Kendall County - Boerne - Fair Oaks

Transportation Committee Minutes

21 January 2020

2:00 – 3:50 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 Jonah Evans, Ben Eldredge, Ben Bunker, Bob Hartwig, Gary Louie, Marcus Garcia, Kim Blohm, Mark Stahl, Northern Hendricks, Rich Sena, Stephen Zoeller, Tim Bannwolf, Dan Banks, and scrivener Elaine Maltsberger

Not in Attendance: Bryce Boddie, John Kight, Rankin D'Spain, David Anderson, Josh Limmer.

Visitors: Approximately two dozen visitors were in attendance

Item 1: Opening comments and Introductory Business:

Durden announced that the day's meeting would be abbreviated due to district needs for their training room.

Item 2: Public Comments:

Robert Imler requested that subcommittee meetings be posted 48 hours prior to meeting time in the interest of transparency.

Austin Cobb introduced himself as a representative of his suburb and stated that his neighborhood has specific concerns.

Item 3: Minutes:

Ben Bunker asked that his name be added to the attendance roster for the previous meeting. A misspelling of Gary Louie's name was pointed out on page four of the minutes.

Louie moved that the minutes be approved. Bannwolf seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Comments and Suggestions on Process and Product:

Durden pressed for transparency and inclusiveness throughout the committee's processes while remaining sensitive to property owner's rights. "What we need to do, I think, is clearly communicate the status of proposals and the information that's being presented for public consumption," Durden said, adding that projects should be initially be grouped as public comment and/or recommendations from committee members... "and by receiving those comments we're not saying that those are going to happen, that they might happen, that they're good or

bad – we're just saying that they are suggestions. We need to communicate what that is."

Subsequent to that, the committee will consider those suggestions and determine whether or not they will be offered as proposed projects. But, Durden emphasized, the status of the process should be clearly communicated all along the process.

Item 5: Updates from Subcommittees:

a. Past, Present and Future Studies – Banks stated his awareness that the previous committee meeting's presentation had been "cryptic" and not comprehensive enough. He apologized and said that the status of the possible projects as previously identified in other studies had not been stressed enough. Evans requested that in the future, a rationale for potential projects be included.

   Manning affirmed Durden's earlier clarifications and invited visitors to participate in the process. "We cannot continue to do nothing," Manning said.

   Banks asked how such potential projects might show up on the website, to which Durden responded that at the correct point in the process, they would be voted on project by project.

   Banks stated that although the Studies committee hadn't met yesterday, their next upcoming meeting would be held on Monday (27 January) at 2:00 in the Boerne Chamber of Commerce building.

   Hartwig reported that Kight's surgery had gone well and that he was recovering as expected. Hartwig went on to offer a

presentation of what he referred to as a model format for "critical information" regarding each potential project. Each will be described according to a two-page format including a nine-point outline as well as a sketch or map. The nine-point outline is to be broken down into:

1) Project name/title/brief description/problem solved
2) Geographic limits
3) Jurisdiction
4) Area characteristics/neighborhood/subdivision/right-of-way/whether or not acquisition is required
5) Data/connectivity
6) Tentative schedule
7) Cost estimate
8) Funding source
9) Other source documents
Durden requested that the committed add further points to the outline, specifying pedestrian access and/or accident history

Manning asked that information be included with regard to whether or not the landowner had been contacted (when relevant).

Hendricks asked that schedule breakdowns be more clearly defined.

Bannwolf suggested that yet another outline point should involve project history; he suggested that citizens and visitors should also be allowed to contribute to the outline process.

Eldredge contributed his thoughts that the project profiles should include connectivity with other modes of mobility. "It's not serving everyone," Eldredge said of the current

transportation set-up. "It's not functional for a huge portion of our population."

Durden summarized the discussion by asking the subcommittee to "flesh out this information for each of these projects and begin to feed us stuff."

Banks then gave a summary of the 13 January meeting minutes, stating that they will be published on the committee's website (link) including "unique ideas" that had been put forth by Louie for the Comfort area including a linear walking/cycling system, the subcommittee's desire to provide road capacities both present and future, and their wish to assimilate a list of items from the City of Boerne Thoroughfare Plan to see if said items are already moving ahead or if they need to be proposed by the KCBFOTC.

b. Public Outreach - Louie reminded the committee at large that his subcommittee's work "dovetails with all of the other committees."
The subcommittee's past meeting was held on 10 January, from which Louie highlighted:
1) Consistency of messaging (as provided by Manning and Durden) with guidelines for communication.
2) The responsibility of each committee member to represent their constituency and to hold two-way conversations with that constituency
3) The importance of moving quickly to communicate with the public
4) The subcommittee's intent to meet with several subcommittees of the Chamber of Commerce (specified by Blohm as including builders and realtors, doctors, non-profits, therapists and hospice, and the Hill Country Networking Union?)

Louie stated that through the Chamber, his subcommittee wants to be made aware of personal mobility challenges and professional/business-related business challenges, stressing that "no problem is too small" to be considered. The subcommittee also wants to know how the Chamber contributors would propose solving the problems they might raise. Furthermore, the subcommittee is interested in knowing about sensitive features on involved property.

Responders will be asked to contribute via the GIS map site, through email, or via "hard copy" mail that can be mailed in or dropped off at the Chamber.

5) Louie stated that the Public Outreach committed is endeavoring to develop a Master List of population/demographics. They hope to "proactively reach out" to these groups.

6) As well, the subcommittee is organizing public service announcements.

7) Blohm added that mailers get good response in Kendall County, and Sena confirmed that the BISD gets a high percentage of response to parent/student surveys.

Bannwolf expressed his concern that senior adults be reached, to which Blohm offered her hope that PSAs in the local media and regional magazines would serve that need.

The meeting and proposed agendas will be posted on the website (link).

Durden asked of said public feedback, "What is it that we're really asking for?"

Louie said that in the "very broadest sense," they will be allowed to make any comments on the GIS site."

"So, we're looking for global comments and for project suggestions?" Durden asked.

Evans then commented that the Public Outreach subcommittee will get the message out and that the GIS subcommittee will be tasked with collecting public input.

c. GIS – Evans and Garcia made a CrowdSource presentation as easier and "very simple to use," according to Evans. Garcia noted that CrowdSource can be tailored.
Cecilio Martinez of AAMPO stated that his organization has successfully used CrowdSource in the past to get feedback on projects.
Evans demonstrated the "skeletal" CrowdSource that's so far been developed.
Blohm asked for an easy-to-remember URL, whereupon a discussion ensued about the least complicated way to make the app available to the public.
Louie again asked that each committee member "reach out to their subset. Your constituency hearing from you has a larger impact."
Evans also suggested a "larger process in general," proposing that all project ideas could be funneled through CrowdSource and into the GIS map, whereupon they would be sent to the cities and county as proposals separately – one set of projects from the public and one from the transportation committee.
Durden responded that several steps would probably need to be included in that process.

He also recommended that all of the committees decide what they need to do to integrate the comments they had heard today "and do it soon."

d. Subject Matter Experts – Bannwolf stated that his subcommittee is "trying to get somebody to talk about maximizing resources that already exist."

Eldredge said that the City of Boerne is attempting to partner with UTSA in a program called Planet Texas 2050. "They're very interested in working with us," Eldredge said, adding that a 07Feb meeting is scheduled to try to "hammer out some of the details."

Blohm interjected that the initiative also includes the Boerne/Kendall County Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce. "It's collaborative," Blohm said.

Bannwolf said, "We're hoping to piggy-back on that."

Bunker warned, "But that's a five-year study."

Eldredge said that while experts can be sourced from around the country, online resources provide a great deal of information. A spreadsheet is being created from which the committee hopes to "cherry pick" resources to make available to the public.

e. "Appropriate Economic Development" – "nothing to report," according to Blohm.

Item 6: Concluding Comments

Durden clarified the committee's process as it currently stands, offering them in the following order: identifying projects, receiving public comments, validating projects, and recommending projects. "We're going to publish everything that we get," Durden said.

He asked that every visitor or member of the public who wished to be on the mailing list contact Hendricks to have their name added.

Item 7: Public Comments and Additional Committee Member Remarks:

Tom Addelstein asked about the possibility for an open question forum.

Austin Cobb asked a question about how bonds would be structured. Bannwolf answered that bonds would typically see "groupings" of projects.

Doug Hartzler asked the committee how they planned to "sort through public comments." He also asked if the expectation was being set for each public comment to receive a response.

Hendricks asked if subcommittee reports or maps should be published on the website prior to their presentation to the committee at large.

Durden responded that publication of such should wait until presentation to the committee.

Evans then asked if subcommittee information could be sent to committee members prior to meetings for input.

Martinez stated that a video showing how to use CrowdSource would be prepared.

Banks announced that Doug Hartzler will be joining the Studies subcommittee as an ad hoc member.

Manning advised the subcommittees to "Keep it simple. Keep it simple." He also said, "We all know that we're going to have non-road ideas but they're coming up anecdotally." Worried that non-road ideas wouldn't

have a high enough profile in the final recommendations, Manning asked about the possibility of a subcommittee to address this aspect of planning. "I don't want them to be lost."

Sena responded that every subcommittee needs to be aware of non-road options. "It has to be part of every subcommittee's discussion," Sena said.

In response to a question by Bunker, Durden stated that a timeline for the public should be highlighted in the next meeting.

Hartwig noted that TxDOT's plan for 5G reconfiguring of I-35 in Dallas should be watched by the committee.

Banks asked if his subcommittee wasn't taking "too big a bite."

Durden answered that in fact, the Studies subcommittee needed to gather information on more potential projects.

Bunker stated that the City of Boerne has $500K in their budget for sidewalks. He wondered if anyone knows more specifics – whether the projects are already in motion or should be examined by the committee.

Cheryl Rogers, City of Boerne engineer, responded that the plan will be presented to the City Council during an upcoming workshop. "So, we do have something in the works," Rogers said.

Adjournment

Manning adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Submitted on 21January2020 by Elaine Maltsberger with edits by Don Durden and Bob Manning.