

City Plan Commission – Thoroughfare Committee

November 16, 2017

Minutes

Attendees: Paul E. Ridley – Chair, Michael Jung, Terry Watson, Jeremy McGahan, Gary Lawler

Absent: Jarred Davis – Vice Chair

Commissioner Ridley called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Agenda Items:

1. First order of business was to present Mr. Steve Stoner with a plaque for his service on the City Plan Commission Thoroughfare Committee from 1998 to 2017.
2. Next order of business was to approve the June 8, 2017, meeting minutes.

Commissioner Jung motioned to approve the June 8, 2017, meeting minutes and Mr. Watson seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Vote on motion:

For: 5 – Ridley, Jung, Lawler, Watson, McGahan

Opposed: 0

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Canada Drive Thoroughfare Plan Amendment

Change the dimensional classification of: (1) Canada Drive from Westmoreland Road to Holystone Street from a standard four-lane divided (S-4-D) roadway within 80 feet of right-of-way to a special four-lane divided (SPCL 4D) roadway with bicycle facilities and parking on both sides of the roadway within 100 feet of right-of-way and 78 feet of pavement; and (2) Canada Drive from Holystone Street to Hampton Road from a standard four-lane divided (S-4-D) roadway within 80 feet of right-of-way to a special four-lane divided (SPCL 4D) roadway with bicycle facilities and parking on the north side of the roadway within 100 feet of right-of-way and 75 feet of pavement.

Staff recommends approval.

Mr. Watson moved to follow staff's recommendation of approval. Mr. McGahan seconded the motion.

Commissioner Ridley asked for discussion of the motion.

Commissioner Jung stated that he has not been a supporter of the over enthusiastic application of the complete streets model to roadways with high vehicular volumes. He stated that taking Canada Drive, a street that is designated at a higher capacity level than needed, and reducing vehicular capacity to provide a multimodal environment, is the best use of the complete streets model.

Vote on motion:

For: 5 – Ridley, Jung, Lawler, Watson, McGahan

Opposed: 0

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Montfort Drive Thoroughfare Plan Amendment

Change the dimensional classification of Montfort Drive from Alpha Road to IH-635 from a special six-lane divided (SPCL 6D) roadway within 117 feet of right-of-way with 92 feet of pavement with bike lanes to a special four-lane divided (SPCL 4D) roadway within 80 feet of right-of-way and bicycle facilities.

Commissioner Jung moved to deny and to not follow staff's recommendation of approval. Commissioner Ridley seconded the motion.

Commissioner Ridley asked for discussion of the motion.

Commissioner Jung stated that this area is the subject of a comprehensive land use plan that was approved by Council in 2013. That plan specifically recommends six-lanes plus bike lanes on Montfort. This area is also addressed in the Park Vision produced by the Midtown Park Foundation, which again clearly designates a six-lane thoroughfare with bike lanes. Commissioner Jung shared that the CPC Thoroughfare Committee was told that the Park Foundation has had second thoughts about the recommendation, but those thoughts have not been formally presented to the City, and the City has not yet weighed in on that Vision. The volumes of traffic for Montfort are near capacity for a four-lane thoroughfare. If future development is as intense as previously anticipated, and some of the vehicular traffic will be handled through multimodal operations, it could be anticipated that the traffic volumes will increase over time. The concern has been raised about a high-speed roadway running through the park. Most hours of the day Montfort is a slow-speed roadway; therefore, this is not a serious consideration or concern. Commissioner Jung shared his concern that decisions brought to the City Plan Commission Thoroughfare Committee are influenced by external factors unrelated to transportation planning. The availability of NCTCOG funding has been considered in at least one other Thoroughfare Plan Amendment this year. There is also concern with parks being planned to span thoroughfares, which influences the modification of the thoroughfare. Park planning should be better coordinated with the

Thoroughfare Plan. Finally, Commissioner Jung shared his concern that the impetus for this change is being driven by interests of a private development applicant.

Mr. Watson asked if the motion also included a more comprehensive look at Montfort. Commissioner Jung stated that the original motion did not but that he would accept that modification.

Commissioner Jung restated the motion to deny staff recommendation based on the need for a more comprehensive evaluation of Montfort Drive and the Midtown Park. Commissioner Ridley seconded the motion.

Vote on motion:

For: 5 – Ridley, Jung, Lawler, Watson, McGahan

Opposed: 0

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Items

Staff requested input from Committee Members regarding their preference for having a separate 360 Plan Update briefing or a joint briefing with the CPC. The same presentation would be presented at both meetings if the briefings were separate. If the Committee preferred to attend the joint briefing, both the Committee Members and the Commissioners would be allowed to ask questions.

Commissioner Ridley stated that a joint briefing is preferable.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Ridley adjourned at 10:04 am.