



ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting: April 24, 2012

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING:

Theldon R. Branch, III, Chair - **Present**
Ann Lents, Vice Chair - **Present**
Frances Castaneda Dyess, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Dwight Boykins, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Edward Taravella - **Present**
C.P. "Chip" Bryan - **Present**
Honorable Bert Keller, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Gilbert Herrera, Working Group Chair - Absent
Jeff Ross, Working Group Chair - **Present**
Council Member Oliver Pennington - **Present**

1. Call to Order / Welcome

Chairman Theldon Branch called the meeting of the ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. Discussion of the "5+5 Plan"

Mr. Dale Rudick presented a listing of the SWEET composite ranking of Major Thoroughfares versus the composite pavement condition rating. Pavement condition is 80% of the weighted SWEET ranking as described in the *CIP Process Manual*. Mr. Rudick said staff is compiling a list for the composite level of service for major roads and that the list will include the supplemental information of regional traffic volumes. Level of service takes into account both volume and number of lanes. Mr. Jeff Ross stated he wants to see the number of motorists affected to serve as a check and balance of the assessment tool.

Members discussed the listing with questions arising about specific roads identified. Mr. Ross recommended that the committee wait on further discussion until they were able to evaluate all pertinent materials. Chairman Branch stated that the materials would be re-evaluated on an annual basis which would also regularly identify work that has been completed since the last evaluation.

Council Member Pennington suggested that engineering firms state what they found during their pre-engineering review. This information could help in continually updating the model. Chairman Branch recommended that the Oversight Committee tour the Street Surface Assessment Vehicle (SSAV) to better understand how it operates and how pavement is scored.

Mr. Ross made a motion for the committee to approve the first five years for the FY 2013 – FY 2017 CIP but to hold on any expenditure out of contingency fund until after the committee has approved the assessments. Mr. Dwight Boykins seconded the motion. Motion passed with committee member Taravella voting no. Mr. Taravella stated that the current 5 year CIP had not been vetted by this committee and questioned whether it was in adherence with the policy of “worst first”.

Ms. Ann Lents moved that the committee recommend that PWE include in the pre-engineering contracts a compare and contrast to actual conditions versus what is stated in the SWEET model. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bert Keller. Motion passed.

Ms. Lents distributed three draft resolutions as part of the continuing dialogue on the “+ 5 Plan”. The first resolution is to memorialize the recommendations that came out of the last meeting where senior level public works employees will conduct field test and make recommendations on changes to the need areas and what changes might be needed on the SWEET model so there is a mechanism for continual improvement. The second resolution’s intent is for PWE take the next year to come up with good metrics to address safety. Emergency situations would be handled immediately and outside of the SWEET model; however, safety needs to be a part of the model. The third resolution’s intent is to review the draft *CIP Process Manual*’s project prioritization methodology once PWE develops the benefit/cost approach.

3. Communication Concept

Chairman Branch took this agenda item out of order and placed it prior to Item #2 - Discussion on “5+5 Plan”. The Chairman stated that Mr. Ed Wulfe has been working externally to develop a new branding concept for ReBuild Houston. Mr. Brad Deutser of Yaffe/Deutser was introduced. Mr. Deutser distributed a handout explaining that the service has been donated by the Yaffe/Deutser firm. Mr. Deutser stated the intent is to establish an iconography. It is to get out in front with a positive message – to create a perception of forward progress. The idea is not to spend more money but to utilize the current city methods for dissemination. Private media partners could be utilized in the future if the opportunity presents itself.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential use of this branding. Should it be for streets and drainage only or for all capital improvements? Mr. Deutser stated that one option is that you can utilize the iconography on other types of projects by removing the “ReBuild Houston” tag line. A motion was presented by Ms. Francis Castaneda-Dyess and seconded by Mr. Boykins to accept the proposed branding but only for the projects funded by the four identified funding sources consistent with ReBuild Houston. Motion carried.

4. Executive Report: Mr. Rudick presented the following points of interest:

- a. Website has been enhanced. There is an “Oversight Committee” tab that displays
 - i. Committee’s charge
 - ii. Meeting agendas
 - iii. Meeting minutesThe “Main Menu” section on the front page now has a link to “Financial Reports”.
- b. Financial Quarterly reports will come out next month. The “Drainage Utility Fee Collections/Expenditures” exhibit (as of 4/12/12) was distributed (attached).
- c. Presentations recently made include the Super Neighborhood Alliance. Individual super neighborhood meeting presentation will be made of the course of the year in coordination with the Streets & Drainage Division.
- d. Next meeting will be on May22, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in the Mayor’s Conference Room.

5. Old Business/New Business:

Ms. Lents stated we were looking at additional street examples as we test the SWEET model. Also mentioned was that the TMO submitted a letter (addressed to Council Member Rodriguez) stating concerns they have regarding the process of selecting projects for the 10-year plan.

6. Public Comments:

Ms. Susan Petty of Charnwood subdivision read a brief statement. She thanked the committee and several staff members who have toured her subdivision. Several general concerns she conveyed related to the old Neighborhood Street Reconstruction program, the absence of including traffic measure for local streets and curb condition not being a consideration in the weighting.

7. Adjourn – Motion made by Mr. Keller and seconded by Mr. Ed Taravella to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved at 12:03 p.m.

Attachment

- Drainage Utility Fee Collections/Expenditures (as of 4/12/12)

Drainage Utility Fees
Year to Date Collections / Expenditures
 (\$ in Thousands)
 (As of April 12, 2012)

