



Draft - Minutes

PWI-Public Works & Infrastructure Committee

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

3:00 PM

Special Called Meeting

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available

(1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage,

(2) on DCTVChannel23.TV

Meeting Started At:3:02 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Cochran-Johnson, Terry, Patrick, Bradshaw, Davis Johnson, Rader, Johnson

Present 3 - Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Robert Patrick, and Commissioner Ted Terry

I. DISCUSSION

Discovery Transit Trip Overview

-discussion of an upcoming peer city tour to take place by CEO Greenwood, Shelley Peart, Grady Smith of MARTA

-Question MDJ: why was San Diego selected for the tour? What was the methodology? Also every municipality in DeKalb but Stonecrest and Lithonia have rail throughout their municipalities.

-responses provided by CEO Greenwood and Grady Smith

-TT: if we are looking at creating gentle density, that certainly thrives and is a force multiplier in transit, we should endeavor to reflect that in the land use patterns.

-LCJ: we will be having a brief discussion on the current master transit plan

-RP: I don't believe the City of Tucker has a MARTA line that goes through it; there were also discussions of continuity with the City of Tucker as well

Local Funding Mechanisms For Public Transit Expansion

- presentation provided by Grady Smith, Principal at VHB of the transit master plan
- information provided by the Law Department on proposed memorandum of understanding related to a Transit Infrastructure and Services Steering committee
- Question MDJ: who would make up this
- Law Response: Chair of PWI, CEO appointment, BOC appointment, each of the 12 member cities with one appointment each, and the four authorities (MARTA, ARC, GDOT, and ATL)
- Question MDJ: so the committee would make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners and CEO on what exactly?
- response provided by Law Department
- Question LJ: would this mean that the resolution that was passed for rail to become the priority to need to come through this committee?
- response provided by County Attorney Ernestes
- Question LJ: since I will probably have a population of 150,000 versus others with smaller populations, will the votes be equal to anyone on the committee?
- response provided by County Attorney Ernestes
- Question LJ: the rail option for South DeKalb will not be null and void under this committee?
- V Ernestes: no sir, it will not nullify any action taken by the Board; this committee has no authority to make any final decisions that would be binding on the County, only recommendations
- Question LJ: what would be the role of the Committee?
- response provided by County Attorney Ernestes
- LJ: I just want to make sure our voice is not out totally even though we in South DeKalb have been the ones without proper infrastructure
- comments provided by Mayor Lynn Deutsch of the City of Dunwoody
- TT: my only concern would be if the elected representatives weren't made up of the 'decision makers' in their respective jurisdictions and were outsourced citizens. My hope is that it would be all the mayors and all the County commissioners, because ultimately we're all the decision-makers. Also can we appoint ourselves?
- MDJ: I would like to see all of the Commissioners serving on that and the Chair of PECS chairing this committee. I would recommend those changes. I would want to see a representative from the municipalities on the committee rather than a mayor of each city on the committee
- response provided by County Attorney Ernestes
- RP: there is agreement on perceptions of imbalance with this proposed group. The DeKalb Municipal Association, and maybe break the County into 14 different census tracts that are representative of the County to get the voice of the people in this committee. It would be the ordinary average person what they think is the best solution.
- comments provided by Mayor Patti Garrett of the City of Decatur
- LCJ: I will keep everyone abreast on when this goes to committee. Additional information provided by Commissioner Cochran-Johnson
- LCJ: this document will be going out from Legal to everyone for review. There will be an agenda item created, and I look forward to us having monthly meetings moving forward, and a productive meeting in San Diego
- Question SB: what's the next step?
- LCJ: the next step is that the document will be forwarded from the Law department to the mayors and all on the call, and the agenda item will be heard in PWI
- Question SB: when will we receive a copy of the document for review?
- V Ernestes: tomorrow sir

Meeting Ended At: 4:12 PM

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC