



**Summary
GreenPrint Committee**

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2009 **11:00 am** **Location:** Council Conference Room 391

Committee Members Present: Nevitt, Chair; Linkhart, Vice-Chair; Johnson, Lehmann
Other Council Present: Madison

Agenda: 1. *Bike Access thru Cleveland Triangle*
2. *Update on EECEBG funding*
3. *Denver Water Briefing*

1. Bike Ordinance Changes: Eliminating the Bicycle “No-Man’s Land” in the Downtown “Cleveland Triangle”

Committee Action

The Committee approved changes to the Revised Municipal Code to allow bike access across the Cleveland Triangle on the east end of the Downtown Pedestrian Mall to bike lanes on Cleveland Place.

Summary of Discussion

Councilwoman Carla Madison, Michael Joyce, City Attorney’s Office, and Emily Kreisa, Public Works explained the need for the change in the ordinance to allow easier access to downtown for bicycles coming from the east part of town. The ordinance change is necessary since bikes are precluded from riding on the mall with the exception of Sundays and then only in the transit lanes. Councilman Linkhart suggested a need for a cross walk at the site where bikes would be directed onto Cleveland Place bike lanes. Ms. Kreisa said she would bring that suggestion back to traffic engineers.

2. Putting the federal stimulus funds to work: Contracts for Energy audits & recommissioning City Buildings

Summary of Discussion

Scott Morrissey, GreenPrint Denver, and Christian Williss, General Services, briefed the Committee on the status of funds for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. The City is in the process of picking a contractor to conduct energy audits for the City’s library and recreation buildings. The contract will be less than the \$500,000 threshold for Council approval, but staff wanted Council to be aware of this high profile program in City buildings.

3. Denver Water: Water Rate Changes, Promoting Conservation, and Funding Capital Improvements

Summary of Discussion

Melissa Elliott, Water Conservation Manager, discussed the agency's water conservation efforts; Abigail Holmquist, Recycled Water Program Manager, reviewed the progress and goals for the recycled water program, Paula Daukas, Environmental Planning Manager, discussed the history and status of the expansion of the Gross Reservoir near Boulder.

The following points were made:

- Denver Water's conservation efforts have been successful: Water use to date is down over 30% from pre-drought usage.
- In 2009 our customers used 2 billion gallons less water than they did in 1995, yet Denver Water serves 17% more people in 2009, i.e. customers are using 19% less than they did in 1995 when adjusted for population.
- Water enforcement staff continue to patrol and talk with customers during the summer to maintain the conservation ethic.
- Denver Water's low income/nonprofit retrofit program targets customers in the low income energy assistance program and retrofits their homes with a high efficiency toilet, showerheads and aerators. The agency works with GreenPrint Denver's Neighborhood Energy Blitz program on these efforts.
- Denver Water targets customers (residential and commercial) that have highly inefficient irrigation habits and actually graded neighborhoods this year based on this. The agency then worked with high users to reduce water usage.
- Denver Water also has cooperative partnerships with Xcel Energy and other entities to reduce water use in the commercial sector.
- Denver Water has an extensive recycled water program that is used in sixteen Parks, three Schools, four Golf Courses, Denver Zoo, Xcel Energy and consumes 7,000 acre foot of water per year.
- The goal is to expand the recycled water program to 17,500 acre feet per year by 2020.
- Since 1997, Denver Water has pursued a multipronged water strategy to increase supply and decrease demand by implementing an aggressive conservation plan, completing a recycled water system and developing new supply.
- Even though the Denver Water is vigorously implementing the conservation and recycling but has still identified the risk of a water supply shortfall starting in 2016.
- Denver Water has worked with The Army Corps of Engineers which examined more than 300 options and determined five "practicable alternatives."

- Of those five options, Denver Water believes enlarging Gross Reservoir by 72,000 acre-feet delivers the most benefits at the least cost and with comparable environmental impact.
- To meet these ends, Denver Water's preferred alternative is to raise Gross Dam by approximately 125 feet to yield 18,000 acre-feet of new supply — by expanding an existing reservoir rather than building a new one, which would be much costlier.
- Denver Water is proceeding with the permit applications to complete this project.

John Wright, Manager of Rate Administration, explained the staff recommendations for increased water rates that will be considered by the Board of Water Commissioners as soon as next week for implementation in January 2010. The new rates will result in an annual bill increase of \$40 or an average of \$3.30 per month. Summer bills are estimated as increasing \$12 for the average residential customer in Denver. The increases are necessary to continue to develop necessary supply and repair and replace aging infrastructure, according to Mr. Wright. The fixed costs of supplying water have little to do with consumption, which is why water rates tend to rise, not fall in drought situations. Still Denver Water is a good buy compared to water rates in other jurisdictions. Mr. Wright explained that the avoided costs from delaying building new, expensive infrastructure for new water supply development is enormous.