

City Council Study Session Summary

**January 9, 2018
Library Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
7:00 PM**

Mayor Muckle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

City Council Present: Mayor Bob Muckle
Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Lipton
Council member Jay Keany
Council member Chris Leh
Council member Susan Loo
Council member Dennis Maloney
Council member Ashley Stolzmann

Staff Present: Heather Balsler, Interim City Manager
Megan Davis, Intergovernmental Affairs Director
Kristin Dean, Principal Planner
Aaron DeJong, Economic Development Director
Kurt Kowar, Public Works Director
Rob Zuccaro, Director of Planning and Building Safety
Dawn Burgess, Executive Assistant to the City
Manager

Discussion – 2018 Transportation Funding Issues Update

Director Davis, Mayor Muckle and Councilmember and Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Director Stolzmann provided a transportation funding update. DRCOG directs a pool of funds for transportation funding. Currently, DRCOG is looking at other models for distributing funds for 2020-2023 funding. The new model creates a regional as well as a subregional pot of funds.

Funds will be parsed out to the county level then parsed out further. DRCOG still makes the final allocation decisions. Council member Stolzmann thinks DRCOG will vote for a 70/30 subregional/ regional split.

Items still to be decided on by DRCOG:

- Eligibility
- Funding Split
- Role of DRCOG staff in administration

A subregional group must be formed to determine the local allocations which will require an IGA.

Members reviewed the Mayors and Commissioners Coalition (MCC) draft project list. The MCC created this to get a feel for all transportation projects and programs communities in the northwest region foresee needing and to prioritize projects in the event funding is available.

Many of these projects may come up, and new projects will be identified through the Louisville Transportation Master Plan, so the list may be modified/updated.

Council member Loo would like the bridge from Superior over US 36 separated out. She would like to see if it should be separated into 3 projects: Campus Drive to 96th St., 88th St. improvements, and new bridge from Superior to Campus Drive.

There was discussion regarding progress on commuter rail and its costs and how to program money to get the most benefit for the citizens.

Council member Maloney wanted to raise the Hwy 42/CDOT devolution issue included on the CDOT project list. This is a policy decision if Louisville wants to take over management of Hwy 42 and it has not been discussed. Balsler stated and there would definitely be more discussion if this was to be pursued.

Davis provided an update on the MyRide Program. Council member Keany asked if there is a way to verify who used the cards, as well as need/income for the cards. Davis said the program will attempt to verify income data. We are waiting for data from RTD.

Discussion – Business Assistance Program Review and Analysis

Director DeJong reviewed the BAP program. It has been in existence since 2007. There have been 65 agreements offered, 49 completed or underway. DeJong confirmed most are in CTC.

DeJong stated the BRaD reviewed three potential changes to the program and were not interested in recommending rent assistance or low interest loan programs for starting retail operations. They were interested in a change to the consumer use tax implementation.

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton said he appreciates the presentation but has philosophical concerns. CTC will be built out soon. Is the BAP program necessary now? It is hard to know who is covering/subsidizing the costs of building permit rebates. It could be distorting real estate values. It benefits property owners not the business owners; property owners should adjust their lease rates to fill space.

Councilmember Leh said it needs to be looked at in a larger context; a strategic discussion about what economic development means. There are other things we can look at for economic development.

Councilmember Loo said she does not disagree with Mayor Pro Tem Lipton but feels the market is not pure and does not want to risk not doing a BAP.

Mayor said this could be a part of budget discussions.

Councilmember Maloney said it is an important program. He agrees with Councilmember Leh that it can be a strategic/regional tool. He would like to have that discussion.

Council member Stolzmann would like this on a future agenda. She mentioned a new downtown group looking for more commercial assistance.

City Manager Balser said this discussion was a follow up to something on the 2017 work plan. BRaD is working on this and staff will bring to Council in a larger context.

Discussion – Land Use Review Process and Options for Earlier Engagement

Zuccaro and Dean gave a presentation about options for earlier public engagement related to land use applications. Options include requiring neighborhood meetings and or having sketch plans before submittal: Sketch plans are an inexpensive way for an applicant to vet a project. Neither option would give Council all the information to make decisions but can add to the planning process.

The pros and cons of sketch plans and neighborhood meetings were discussed.

Advanced Agenda & Identification of Future Agenda Items

Members reviewed the advanced agenda.

Adjourn 9:36 pm

*Submitted by – Dawn Burgess
January 10, 2018*