

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 9, 2004

Present:

Nat Cohen, Chairman
Jess Fox
Dennis Abraham
Michael Copeland
Bori Dedeitch

Absent:

Michael Hutchison
Raj Minocha

Staff:

Lloyd Neal, Transportation Engineering Manager
Gerald Cosgrove, Chief Engineer/CIP
Ronnie Bell, Senior Traffic Engineer
Tracy Nyholm, Safe Streets Program Engineer
Kent McIlyar, Assistant City Attorney III

The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on December 9, 2004, in the Council Chambers.

Jess Fox, made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 11, 2004, meeting. Dennis Abraham, seconded the motion with a minor correction. The motion passed 5-0.

Nat Cohen, Chairman, asked if it would be possible to change the agenda and present the Kipling Drive connection and then finish the meeting with the Share the Road program. Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the change. Michael Copeland seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Mr. Cohen presented the discussion of recommendations regarding upcoming bond program be tabled to December 16, 2004. Michael Copeland made a motion for the item be tabled. Mr. Fox seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY ENGINEER CONCERNING THE KIPLING DRIVE CONNECTION TO THE EXTENSION OF PREMIER DRIVE

Gerald Cosgrove, Chief Engineer/CIP, reported a neighborhood survey was conducted in November to determine the neighborhood consensus for concerning connecting Kipling Drive to Premier Drive. The response received was positive. Currently one road connection exists at Premier Drive and Heritage Drive that provides access to the northeastern portion of the neighborhood. With the completion of the Premier Road Extension project, a new road connection will be created at its intersection with Kipling Drive which will increase the ability of Fire and Police services to quickly respond to emergencies as well as improving access to the neighborhood to businesses located to the south.

Mr. Cohen opened up discussion on this item. Sara Jo Mueller and Dan Peterson spoke in support of this project stating the traffic flow on major streets will no longer be a problem, access to the major freeways will be made easier, and access to businesses from alternate routes will be made available. Dan Thompson, Wallace and Susan Lozano, and Gail Perry all spoke in opposition to the project stating the survey letter "guided" a yes vote, the neighborhood would become more accessible to drunk drivers leaving the businesses located on the frontage road, crime would increase, little or no change to emergency vehicles would be impacted, and drivers would use this route to gain access to the freeway. No one else spoke for or against the project.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the project. Dennis Abraham seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE SHARE THE ROAD PROGRAM

Mr. Cohen opened discussion regarding the possibilities of a Share the Road Program that the TAC has been asked to consider by the City Council. Rebecca Hollingshead, representing Bikers Against Negligent Driving; Robert Fletcher, representing the Texas Abate Confederation; John Munson, representing the Texas Motorcycle Roadriders Association; Sputnik, representing Texas Motorcycle Rights Association; Chris Mathews, representing Plano Bicycle Association; Warren Casteel, representing Plano Bicycle Association; Rick Gurney, representing Plano Cycling & Fitness; Jennifer Arnold; Chris Phelan, representing The Ride of Silence National Bike Rally; Roger Dillion; Alan Warner and Alan Hasty, representing Plano Bicycle, all spoke in support of this program. Concerns regarding various methods of bringing awareness to drivers on sharing the road with motorcycles and bicycles were voiced. The use of multiple signs to re-enforce drivers awareness of cyclists (both motor and bicycle) was noted. Several of the speakers offered their services in helping the City and the TAC in helping this program become a reality.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Copeland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jess Fox, seconded the motion. Mr. Cohen adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Chairman

Lloyd Neal, P.E.
Transportation Engineering Manager