

Summary Notes
CAMPO Transit Working Group
Monday March 17, 2008
Austin City Hall, Council Chambers

Member	Representing	Present	Absent
Will Wynn Chair	City of Austin Mayor		X
Brewster McCracken Vice Chair	City of Austin Council Member	X	
Mike Martinez	City of Austin Council Member and Capital Metro		X
Kirk Watson Ex Officio	State Senator, District 14	X	
Sarah Eckhardt	Travis County Commissioner	X	
Gerald Daugherty	Travis County Commissioner	X	
Mike Krusee	State Representative, Williamson County	X	
Frank Fernandez	Alliance for Public Transportation	X	
Jeff Coffee	Elgin City Manager	X	
Jeff Barton	Austin/San Antonio Corridor Council and Hays County	X	
Brandon Janes	Take on Traffic, Chair	X	
Wade Cooper	Downtown Austin Alliance	X	
Terry Bray	Capitol Area Transportation Coalition	X	
Fritz Steiner	University of Texas at Austin	X	
Ashton Cumberbatch Jr.	Seton Family of Hospitals	X	

Council Member McCracken welcomed the group and introduced local transportation expert **Bill Gaston**.

Mr. Gaston provided an overview of a proposal he had developed for re-locating Union Pacific through freight to the East and using the existing freight tracks for passenger rail.

Commissioner Daugherty asked several clarifying questions, particularly regarding how the proposal compared with Austin San Antonio Commuter Rail, and Mr. Gaston clarified that the primary difference was the emphasis on relocating existing through freight.

Council Member McCracken thanked the presenter and invited **Senator Watson** to continue facilitating the brainstorming work that had begun at the February 25 meeting.

Senator Watson asked the group to refer to two key pieces of information that had been distributed to the Working Group:

1. Notes from the discussion at the February 25 meeting which outlined key goals for transit projects.
2. The decision tree which had been used as a framework for the discussion and analysis leading up to the October 2007 decision on funding of several major toll projects.

Senator Watson walked the group through the decision tree and asked for comments on modifications that could be made to make the decision tree to better incorporate the values that had been discussed at the previous meetings.

The comments provided included the following:

- Need to identify top 5 (or so) points and address those 1st
- Question regarding whether any of the surplus revenue questions from the decision tree would apply, given the likely percentage of cost recovery from fares.
- Discussion about the extent to which the decision tree process would provide guidance on who implements which portion of the transit plan.
- Comment that the values included in the decision tree and in previous brainstorming could be broken into 4 or 5 basic categories:
 - 1) Mobility/system efficiency
 - 2) Land Use and Equity
 - 3) Economic Development
 - 4) Cost Effectiveness/efficiency
 - 5) Environmental and other benefits
- Need to break into benefits and costs column for each project
 - Benefits: Mobility, Eco devo, environmental, social, land use
 - Costs: Existing assests, use fee, other sources of funding
- May want to think about it in terms of trade-offs/need to think about what we aren't doing because we implement a particular project: How project fits into the overall system
- Discussion regarding prioritization and whether any factor should be weighted greater than another
- Discussion whether Envision Central Texas Vision should be incorporated
- Discussion about how some of the items in the decision tree would be defined, in particular how to define "project": e.g. would a public vote to support Capital Metro through a 1 penny sales tax count as a vote in support of a particular transit line under the decision tree?

- Discussion of the overall goal of the process and some consensus that goal was to evaluate and prioritize project proposals that had been developed by various agencies, as a starting point:
 - ASARAIL Line
 - Manor-Elgin Rail Line
 - RECA proposal regarding parking garages and downtown shuttle service
 - Potential StreetCar line to the Airport

Senator Watson wrapped up the brainstorming and asked the members to review the decision tree in advance of the next meeting and identify which questions seem to be the most important to ask in a prioritization of transit projects.

The meeting was adjourned.

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