

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101**

**MEETING OF  
LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
October 1, 2009**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tony Pistilli, Deborah Haugh, Terry Schneider, Jerry McDonald, Tami Diehm, Karl Drotning, Jon Ulrich, Duane Arens, Marvin Johnson, Dave Beaudet, Barb Thomas, Bob Shaffer, Bob Kermes

**ABSENT:** Nancy Schouweiler, Steve Elkins, Michael Noonan, David Elvig,

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pistilli's called the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2009.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chair Pistilli introduced two new members of the Land Use Advisory Committee – Bob Shaffer, City Council member for Golden Valley and Bob Kermes, Supervisor on Town Board, White Bear Township.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Schneider motioned and it was seconded by Beaudet to approve the October 1, 2009 agenda and the August 20, 2009 minutes. **The motion carried.**

**BUSINESS:**

**Transportation and Land Use Report to the Legislature – Judd Schetnan, Metropolitan Council Government Affairs Director**

Judd Schetnan talked about legislation passed requiring a Land Use and Planning Resources Report to be submitted by the Council. He discussed the draft progress report. The final report will be due to the Legislature January 15, 2011. Schetnan reiterated that this is a draft report.

Schetnan discussed the legislative background and described the specifics of the bill as shown on page 4 of the handout. He stated that the Council is looking for feedback from this group. Schetnan outlined the proposed contents of the report including:

- Regional transportation and land use strategies and policies;
- Best practices for national transportation and land use policies;
- Baseline measure of regional and local carbon footprints;
- Measure of impacts on carbon footprints; and
- Collaboration and outreach.

The group discussed the importance of having a baseline measure of what our carbon footprint is and a measure of impacts on the carbon footprint.

Schetnan discussed the timetable for reports. In addition to the final report due by January 15, 2011, progress reports will be due October 15, 2009 (included in handout), and additional interim reports due by April 15, 2010, and October 15, 2010.

Schetnan discussed the report identifying and assessing regional transportation and land use strategies and polices in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area for:

- reducing air pollution;
- mitigating traffic congestion; and
- reducing costs for operating, maintaining or improving infrastructure.

This all comes with a cost and the hard part will be how to do this with an empty pocket book.

Schetnan discussed strategies to reduce air pollution, mitigate congestion and reducing infrastructure costs. He would like to establish an effective measure so we can show how to mitigate impacts of carbon footprint.

Schetnan outlined the sources of strategies and policy actions that will be utilized in the formation of the report as outlined on page 2 of the handout.

Schetnan discussed the best practices for national transportation and land use policies that will inform regional and local strategies to mitigate traffic congestion, reduce air pollution, and reduce infrastructure costs.

Schetnan stressed that the Council is not looking for unfunded mandates to reduce the carbon footprint, but the report will try to develop a methodology or tool for measuring regional and local carbon footprints from transportation and land use. The purpose of the carbon footprint measure is to provide information, not to advocate strategies or mandate policies.

Schetnan gave a summary of the direction we are looking at going forward and noted that this report is in its infancy and the Council would appreciate feedback.

#### **Discussion of Initial Report to the Legislature – LUAC Members**

Schneider asked if any metro area has done a study of this type. Schetnan stated that a few regional in the US, Seattle for example, are just beginning, however no one is too far ahead of us. He also noted that every region is different.

VanderSchaaf discussed his recent attendance to the Climate Leadership Academy. He stated that 16 regions around the county met and the basic conclusion is that many are working on this and no one has yet ‘figured it out’ but we will hopefully learn from each other.

Schneider stated that while the intention of the Council is not to create mandates, he fears that the legislature will.

Schetnan stated that the bill introduced last year did mandate to reduce the carbon footprint 17% and there were major concerns with this mandate. It would be very costly for cities already fully developed. He noted that this bill became a ‘conversation starter’.

Schneider strongly suggested:

- short term strategies – 3-5 years and what would results be;
- take a look at entire region, project 20 years out if we continue on the same path and the proposal if we made ‘x’ changes (investment in certain areas) and show what the implications would be.

Arens asked what the cost for these studies will be. Schetnan stated that the Council’s take is to be able to provide cities with information so they can make informed decisions. Cost is a major factor; however, it still may be the right thing to do if long term results are beneficial.

Drotning stated that coming up with a measure of carbon footprint is going to be very difficult. Schetnan stated that the development of a methodology or tool for measuring is being researched and we would hope to find out early on if we are able to do it.

VanderSchaaf noted that you can't just go to the internet and find a tool. He sees this as a multi-year project that will evolve.

Ulrich stated he would like to see some educational piece to define a carbon foot print for a region. Schetnan stated that it would only be applied to transportation and land use. He noted it may be worthwhile to come back to this commission with more discussion on this. Pistilli agreed that it would be helpful as well as looking at portions of the Development Framework as it relates to this.

Pistilli questioned that the legislation doesn't mention the term 'carbon footprint' and asked how we came up with this term/methodology. Schetnan stated that the legislation is very broad and in order to provide specific information back to them, we felt we needed a strong starting point and starting with how the carbon footprint applies to three areas of concern is appropriate.

Pistilli asked that if we choose carbon footprint as the measurement, are we confident in our definition to both benchmark and compare to other metro regions? VanderSchaaf stated that a common standard is being sought and it will be needed for federal programs as well. Schetnan agreed that getting a definition that is consistent with other regional definitions and perspectives is important.

McDonald asked how you can leave energy use out of looking at a carbon footprint. He feels that it is a critical factor. Schetnan stated that energy will be measured as it pertains to transportation and land use.

Drotning asked that this group be able to participate in process throughout. He cautioned that the committee needs to be very cautious in how we proceed. Schetnan agreed and stated it is not this Council's intent to make any outcomes into mandates.

Schneider stated this may give us a valuable tool that will put us in a better position for receiving federal grants.

Thomas asked if there is a calendar structure of how this will proceed. Schetnan stated that the initial progress report is done and there are mandatory reporting dates noted in the handout.

Beaudet motioned to move the draft report along and it was seconded by Arens. **The motion carried.**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be January 21, 2010 at 4pm in Room LLA.

Schetnan suggested that he would send out definition of what staff is working on prior to January meeting... Beckman stated that this will be sent out via e-mails. Pistilli asked to also identify which area of the Framework are affected. Beckman stated that could be done as well. Beckman also stated that we are working towards posting more information/links to our website.

Schneider suggested a synopsis of what is being discussed in other regions and here would be beneficial at our January meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary