to: whether the task force should organize into smaller teams or subcommittees to work through the various potential betterments categories; funding considerations, potential resources, and the timeline in which TxDOT is needing to have funding received from the city, as that impacts the betterment improvements that could be implemented; the desired impact of the betterments (i.e. functional versus wow, or somewhere in between); Valwood Parkway needs to be included for betterments consideration but that Valley View Lane

would be given priority; the need to work within TxDOT's parameters recognizing that the task force should avoid working from a clean slate perspective; and possibly identifying opportunity areas to reserve for future improvements.

After much discussion, there was consensus amongst the task force related to the following: use the baseline package provided by TxDOT as the starting point and then identifying potential betterment improvements beyond the baseline package; each task force member rank their top three betterment improvement items using an online polling tool (to be prepared by Mr. Peters); present the betterments polling results at the next meeting to determine next steps and potentially identify betterments opportunity areas; and staff working to get additional feedback from TxDOT related to items discussed during this meeting.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Mayor Dye closed discussion on this agenda item.

A.4 20-216

Discuss future meeting dates for the Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force.

Mayor Dye opened discussion on Agenda item A.4 Discuss future meeting dates for the Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force.

Ms. McCardle discussed the proposed future meeting dates, and stated this item would be brought back to the May 19, 2020 meeting to determine if additional meeting dates were necessary.

After much discussion, it was the consensus of the task force to present both recommendations and a preliminary budget for feedback from TxDOT in early June, with finalizing these items by June 22, 2020 for the July 14, 2020 City Council meeting.

Ms. McCardle stated that TxDOT could provide cost estimates related to potential betterment improvements that they would implement.

Mayor Dye commented that he would like to confirm funding mechanisms for TxDOT prior to the July 14, 2020 City Council meeting, including knowing when the funding has to be committed to TxDOT and if there is a reimbursement component.

Mayor Dye also discussed soliciting feedback from some of the City's Boards and Commissions related to the potential betterment improvements.

There was general consensus from the task force that the meeting dates as proposed were acceptable.

B. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Mayor Dye adjourned the meeting at 11:59 AM.



Mayor



City Administration