

**PUBLIC HEARING  
TRAVIS COUNTY BOND PROGRAM  
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2005  
PFLUGERVILLE JUSTICE CENTER (COURTROOM)  
1611 E. PFENNING LANE  
7:00 PM**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Rod Reyna - Chair  
Glen Coleman**

**Leslie Pool**

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Laura Alanis  
David Balagia  
Tredon Bohls  
Pat Bowman  
Jo Carol Bradshaw  
Neil Cable  
Eleanor D'Ambrosio  
Wally English  
Jane Falkenberg  
Carol Fletcher  
Ken Gaede  
Sally Gannaway  
Joe Gieselman  
Jack Gullahorn  
Gladys Havel**

**Larry Havel  
John E. Hutchinson  
Jerry Ingram  
Carol Joseph  
Kristina Kubeck  
Lonnie Logan  
Janet Marsh  
Mark McAfee  
Pat McCord  
Julia McNamara  
Mike McNamara  
Angela Michaels  
Vermagene Mott  
Jeff Reed  
Sabine Romero**

**Betty Roundtree  
Wendy Scaperotta  
Stacey Scheffel  
Jeff Sims  
Comm. Sonleitner  
Rep. Mark Strama  
Joyce Thoresen  
Ray Thoresen  
Mike Trimble  
Robert Turner  
Gretchen Vaden  
Charlie Watts  
Nathan Weiss  
\*News Channel 8**

**1. Open House of Project Information**

Committee member Mr. Rod Reyna opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m., after citizens had a chance to review project displays, and ask questions of staff. Mr. Reyna began by introducing himself to the audience and explaining that the hearing was based on a proposed \$100 million bond for basic core services in the area of Mobility, Drainage, Jails and Parks & Open Space. He further stated that in addition to that amount, there is a proposed "Stand Alone" bond for \$60 million for Open Space, which would raise taxes by \$16.00 per year. Mr. Reyna stated that the committee members present would take public comments on these proposals back to the subcommittee for review, and finally to Commissioners' Court for finalization.

**2. CBAC Introductions**

Mr. Reyna recognized special guests that were present at the meeting: Commissioner Sonleitner from Precinct Two, and her assistant Ms. Gretchen Vaden, Representative Mark Strama, District 50 and his assistant Ms. Eleanor D'Ambrosio, Police Chief Hooker of Pflugerville, and County staff.

Mr. Reyna stated that there were at least 14 speakers for tonight's meeting and directed the audience to come to the microphone to speak. He stated that before hearing tonight's speakers, County staff would discuss various projects included in the bond package.

He also asked the Travis County Bond Committee Members that were in attendance to introduce themselves to the audience. Ms. Leslie Pool introduced herself as an appointee to the Committee for Precinct Two, representing the Parks & Open Space subcommittee; Mr. Glenn Coleman introduced himself as an appointee to the Committee for Precinct Two, Chair of Drainage & Mobility Improvement subcommittee; and finally, Mr. Reyna introduced himself as an appointee for Precinct Two, representing the Parks and Open Space subcommittee as well.

He informed the audience that there were handouts available and that much of the same information would be available online.

Mr. Reyna informed the audience that there are additional meetings being held throughout the County in the various precincts. He then proceeded to the next agenda item.

### **3. Project Presentations – County Staff**

- Jail Facility Replacement and Improvement Projects, was presented by Mr. Mike Trimble, Criminal Justice Planning Coordinator. Mr. Trimble also introduced Major Balagia, Travis County Sheriff's Office. He also introduced Ken Gaede, Project Manager for the jail project.
- Subdivision Drainage Improvement Projects and Flood Plain Mitigation, was presented by Mr. Bob Turner, TNR and Ms. Stacey Scheffel, TNR
- Mobility Improvements and Right-of-Way Acquisition, was presented by Mr. Charlie Watts, Planner, TNR

Mr. Reyna asked if there were any public questions or comments that citizens would like to address to the present subcommittee members and have them take this information back to the Committee for discussion.

Ms. Sally Gannaway commented that the initial plans she saw for Pecan Street displayed a six-lane expansion from SH130 towards future Pfennig Lane and she asked if the scope of the plan has been narrowed to four-lane.

Mr. Charlie Watts replied that the CAMPO Plan shows a future 6-lane arterial from SH 130 to Pfennig Lane and a 4-lane arterial from Pfennig Lane to FM 685. The plans funded from the 2001 Bond Package were designed for a 4-lane arterial for the complete section of the project.

Mr. Joe Gieselman, Director of Transportation & Natural Resources, stated that the difference between constructing a four-lane and six-lane arterial is approximately \$1.5 million. The County is still undecided whether or not to go forward and build the six-lane arterial or reduce it to the four-lane arterial for budget purposes.

Ms. Carol Fletcher commented that there appears to be a lot of access to SH 130 from the Pflugerville area but not a lot of access from Pflugerville to IH 35. She stated that SH 130 does not seem to be an option for those that work in the Austin area, and wanted to know if there are any future developments for Greater Pflugerville residents to have adequate access to IH 35.

Mr. Gieselman responded by stating this bond election does not include state highways or city streets. This bond only includes county roadways in which the County has responsibility. The County will not consider IH 35 or SH 130 because they are State highways, and improvement needs for those road ways are funded by TXDoT.

Mr. Gieselman further explained that the County does have a project under design to improve Wells Branch Parkway, and that will be a four to six lane arterial from Heatherwilde Blvd. to NE Metro Park, in which parts are currently under contract. The County will have additional east-west arterial capacity between Immanuel Road to IH 35. In regard to the larger question of Pflugerville residents having access into the central city (Austin), SH130 should bleed off some of the traffic off IH 35, but it may only be a marginal difference. SH 130 will give some relief but not enough to dramatically improve the commute to downtown Austin.

Mr. Strama rephrased the question by stating that it is not how to make the commute faster but how residents can get onto IH 35 from Pflugerville with only having Pecan Lane as a connection. He explained that he was uncertain if Wells Branch Pkwy. would be helpful or not.

Ms. Sally Fletcher stated once they add more east-west capacity on Wells Branch Pkwy. it could add more cars going through the same light and to get onto IH 35.

Mr. Gieselman responded that it is probably a bigger issue and one that will have to be addressed by TxDOT. Basically, you have the north-south Loop One, IH35 and SH30 and the County is trying to create the rungs on the ladder between those thus providing access to those major arterials.

Mr. Neil Cable mentioned that part of the Wells Branch Project that the County is working on is the extension of Heatherwilde Blvd., which would allow traffic to go down to Howard Lane, which would be an additional outlet to IH 35.

Representative Strama stated that there were three proposals to Howard Lane, two of them are included, however, he wanted to know if the City of Austin was mentioned as picking up a part of Howard Lane as the third proposal. Mr. Watts answered yes. He explained that there is a letter from Mayor Wynn stating the City's willingness to work on the Howard Lane II Section from Cameron Road through Harris Branch development.

Mr. Reyna asked if there were any further questions directed at Travis County staff. He also asked if Mr. Coleman would comment on any of the current work or priorities of the Mobility subcommittee that were taking place. Mr. Coleman stated that the subcommittee basically considers where people work and try to identify where the traffic will be in the next 10-15 years. He acknowledged that NE Travis County has many projects from the subcommittee's recommended list. There are a lot of people sitting in traffic, and Travis County is working on that issue.

Ms. Mott, a citizen thanked the committee for putting Pecan Street back into the package.

Mr. Reyna asked if there were any more questions and continued with Project Presentations.

- Parks and Open Space Improvements and Land Acquisition, was presented by Ms. Wendy Scaperotta, TNR

A citizen asked how many acres of land would be included in the Reimer's Ranch proposal. Ms. Scaperotta answered that the County was planning to purchase approximately 300 acres.

Mr. Reyna had subcommittee member's follow-up each presentation with an update or further comment on their work. He stated that there were two categories for the parks. The first part included parks that were in basic shape, and the second part included parks that are going into Phase II or Phase III.

Commissioner Sonleitner stated that Pat McCord, a former Pflugerville Council Member, who was present at the meeting, had played a large part in promoting a Skate Park in Pflugerville and deserved recognition for his input.

#### **4. Receive Public Comments – Bond Committee**

Mr. Reyna stated that the second half of the meeting would consist of taking citizen comments and answering questions. He stated that all of this started with approximately \$450 million of projects, and now the proposal consists of 29 projects totaling approximately \$100 million, plus the \$60 million proposal for open space. Mr. Reyna announced that there were fourteen citizens signed up to speak and that handouts or maps were available for reference. He also stated that written public comments would be scanned and posted on the Travis County website.

The following citizens spoke at this meeting:

##### **Speakers:**

Larry Havel - Arterial A

Mark McAfee - Arterial A

John E. Hutchinson - Arterial A

Angela Michaels - Arterial A

Kristina Kubeck - Arterial A & Walnut Creek

Jack Gullahorn - Mobility

Nathan Weiss - Pecan Street, Cameron Road & Howard Lane

Jane Falkenberg - Mobility Project #1, Arterial A

Joyce Thoresen - Arterial A

Janet Marsh - Braker Lane

Pat McCord - Skate Park

#### **5. Other Items / Next Steps**

Mr. Reyna asked if there were anymore citizen communications. He recognized Mr. Ingram, who had submitted a letter in support of the Walnut Creek Flooding Project and Arterial A. Mr. Reyna stated that the information would be placed into the minutes. He then asked Commissioner Sonleitner if she had anything to add. Commissioner Sonleitner thanked the citizens for attending

the public hearing, and also extended appreciation to the Committee and County staff for their participation and hard work.

Mr. Reyna acknowledged everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked all that were involved. He also mentioned that the proposed project material, committee member email addresses, and other information are posted on the County website for citizen access.

**6. Next Meeting**

He stated that the bond discussions were not yet finalized and that there will be various public hearings held throughout the County for citizens to attend. Mr. Reyna read the future Hearing locations to those in attendance.

**7. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned 9:12 p.m.