Kendall County - Boerne - Fair Oaks
Transportation Committee Minutes

07 January 2020
2:00 – 4:40 p.m.

The Kendall County - Boerne - Fair Oaks Transportation Committee convened in the Boerne Independent School Board administrative building's training wing.

In Attendance:
Co-chairs Don Durden and Bob Manning, as well as Ben Eldredge, Bob Hartwig, Bryce Boddie, John Kight, Gary Louie, Marcus Garcia, Kim Blohm, Mark Stahl, Northern Hendricks, Rankin D'Spain, Rich Sena, Tim Bannwolf, David Anderson, Dan Banks, Ben Bunker and scrivener Elaine Maltsberger

Not in Attendance: Jonah Evans, Josh Limmer, and Stephen Zoeller.

Item 1: Opening comments and Introductory Business:
Opening remarks were made by elected officials – Kendall County Judge Darrel Lux, City of Boerne Mayor Tim Handren and City of Fair Oaks Ranch Mayor Gary Manitzas.
Lux thanked the group for its "diligence" recognized the "tremendous improvement" on Hwy 46 east, noting two other partnership projects (the "Hwy 87 interchange out in Comfort" and "at Scenic Loop") between Kendall County and the City of Boerne over the last two years. He encouraged the committee to not focus on money or finances.
Handren homed his remarks around long-term planning, urging the committee to not "limit your imagination." "Don't limit it to roads," Handren said – "this is a mobility discussion, transportation of all kinds. It can be sidewalks, it can be creative stuff. It can also be a request for data or the verification of data. Nothing's off-limits."
He also emphasized his "sense of urgency," stating that he's "not afraid to talk about potential bonds" and that in order for the City to adequately process bond and ballot language, proposed projects must be announced by 05 August, therefore they should be handed over by May.
He asked for movement and productivity from the committee. "It all boils down to time," Handren said.

Manitzas spoke to the committee asking that they get the community involved.
Manning observed his own appreciation to the remarks of the elected officials. "In my time in public service, we would never have had these three officials addressing a committee like this with the candor and transparency and sincerity that we just heard."

"This is fairly uncharted territory to have this kind of communication," Manning said.

Lux said, "this is as open as we can possibly get."

Louie asked for clarification regarding a remark he understood as a "contingency referendum."

Bannwolf responded that language for a bond must be specific.

Handren said "we are in an enviable position. We have some bond capacity without raising taxes."

Bannwolf also said that a May date would "be a little tight" – that is, the City and county would have difficulty proceeding toward a bond issue. Bannwolf proposed that 01 April would be a better target date, enabling the different government entities to work through them.

Durden suggested that end of March should be the "drop dead" date.

Handren clarified that discussion can go on beyond March and "this isn't the only bond possibility." He also emphasized that he is "not dead-seat that this has to be a bond issue," but also that a bond might be the only way to do that.

Lux said that he was not sure that the county could even put a bond issue together by November. Durden added that the need for mobility improvement may not be apparent in all parts of the county.

When an audience member asked about TxDOT's possible participation, Lux reiterated that funding is not the committee's concern.

Eldredge mentioned that proposed projects are not the only charge of the committee, but how to make them "actionable to the public. I see that as our biggest challenge."

Stahl asked for meeting schedule clarification, so that he could ensure facility availability. Durden replied that meetings would be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Hendricks offered no social media/website updates.

Item 2: Public Comments:
No public comments were made.

Item 3: Minutes:
Banks moved to approve last month's minutes. Louie seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 4: Review and Self-Assessment:
Banks provided his opinion that the committee's first objective should be identifying "the smaller projects," and adding that later in the meeting he would be presenting 12 such projects. Anderson noted that county residents also use City roads. "There's a number of things we can do," Anderson said, mentioning, for example, a trolley system he'd recently seen.

Anderson also stated that while general identified needs might be proposed by the committee, "I'm not sure we're going to have the time and the resources to identify" specific details with regard to identified needs.

Boddie emphasized the need to communicate with the community.

Kight broke the committee's mandate into the identification of "more immediate, mid-term, and long-term" proposals. He stated that the committee should concentrate on the SE and NE quadrants. He stated the need for looking ahead in order to purchase right-of-way and stressed the need for public participation.

Eldredge expressed his desire for some sort of information exchange...whereby committee members can, for example, exchange literature.

Blohm said that although she felt things had taken off slowly, she is grateful for the committee's culture. She also stated her wish that all commercial areas be kept in mind. She said that she's enjoying communicating with merchants about what the committee's doing.

Bunker, too, said he wants a better way to share ideas between members and subcommittees.

Item 5: Updates from Subcommittees:
   a. Past, Present and Future Studies – Banks stated that his committee had looked at 43 proposals from a 2007 study in addition to reviewing the City of Boerne's Thoroughfare Plan and the Gateway Study. Banks then presented 12 projects (see link) very preliminarily identified as more immediately feasible. It was stressed repeatedly that these are not proposals, merely some identifiable "low hanging fruit."

What Manning referred to as a "robust discussion" ensued with regard to transparency and whether or not these 12 projects should be made available yet to the public or whether the committee should wait and fine-tune them into true proposals.

   b. Public Outreach – Louie passed around minutes and provided a synopsis of his subcommittee's work (see link), noting that monitoring, management and response to online discussions needed to be considered.

Manning halted the proceedings to move on **action item #6** regarding the definition of "appropriate economic development" as stated in the committee's charger.

As several people asked what the phrase means, Eldredge offered that the phrase might involve equity of transportation, or tax burdens, land use, industry, etc. Manning asked Blohm and Bunker to "put their heads together" and come up with some suggestions.

b. (continued) Jeanne Geiger and Wendy Dodson distributed iPads and gave a tutorial for interactive-use GSI software (see link). Boddie wanted special note given to the fact that high school students can use a related app – Smart Driving – to identify their areas of driving concerns.

Item 7: Public Comments:
Kurt Solis thanked the committee and said, "Everything I've heard today is Boerne-centric." Solis went on to remind the committee that by his estimate, two-thirds of the affected population reside outside of the city limits.

Tom Addelstein noted the difficulties of what the committee is attempting to do, and offered his appreciation.

Eldredge offered his opinion that it would be nice to meet outside of the structured committee setting: "loose space with a beer."

Adjournment.
Manning adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted on 08January2020 by Elaine Maltsberger with edits by Don Durden and Bob Manning.