

**MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
NEW CITY HALL
CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
OCTOBER 27, 2015**

Mike Jones called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the City Attorney's Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joseph Harper; Don Kesler, Jr.; Kay Love; Mike Jones.

ABSENT: Sharon Fanning.

OTHER PRESENT: Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Works, Keith Neitzke, Parks and Recreation Department; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

APPROVE MINUTES from August 25, 2015 meeting

Motion by Kesler, Second by Harper, to approve the minutes of August 25, 2015. **Aye:** Harper; Kesler; Love; Jones. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

A. Approve the Notice of Meeting for 2016.

Motion by Kesler, Second by Harper, to approve 2016 meeting notice. **Aye:** Kesler; Love; Jones; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Transition Plan Update and review milestone chart for completion, take action if necessary.

Kesler asked "I noticed the amount of \$800,000 plus was the number that was stated at the Council meeting and in the paper. Is this number correct?"

Whisenhunt stated yes, from July 2014 to June of 2015.

Jones stated we were required to spend \$250,000 and we spent \$848,000.

Kesler asked "Was most of that contractors putting in new streets?"

Whisenhunt stated some was but a good part was Lawton Market Place and Lawton Town Center.

Jones stated here is a copy of the report that we gave to Council. I'm going to read the last paragraph. "The City is addressing accessibility improvements identified in the Transition Plan according to a specified schedule with targeted funding goals. The scheduled funding goal for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015 was \$250,000. The costs associated with the citywide accessibility improvements either funded or facilitated by the City of Lawton for that period were categorized and tracked by City of Lawton Development & Construction Manager, Rusty Whisenhunt, and totaled \$878,457.60. This means that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015, the City of Lawton exceeded its targeted funding amount by \$628,475.60 or 251.4%."

Whisenhunt stated we are on target this year to exceed that number.

Harper stated this is good. What about the bus stops at 20th and Smith?

Jones stated this was approved by LETA which is the first step necessary in getting them constructed. It will go to Council on November 10th for their approval.

Whisenhunt stated once it is approved by Council I'll get a PO and authorize the contract to begin construction.

Harper asked "Will that be sometime in early December?"

Whisenhunt stated it depends on the contractor's schedule.

Jones stated maybe we can take a bus ride out there and have the media to come take pictures for a little publicity.

Whisenhunt stated LETA also approved sidewalks around Centenary Methodist Church.

Jones stated we have had a lot of good progress this year. I want to thank Whisenhunt for keeping track of the figures.

Whisenhunt stated the 11th Street project is complete. We are about to advertize for the remainder of 2nd Street from Columbia to Ferris. The bike path out of Elmer Thomas Park up to Fort Sill Boulevard crossing Cache Road heading north to the cemetery is built. Arlington is still under construction and there will be sidewalks up Arlington to 31st and up 31st to where Arlington goes back.

Harper asked "Is that where it goes into the hospital outpatient?"

Whisenhunt stated yes. 27th Street is 75% constructed and it will go all the way to Lee Boulevard. Those are the projects that are underway right now.

Love stated that is great. Have we contacted LATS in regards to some priorities?

Jones stated we did. Here is an email that I received from LATS. I'm going to read the third bullet. "Looking at past surveys, it shows both red routes and both yellow routes have the

most ridership. The red route takes on most of its customers at the Downtown Transfer Center (DTC) and the Wal-Mart on Sheridan Road. The yellow route takes on more transfers than any other routes because they run opposite side of town (East and West). During the school year, yellow east, blue route and green route see more riders because they run right by all the schools. The orange route has the least ridership; these buses service mainly Ft. Sill. Again the information is really just the main bus stops that our customers use. Most are not ADA accessible mainly because they don't have sidewalks. We should have some more feedback from the customers in Nov/Dec after our route study survey results are presented to us." He is going to forward that information so we can use the data for some of our stops.

Whisenhunt stated our priorities are related to the Wal-Mart area.

Jones stated exactly. I think we are all on the same page.

Love stated I believe it is important we work together.

Jones stated he stated the busiest stop for the Blue Route is NW 16th Street and NW Taylor, Hastings side and Sam's Side on Ferris is the busiest for the Green Route, Little Caesar's on NW 67th Street is the busiest for the Yellow West Route and NW Smith is the busiest for the Orange Route.

Kesler stated I wonder if the ridership for the Orange Route is the least due to the hours. Most soldiers are in duty status until 5:00 p.m. and I would think if we could extend the Orange Route until 10:00 p.m. or midnight that would help to get the soldiers to the major shopping areas that are open until 10:00 p.m.

Harper stated they need to do that to the Red Route also.

Jones stated maybe for the next meeting we could have someone from LATS here to discuss these issues with us. I believe they would like to see the signs turn into benches and shelters. I'm not certain what it would cost to do this.

Whisenhunt stated the shelters were provided by CDBL except for the ones in front of Fort Sill Apache Casino and Cameron. I don't know the cost but it is substantial.

Love stated several years ago the Wichita Adult Living Center looked into sponsoring those and I believe the cost was \$24,000.

Harper stated we need to run a route at night for Fort Sill and the Red Route.

Love stated Cameron talked about getting a route for the students taking night classes. They could get to class but they didn't have a way home.

Jones asked "Do we want to have someone from LATS here at the next meeting?"

Love stated Ryan Landers would be good.

Jones stated I'll set something up with them. Do we want to look at a couple more stops to add pads too?

Whisenhunt stated the number one priority is from 27th to the front of DHS. That has a pad and shelter it is basically sidewalk and the crossing of the driveways. This would not be a huge cost from the bus stop to the driveway.

Jones asked "Are you talking about going back east?"

Whisenhunt stated no going back to the west down to the driveway. That is straight sidewalk. We could also look at the cost from there to the sidewalk at 27th Street. I'll put the cost together.

Jones stated after we do the two on Smith we should have around \$27,000 left.

Ezell stated LETA approved to do sidewalks for Centenary Methodist also.

Whisenhunt stated after both projects there will be around \$16,000 and that will probably do the number one priority.

Jones stated going back to the Council meeting I let them know that participation and attendance for the last year has been great, progress has been good, that everyone has been satisfied with the progress and we were going to try and beat the dollar figure next year. With that we will go around the table.

Harper stated I have traveled half way around the world and this is the worse city I have seen for streets and sidewalks. In the early day they must not have planned for sidewalks.

Jones stated there was a period of time where sidewalks were opposed due to the funds coming from the contractor's pockets. The city went several years without a sidewalk ordinance.

Whisenhunt stated from 1989 to 2004 there wasn't an ordinance and I don't know how long before that.

Love stated things have changed over time. I remember in the 1990's when people didn't believe the town was big enough to support a bus system. I'm excited about what has been accomplished in such a short time and I'm looking forward to seeing more changes. Everybody has worked hard to get things accomplished and I'm excited about continuing.

Jones asked “Mr. Kesler.”

Kesler asked “Can we get an update on the maps?”

Whisenhunt stated once construction is complete and accepted by Council I will change the maps. The project is not finished until it is accepted by Council.

Love asked “Would it be possible for Channel 7 to report about some of the accomplishments from the last year? There are a lot of people that don’t know the changes that have occurred. The City needs to promote themselves.”

Harper stated a newspaper article would be nice also.

Jones asked “Neitzke do you have anything?”

Neitzke stated no.

Kesler stated our next meeting is the week between Christmas and New Years. Do we want to back it up to the 15th?

Jones stated that is a good idea. Whisenhunt do you have anything to talk about?

Whisenhunt stated there is a challenge for cars with projects that are going on much less pedestrians. This is something we are trying to figure out ways to accommodate pedestrian traffic during the construction process. The Traffic Engineer is starting to look at pedestrian routes. The amount of pedestrian traffic since 1989 has increased 100 fold.

Neitzke stated the Surgeon General is now endorsing walking and so this may allow more grant money for accessibility.

Whisenhunt stated some grant money has been held up for bike and safe routes and it might be released in the near future.

Harper asked “Why doesn’t the city force homeowner to park in their driveways instead of on the streets?”

Whisenhunt stated the length of a driveway is different on houses. You have 2 and 4 car drives. If you own a 2 car drive and have more than 2 vehicles you have to park in the street. As long as there is an 18’ access down the middle it is legal.

Love stated sometime the cars in the driveway cover the sidewalk.

Whisenhunt stated that is something that is being reviewed.

Jones stated that’s all I have today. Thanks for being here and your input. I hope that you see we have made progress this last year.

2. Comments/Discussion

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Motion by Kesler, **Second** by Harper, to adjourn. **Aye:** Love; Jones; Harper; Kesler.
Nay: None. **Motion Passed.**