

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Johnson, Swiston, Harney, Yates, Schwartz, Fuller and Kalis

Also Present: Ald. Danberg

City Staff: Clint Schuckel, Director of Transportation and David Koses, Transportation Planner

DISCUSSION ITEM: Chairman's Note: At the Chair's request, Clint Schuckel Director of Transportation will provide an update on items approved by Traffic Council that have not been funded.

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel provided Committee members with a draft spreadsheet of unfunded and funded Traffic Council projects, attached to this report.

Mr. Schuckel reviewed each project location, project scope, last committee action, survey or design status, funding source, estimated cost and status of each project.

Unfunded Projects: There are 18 unfunded projects. Mr. Schuckel said that the unfunded project spreadsheet does not include CIP items with no funding because they are a maintenance type of project. It is necessary for a project to cost \$75,000 to be included in the CIP.

Committee members asked for additional information on the following items:

Unfunded Project #4 (Mill Street). In November, The Public Facilities Committee and Board of Aldermen approved a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor requesting that he expeditiously as possible find funding to create traffic calming measures on Mill Street as requested by Traffic Council.

Unfunded Project #9 (Municipal parking lots). Mr. Schuckel said funding is not available to purchase an additional twenty "Luke" style multi-space meter machines at an estimated cost of \$20,000 each. One machine is necessary for each fifty parking spaces. Currently, the City makes collections once a week. 50-60% of patrons' transactions are being paid by debit or credit card. The meters are set at a minimum charge of \$1.50. The City pays approximately 8-9% of its gross revenue to the credit card company as a transaction fee. The City has a contract with the vendor and the machine is under warranty.

Unfunded Project #16 (Beacon Street @ Grant Avenue). Mr. Schuckel said that the Board of Aldermen approved this project in 1998. This is an "old" CIP item, no funding at the present time.

Unfunded Project #17 (Spiers Road @ Dedham Street). Mr. Schuckel said that the Board of Aldermen approved this project in 2000. This is an “old” CIP item, no funding at the present time. Committee members suggested that warrants once again be reviewed for this project.

Unfunded Project # 18 (Centre Street @ Pleasant Street). Mr. Schuckel said he is hopeful this project will begin in 2012. Panera Bread has funded \$25,000. The project will cost an estimated \$100,000 to complete.

Funded Projects: There are 9 funded projects. Mr. Schuckel said that the funded project spreadsheet includes 4 projects to be funded by Chapter 90. Chapter 90 funding request has not been submitted and actual funding for the 2012 construction season is to be determined.

Funded Project #1 (Parker Street @ Theodore Road). Mr. Schuckel said this item was prioritized #22 in the CIP. It is the only project funded in the CIP for the next five years.

Funded Project #2 (Parker Street @ Athelstane Road). A State grant program through Safe Routes to School program will fund this project.

Funded Project #3 (Cypress Street @ Bowen School). A State grant program through Safe Routes to School program will fund this project.

Committee members thanked Mr. Schuckel for his presentation and asked that he provide future spreadsheets to include the date an item was docketed and perhaps prioritize CIP projects. Mr. Schuckel stated it is difficult to prioritize projects because of safety reasons; one project is not necessarily important than the next.

#156-11 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority on the physical condition of the bridge that carries the MBTA Green Line over Route 9 near Eliot Station. [05/02/11 @ 10:51 PM]

HELD 6-0, Ald. Fuller and Harney not voting on 01/04/12

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 8-0

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel provided Committee members with a bridge inspection report from the MBTA regarding the physical condition and safety of the bridge, attached to this report.

Without further discussion, Ald. Yates made a motion for no action necessary. Committee members agreed 8-0.

#137-11 ALD. DANBERG AND FULLER requesting possible changes to City Ordinance 19-191, Parking Meter Fees, to require a minimum purchase at long-term parking meters in order to discourage short-term use. [4/26/11 @ 9:52 AM]

ACTION: HELD 8-0

NOTE: Ald. Danberg said that this item was docketed in order to request the requirement of a minimum purchase at long-term parking meters to discourage short-term use by changing pricing models.

Committee members were provided with draft ordinance language that creates a daily rate for long-term parking spaces in the Cypress Street parking lot prepared by Marie Lawlor, Assistant City Solicitor, dated 01/12/12, attached to this report.

Mr. Schuckel said that this item is primarily for the Cypress Street parking lot because of the simplicity to change rates on the kiosk "Luke". He said he is concerned about educating patrons. If this item were approved, what would be the most effective way?

Ald. Fuller made a motion to hold this item pending the following information: Additional data regarding patrons who use long-term spaces for short-term visits, recommendation on a trial and most effective way to educate people. Committee members agreed 8-0.

As requested from Ald. Johnson, "The Premium Parking Spot" article from the *Boston Sunday Globe*, dated January 15, 2012, is attached to this report.

At approximately 9:35 pm, Ald. Yates moved to adjourn. Committee members agreed 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman