

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

**MEETING OF
LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 15, 2012**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Tami Diehm, Gregory Boe, Andy Hestness, Bill Neuendorf, Phillip Klein, Chip Halbach, Kim Kang, Elizabeth Kautz

ABSENT: Jon Commers, George Johnson, Amy Ihlan, Elizabeth Wefel, Scott Hoke, Kristina Smitten, Jon Ulrich, Bob Shaffer, David Elvig, Kerrin Swecker

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Diehm called the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

With no quorum present the March 15, 2012 agenda was accepted by consensus, however the motion to approve the January 19, 2012 minutes was tabled until the next meeting. It was noted that the order of the agenda would be amended.

BUSINESS:

Peer Cities Project

Context – John Kari, Regional Systems Planning and Growth Strategy

Kari talked about why we're doing the project and how it fits into the overall development of the Framework. He discussed the focus and evaluation process including three major parts:

- Review of appropriate peers and initial analysis
- Overview of regional peers, regional governance structures and issues
- Transportation and Environmental Services peer analysis

Kari discussed observations on US Regions noting that 'we are all the same, but we aren't.' He discussed regional growth and change drivers including demographics, economy, and land use/infrastructure. He also discussed growth strategy and noted mixed use is increasingly important. Additionally, Kari discussed regional growth strategy issues.

Neuendorf asked what cities we are looking at. Kari stated that it is the preliminary list discussed at the last meeting (listed in the January minutes provided in the materials).

Environment – Judy Sventek, Environmental Services

Sventek presented and discussed waste water treatment. She noted cities they are looking at and reviewed criteria for choosing these. She stated they are in the preliminary stages of research and are looking for feedback from this group regarding peers, etc.

Sventek discussed the water supply and drinking water treatment. Next she discussed stormwater management and the governance of that. She asked the group if there are other cities/criteria. Kautz asked if we have any combined systems. Sventek stated Minneapolis and St. Paul are combined and noted that there are some combined sewers as well.

Kautz stated that as this is an unfunded mandate, 50% cost should come from Feds to separate sewers. She noted that the Council had good foresight beginning this process years ago.

Kautz asked about the water supply study in White Bear Lake. Sventek noted there is a team working on this. Brian Davis, Environmental Services, stated the study is being supported without money, but with 'in kind' help. Davis stated that the reason for increased use of ground water in the area is pumping. He stated they are looking at bringing a committee together and doing long term planning in ground water supply and strategic pumping. Kautz felt there is a strong need to focus on this.

Kautz asked if they're looking at limestone quarries – water coming up – is this water being recaptured.

Klein asked about Metropolitan Council's growth requirements and noted they don't always match conservation. Sventek stated that this is something the Council is now looking at, as we can do this with our modeling now.

Kautz discussed what they're doing in Burnsville for Savage.

Halbach asked if weather patterns have been looked at. Sventek stated that they did look for areas where weather patterns are similar and explained comparisons made.

Klein asked what the Metropolitan Council's role/scope is as it pertains to water supply. Davis stated that the 2005 Legislature enacted a bill asking the Metropolitan Council to look at water supply planning. They have coordinated meetings between communities to discuss water supply, maintenance, etc.

Klein asked who initiated this. Sventek stated the Council did in the southwest.

Kautz stated all agencies involved in permitting need to be a part of this.

Transportation – Mark Filipi, Metropolitan Transportation Services

Filipi presented what they are doing regarding performance based transportation planning and performance assessment. It began from a legislative mandate back in the 1990's. He discussed performance measurement data sources and reviewed a transit regional comparison matrix provided in the handouts.

Filipi discussed peer region transit system comparisons including population and demographics, modes, and transit service and ridership. He discussed the 2010 regional ridership comparisons contained in the handouts provided.

Filipi discussed regional highway system comparisons using 2010 data outlined in the handouts provided.

Halbach asked how 'delay' is calculated. Filipi stated information from the highway performance report is used and he explained the travel time index and how calculations are made.

Filipi discussed two major work tasks proposed for 2012-2013 including:

1. Produce legislatively required Transportation System Performance Evaluation
2. Technical preparation for a performance-based transportation policy plan update in 2014.

Filipi discussed the performance assessment to be done, required by law, and the requirement of the performance evaluations.

Filipi discussed performance-based planning and noted that the Transportation Policy Plan needs to be updated every four years.

Filipi discussed the next steps as outlined in the handout provided and the expected results, also listed in the handout.

Halbach asked about air quality and if it has been discussed. Filipi responded that they are required under federal law to prove that the policy plan and the Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality standards and stated this is something that they may want to consider as a performance measure on a point source (rather than regional) analysis level.

Halbach asked if this should be part of the performance based planning. Filipi stated that it is part of the discussion in the performance audit and will be part of the work done in developing performance measures for the policy plan integration.

Halbach discussed the connection between transportation and land use and equity in terms of insuring different populations have access to different services and asked how this plays into performance measures. Filipi stated they've been working closely with the University of Minnesota and their study on access to destinations. He noted that they are required to look at provision of services to different populations, i.e., low income. The problem is identifying where those populations may locate in the future.

Halbach asked what the federal law requires. Filipi stated we have to prove that we're providing a balanced transportation system among the populous of the region.

Neuendorf asked about aligning plans with MnDOT and asked Filipi if we would ever see the day when there would be only one plan. Filipi said no and noted that we are federally regulated and have very different requirements.

Neuendorf suggested one document would be more cost effective and would like to see us work towards this. He suggested Salt Lake should be looked at.

Klein asked what are we doing to incentivize people to use more public transportation and how can we use our current infrastructure more efficiently. Filipi stated we work with companies with ways to expand u-pass, subsidized bus, etc. He stated the problem is largely revenue. We need to come up with ways to increase ridership. He noted frequent service is one key. Length of service, high speed, and less transfers are also key. As for lanes, we need to make use of every inch of pavement on the ground. As we come up with more information/data on safety, we can look more closely at this.

Hestness asked is there any analysis comparing peer bus systems. Filipi stated that Metro Transit is looking at this on an ongoing basis. Problem = more simplicity = more buses = more subsidy. We do recognize that this is a problem. Boe asked is this something that they're trying to solve. Filipi stated yes, this is something they're looking at.

Diehm asked John Kari – what's next. Kari stated they are working on a draft presentation to the Council that will be brought back to this group prior to going to the Council. Also, he stated, as for how this relates to the Framework, the next major piece will be what are the regional forecasts and how do we step them down. This relates back to how do we deal with growth management issues in communities.

Upcoming Reports to the Community Development Committee – Tami Diehm

Diehm stated that Chair Commers will be making some presentations to the CDC and there are some 'tentative' dates when this will happen (4/2, 8/6, 12/3). She noted that Commers would like a few LUAC members to

attend if possible. She noted that an email reminding members will be sent out prior to the meetings. Detrick noted that the meetings start at 4:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING

May 17, 2012 - 4:00 pm at the Metropolitan Council in Room LLA. There will be a discussion on regional forecasts.

Detrick mentioned that the Committee of the Whole meetings will be getting stakeholder input. We will be sending members a link. The next meeting will be March 21, and then also April 4.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary