



Denver City Council

Public Works Committee Summary

Wednesday, June 28, 2006, 10:30 a.m.

Location: Council Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Montero, Vice-Chair; Hancock, Lehmann

Committee Members Absent: Brown, Johnson, Robb

Other Council Present: Faatz, MacKenzie

1) South Broadway NEPA update:

Committee Discussion

Jason Longsdorf, Public Works, indicated the purpose of the South Broadway NEPA is to provide safe and efficient mobility for all modes of transportation, to accommodate the transportation needs of surrounding neighborhoods, and to promote healthy development and good use of land areas. The identified problems include: peak hour congestion, traffic that cuts through adjacent neighborhoods, regional growth, and increased traffic due to new developments. Highlights of the project goals include (see attachments):

- Enhanced parking availability;
- Enhanced economic viability at the same time preserving neighborhood character;
- Development of an action plan consistent with recommendations and approved plans of Blueprint Denver, Comprehensive Plan 2000, FasTracks, CDOT, and DRCOG.

Mr. Longsdorf noted that the NEPA process generated a total of 141 suggestions/options. As a result of various Consensus Committee meetings and community feedback the options have been consolidated to four alternatives: 1) No action; 2) Couplet design (most changes south of Broadway); 3) Broadway widening (longest pedestrian crossing – would need to assure safety); 4) Multi-way boulevard (Parisian-style boulevard – encourages a sense of place and would cut back on traffic cutting through neighborhoods).

Councilmember Lehmann asked how businesses along the Broadway Corridor feel about the widening of the street and wondered how safe it would be and if timing signalization is going to work. Councilmember MacKenzie reported that business owners don't like the couplet alternatives and that they tend to prefer the two-way traffic option. She felt that the Broadway widening would not make it easier for pedestrians. Councilmember Faatz noted problems with a light near the Broadway and Mississippi intersection and hopes there will be changes for better traffic flow.

Mr. Longsdorf said that over the next few months the following actions will take place:

- Ongoing public involvement;

- Complete Level 3 screening;
- Identify the preferred alternative;
- Prepare the environmental assessment (EA);
- Review public comments on the EA.

He provided the following contact information if the public has questions or would like to provide input: email comments to Jason.Longsdorf@ci.denver.co.us or call 720-865-3162.

2) **Solar plant construction:**

Committee Discussion

Luis Colon, General Services, indicated that in November 2004, Colorado voters passed the Renewable Energy amendment to the Colorado constitution. This legislation requires large utilities (e.g. Xcel Energy) to purchase renewable energy as part of their electrical generation portfolio. The legislation also provided the ability for the utility to collect up to 1% (rate rider) of each customer's annual electrical bill to pay for the acquisition of the renewable energy. In March of this year, Xcel began collecting the rate rider. Xcel began a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process to acquire solar generation from its customers at sited installations. The RFP required various technologies and commitments from Xcel and the selected contractor such as:

- Identify photovoltaic (PV) technology (conversion of sunlight into electricity);
- Identify 13,000 megawatt hours (MWh);
- Contractor agrees to combination of reliability, visibility, price, technology, and production schedules;
- Requires contractor to deliver a minimum of 85% and a maximum of 115% of contracted energy quantities;
- Xcel must enter into a 20-year agreement to buy the solar energy; and
- The priority would be focused on customer sited requirements.

Daryl Winer, General Services - Utilities, said the City is proposing locational sites at Denver International Airport and the Colorado Convention Center. A solar plant at the County Jail was removed from the discussions. He noted that solar panels would be warranted for 25 years and were designed to withstand various types of weather. Xcel expects to have an agreement with a selected contractor by August 8, 2006. The City proposed an RFP to select a financing partner that would assist the City in guaranteeing annual output and minimizing plant costs. Mr. Winer noted there were many benefits including an additional revenue stream to the City. Decisions on where to allocate the new resources is yet to be determined. Mr. Colon stressed that the City would be selling its power only to Xcel. The additional benefit that comes from this proposal is that the City would be able to recover some of its rate rider fees, since Denver is one of Xcel's largest customers. Other benefits include: the City would consume the energy at a stabilized rate below tariff, the City would receive annual revenue, and solar generation reduces pollution (see attachment).

Mr. Winer outlined the following criteria for customer sites:

- Meters at all sites;
- Grid capability;

- Land size; and
- Electrical capability.

Councilmember Faatz expressed concern over this proposal if the City is entertaining going into the power business and felt that government should not be involved with these types of transactions. Mr. Colon explained that these measures are beneficial to the City in that it positively impacts the environment at the same time it is bringing down its energy costs. She added that the County Jail option, if still being considered, questioned if that was the best use of land to place solar panels. Mr. Winer said the County Jail was not being considered. Woods Allee, DIA, noted that the proposal benefits the airport because it would add another back up level for electrical loads including the passenger train.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Faatz motioned for an executive session to discuss attorney client issues regarding the contract and negotiations for the City's energy proposal. Councilmember Lehmann seconded the motion.