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August 11, 2010

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Hutchinson and City Councilmembers

TH: Darin Atteberry, City Manager
Diane Jones, Deputy City Manager
Karen Cumbo, Planning, Development, and Transportation Director

FM: Joe Frank, Advance Planning Director
Timothy Wilder, Senior City Planner

RE: Work Session Summary – August 10, 2010 – Plan Fort Collins, Phase 2 – *Vision, Policy Choices, and Proposed Directions*

Work Session Participants:

Diane Jones, Deputy City Manager
Joe Frank, Advance Planning Department Director
John Stokes, Natural Resources Director
Jon Haukaas, Water Engineering Field Operations Manager
Josh Birks, Economic Advisor
Lucinda Smith, Senior Environmental Planner
Timothy Wilder, Senior City Planner
Megan Bolin, City Planner
Ben Herman, Clarion Associates

Direction Sought/Questions to be Answered:

On July 27, 2010, the Council discussed and provided comments on the Vision and Sustainability, and Transportation policy choices needing more direction.

This worksession was a continuation of that discussion, focusing on the remaining policy choices needing more direction, including Economic Health, Environmental Resources, Stormwater, Neighborhood and Community Livability, and Safety and Awareness. The general questions to be addressed during the work session were:

1. Does Council have comments and/or direction on the following list of *Policy Choices Needing More Discussion and Direction*?

- EH2-A: Continue Retail Retention and Recruitment
- EH3-A: Provide Land Ready for Larger Employers
- EH3-B: Incentives to Make Land Ready
- ENV4-A: Employ Price Mechanisms (to reduce miles driven)
- ENV6-A: Reduce Carbon Intensity and Consumption
- ENV8-A: Expand Opportunities for Stormwater Treatment and Conveyance
- ENV9-A: Improve Stormwater Quality and Conveyance
- ENV10-A: Increase Stormwater Partnerships
- LIV7-A: Identify Neighborhoods Where Protective Measures are Needed
- LIV10-A: Carry Forward Existing Policies Related to the Poudre River Corridor Activities and Protections
- SW3-A: Support Healthy Living
- SW5-A: Support Local Agriculture and Food Production

2. Does Council agree with the list of *Policy Choices to Carry Forward and Refine*?

Council's Discussion/Direction:

Council discussed the remaining priority topics on staff's recommended discussion list except for *LIV10-A: Carry Forward Existing Policies Related to the Poudre River Corridor Activities and Protections.*

EH2-A: Continue Retail Retention and Recruitment

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan's policies continue to reaffirm retail development and redevelopment along the College and Harmony corridors?

- There was general support for the staff recommendation to continue to pursue retail retention and recruitment as part of the economic health strategy.
- Council wanted to ensure that staff upholds the City's high quality standards and quality of review even when pursuing strategies such as streamlining of development.
- Harmony Road was recognized as both an important retail and employment corridor.

EH3-A: Provide Land Ready for Larger Employers
EH3-B: Incentives to Make Land Ready

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan include a policy supporting City coordination and involvement in working on an area and district basis to make land ready for businesses that will have a broader benefit to the community?

- There were Council concerns as to the appropriate role of the City with providing employment land.
- Council does not support the City acting as the developer to provide employment land.
- Many Council members expressed a desire for a "delicate balance" between government involvement and the role of the private sector.
- Concern was expressed over utility ratepayers subsidizing private development.

- Council members felt that government's role should be to remove major barriers and tracking the inventory of employment land.
- There was agreement that the policy language needed to be revised and clarified.
- Council would like to see a map of existing and planned employment land, and information on vacant existing buildings that could accommodate employers.

ENV4-A: Employ Price Mechanisms (to reduce miles driven)

Question seeking Council direction: Should price mechanisms to reduce VMT continue to be part of the air quality plan update discussion, which will include additional public outreach and Council input later this summer and fall?

- Council generally agreed that staff should continue to discuss this policy direction, but wanted a cautious approach.
- Council felt that the type of strategies employed in the Climate Wise Program is appropriate.
- Programs at the federal and state level may be more important, but there could be local programs that are worth considering.
- The language in the draft policy seems overly prescriptive and should be revised to reflect the innovative, pragmatic approach to the issue.

ENV6-A: Reduce Carbon Intensity and Consumption

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan include a policy regarding reducing carbon intensity and consumption?

- There were mixed Council opinions as to whether this issue should be included as a policy.
- There were concerns about duplication of this item with the Climate Action Plan policies.
- There was recognition that this issue is closely related to other topic areas like transportation and land use.
- Most of the Council wanted the link between carbon impacts and land use planning to be included in policy, but with refined language at a summary level with acknowledgment of the linkages to other policy areas and the Climate Action Plan.

ENV8-A: Expand Opportunities for Stormwater Treatment and Conveyance
ENV9-A: Improve Stormwater Quality and Conveyance
ENV10-A: Increase Stormwater Partnerships

Questions seeking Council direction: Should the Plan include a policy to allow "Green Streets" as an option for stormwater management? Should the Plan include policies to support regional stormwater basins and partnerships to address stormwater quality and conveyance in areas where traditional approaches are difficult to implement?

- Council expressed support for these policy statements.
- Council asked how these policy statements related to the stormwater re-purposing discussion.
- Several Council members reiterated their support for the green streets concept.

LIV7-A: Identify Neighborhoods Where Protective Measures are Needed

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan continue to include policies that promote neighborhood conservation?

- Council generally supported the policy direction.
- Council asked how the Eastside/Westside process fits into this policy statement.
- Council asked for a time table of neighborhood subarea plan updates and new areas for possible neighborhood planning.

SW3-A: Support Healthy Living

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan support continued City coordination on and education about opportunities for healthy living?

- Council had mixed opinions on whether this policy statement should be included in City Plan.
- Several Council members didn't think this direction was appropriate because the City has limited influence over healthy living and the private sector and other organizations are already leading this effort.
- Other Council members felt that this was an important topic that is influenced by City actions on transportation, recreation, and air quality, and that the City should continue but not expand existing efforts.

SW5-A: Support Local Agriculture and Food Production

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan support promoting local agriculture and food production on City-owned properties?

- Council generally supported moving forward on this policy direction, but urged caution about using public lands for agriculture.
- Council felt this item would need more discussion about which public lands would be appropriate for food production.

Next Steps:

The August 10 worksession will be continued on August 24 with the final policy discussion item, *LIV10-A: Carry Forward Existing Policies Related to the Poudre River Corridor Activities and Protections,* and the policy choice "consent" ("to carry forward and refine") items.

Staff would particularly appreciate Council members letting the City Manager's Office know prior to the August 24 work session which, if any, "consent" policies Council intends to discuss. This will help staff plan for the appropriate resources being at the work session.