



City Commission Work Session Minutes

April 27, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

City Hall, Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Mayor Phil Anderson, Commissioners Marty Sullivan, Sheila DeCiccio, Kris Cruzada, and Todd Weaver; City Manager Randy Knight; Assistant City Manager Michelle De Valle and City Clerk Rene Cranis.

Also Present

Staff: Director of Transportation Charles Ramdatt; and Engineer Hong Lim.

Consultant: Senior Planner Lucas Cruse; Practice Leader Angelo Rao and Project Manager Kelly Farabee of Patel, Green & Associates.

1) Call to Order

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2) Discussion Item(s)

- a. Transportation Master Plan Update 2 by Patel, Greene & Associates

Engineer Hong Lim explained the main purpose of the Transportation Master Plan is to provide vision, goals, and the timeline for the presentation of the final plan. He summarized discussion and points made in previous work sessions and subsequent actions. He spoke about plans for Morse Blvd. with future discussions on a vision for this corridor and other projects for Denning, Capen, Capen and Morse, Orange Avenue (project-specific discussion), and 426/Brewer's Curve.

Mr. Cruse recapped the project schedule and said the feedback from this meeting will be incorporated into the draft plan that will be presented for review in July. He reviewed discussions from the last work session for considerations for the elderly, connectivity for parks, schools, SunRail, EV technology and traffic calming tools. He gave a presentation on bicycle level of traffic stress, prioritization of projects addressing pedestrian and bicycle safety and reviewed previously identified roadway and bike/ped projects.

Mr. Cruse explained the concept of greenways to enhance traffic calming, decrease distance between crossings and provide shade, comfort and aesthetics. He showed maps depicting existing and proposed crossings and highlighted roads and proposed routes. He spoke about destination-oriented wayfinding and route identification and different ways to disseminate the information to the public such as online mapping.

Ms. Farabee spoke about available technology for pedestrian improvements, school zone safety and speed management. She presented details on a signals inventory and opportunities to upgrade equipment and supported the creation of a signal communication plan with FDOT and traffic management center. She added that it would be beneficial to consider installing larger signal cabinets that will accommodate future of CAV Readiness (Connected Autonomous Vehicle) technology. Lastly, she touched on other technology for parking management and event management.

Mr. Cruse said the team will present the draft plan document in July that includes a 20-year work program, project cost estimates, prioritization of projects, and alignment of funding sources.

Commissioner Sullivan stressed the need for parking management technology due to limited parking and the need to build additional parking. He spoke about traffic signal coordination with FDOT and the importance in managing traffic capacity. He spoke about the limited bicycle paths in the city, specifically on 426. Mr. Cruse said there is a separate discussion and process underway for the 426 area and the team is deferring to that for more in-depth analysis.

Mr. Cruse continued to respond to questions on NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) standards. He explained that standards are currently at the research level and being developed.

Mayor Anderson asked for the status of the community meeting on 426 on June 13th. Mr. Ramdatt suggested the commission attend the Fix 426 community meeting from 5-7 in the Chapman Room. He noted that the Fix 426 meeting is in conflict with the hurricane preparedness meeting.

Mayor Anderson asked if parking in the downtown area has been surveyed. Mr. Cruse said the area would be included in the plan with staff guidance.

Mayor Anderson spoke about issues with peak utilization at the Events Center and suggested adding a project to the list for costs to install a parking assistant in the parking garage (across Harper). He suggested a pilot program/ joint venture for the parking garage with Chuy's.

Mr. Ramdatt said is parking garage technology that identifies available parking spaces and the technology is changing rapidly. He spoke about emerging technologies being tested by other agencies and suggested shadowing those agencies based on the success of other programs. Mayor Anderson supported a pilot program. Mr. Ramdatt said he will work to facilitate a test project.

Mr. Ramdatt addressed items discussed today and gave updates on the following: technology/fiber optics as it relates to signalization, integration of the city's traffic signals with FDOT's signals, status of the traffic management center for the city, and

bike/ped route continuity. He noted some of the leading research for NHTSA is being done at UCF and the technologies are being tested around UCF and other parts for Metro Orlando. He continued to give updates on countdown pit signals, audible ped signals for the visually impaired, and smart city/transportation technology efforts.

Commissioner Weaver asked about retractable bollards. Mr. Knight explained the difficulties with the bollards not functioning properly. Mr. Ramdatt noted that staff is working on a retractable bollard project for the Fire Department on Park Avenue to be completed this year. Police Chief Volkerson said he met with a company for temporary portable bollards for use during the art festival. He said 58 portable bollards would need to be purchased but are very costly.

Mr. Ramdatt said one of his goals is to develop a parking guidance system that identifies available parking before getting to a destination. He will be doing an inventory of available parking, demand and supply to identify and filling gaps.

Staff responded to additional questions regarding a prior parking study and results. Discussion continued on parking management options for the downtown area.

Mayor Anderson inquired about the brick street reconstruction option where a wide gutter pad would be provided between the curb and brick streets. He suggested it may be an opportunity for some roads. Mr. Ramdatt explained this option would depend on the width of the right-of-way and added he would not support this option for bicycling to school. In-depth discussion followed on potential locations for this roadway design and brick street improvements. Members of the commission expressed concern about children's safety traveling to/from school and bicycle and pedestrian safety using shared sidewalks or roadways. Mr. Ramdatt said staff is studying safety in school zones.

3) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Mayor Phillip M. Anderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk Rene Cranis