



Steering Committee March 7, 2007 Meeting Synopsis

Committee members present: Mayor Cornett, Ray Doonkeen, Michael Laird, Dan Straughan, Pete Delaney, Jennifer Vogler, Ira Schlezinger, Dave Lopez, Jan Hook, Terry Taylor, Terry Ott, Pat Fennell, Luisa Gomez, Tim O'Toole, Willa Johnson, Liz Eickman, David Rainbolt, Jim Roth, Chuck Wiggin, Patrick Ryan, Gena Howard, John Yoeckel, Kirk Humphreys, Kathy Williams, Bob Long, Ann Simank, David Castillo, Trevor Francis, John Reed, Ford Price, Fred Hall, Larry Nichols

1. Call to Order

Mayor Mick Cornett and Dave Lopez reconvened the Steering Committee on March 7, 2007 at 9am at the Beacon Club. Mayor Cornett opened with the following points:

- After consulting with leadership at the higher education institutions in the city, Mayor Cornett believes the downtown campus concept will not work at this time.
- Options currently under consideration for the convention center are expansion of the existing site, and construction of a new site on either the east side of the railway south of Bricktown, or the west side of the railway south of the Ford Center.

2. ODOT Update

Russell Claus introduced David Streb and John Bowman from ODOT to discuss I-40 funding and construction phasing. John Bowman presented the following information:

- Project Funding Overview.
- ODOT has revised total I-40 project funding needs upwards to \$557million.
- Funding has not yet been secured for the new boulevard and the Lincoln-Byers interchange (\$80m??).
- The new I-40 alignment is scheduled for completion in 2012.
- The boulevard is expected to be complete within 18-24 months after completion of the new I-40.
- ODOT is holding a general public meeting on March 15, 4-6 pm at the Cox Convention Center.

3. Convention Center and the Boulevard

Presentations by Hans Butzer, Anthony MacDermid and former Mayor Kirk Humphreys:

- Hans Butzer (TAP) presented a diagram that described the relationship between the CBD and the proposed Core to Shore development. The diagram illustrated the plan's objective to connect downtown to the river while enhancing the functions and momentum of the CBD.
- Sara Jane (URS) and Anthony McDermid (TAP) introduced two revised land use concepts for the area showing the new convention center sites and the following location criteria for consideration:
 - Attractiveness of site
 - Connection to CBD
 - Sufficient space for now and future
 - Will it catalyze other development
 - Will it compliment retail and events
 - Land availability and affordability
 - Hotel proximity
 - Accessibility by pedestrians, services, transit, cars

- Former Mayor Humphreys researched hotel proximity to the proposed east site for the convention center.
 - He advised that the west option was closer to Downtown and hotels by 250 feet. He suggested that the east site is better because it is closer to Bricktown, it allows private sector investment to take maximum advantage of the park, the canal could be designed into the site, and development would only occur with a public use as the site would be cost prohibitive to any private developer.
 - Sara Jane presented the positive aspects of the west site, including the synergy of the convention center/hotel combination with underground parking built behind housing so that it is not facing the park, and proximity to proposed retail.
 - Russell Claus discussed the need for decisions to be made in terms of the placement of the key components so the design team can begin to render plan graphics for marketing purposes.

Boulevard: Sara Jane presented three boulevard concepts and discussed the pros and cons of each:

Type 1. Large center median, 40 ft. sidewalks

Type 2. Traffic median, 40 ft. sidewalks

Type 3. No central median, sleeves for parking, 20 ft. sidewalks.

- The committee broke into four small groups for round table discussions facilitated by a URS Team member. Each group discussed alternatives, and presented their summary for discussion with the full committee on convention center locations and boulevard types.

4. Table Discussions

Committee Poll of Boulevard Preferences - Type by Table

Table 1. - Type 3: Senior friendly, safer, permanent parking

Table 2. - Type 2: No sleeves, roadway narrow as possible, 40 ft. sidewalks

Table 3. - Type 3: Safer, helps retail

Table 4. - Type 3: Pedestrian friendly, handicapped accessible, provides for transit options, unique and functional

Committee Poll of Convention Center Location Preferences (East/West) by Table

Table 1. – West: East site might cost more, less likely to detract from Bricktown where there is current entrance at Harkins Theatre.

Table 2. - West: Cotton Coop site too large, could be used as something else in future.

Table 3 - East: Design to work with transit. Better direct connection, hotels between center and park, integrate with Bricktown.

Table 4. – East: Public investment needed to redevelop Cotton Coop site. Integration with canal would make site unique. Impossible to save land for future use.

5. Group Discussion

- Chuck Wiggins: We need to identify requirements, set the criteria and assign weights to the criteria for the convention center no matter where the location. Three out of the four groups favored the Type 3 Boulevard.
- Jennifer Vogler: Suggested keeping some kind of green space or art space in the middle of the boulevard.
- Patrick Ryan: We need an in-depth discussion of the new I-40 and pedestrian bridge.

6. Future Steering Committee Schedule

- Next meeting: The next meeting will be held at 2:00pm on April 10 for three hours
- Sara Jane Maclennan suggested the June Steering Committee meeting be scheduled for three hours to accommodate more discussion time, and that there be one final meeting in the Fall.

7. Adjournment

The Mayor and Dave Lopez adjourned the meeting by stating the importance of keeping our options open as we move forward in the process.