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Memorandum

DATE: August 2, 2010

TO: Mayor Hutchinson and City Councilmembers

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

FROM: Joe Frank, Advance Planning Director
Ken Waido, Chief Planner
Kathleen Bracke, Director of Transportation Planning and Special Projects

RE: Work Session Summary – July 27, 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
Kathleen Bracke, Director of Transportation Planning and Special Projects
John Stokes, Natural Resources Director
Ben Herman, Clarion Associates
Jeremy Klop, Fehr & Peers
Judy Dorsey, Brendle Group

Direction Sought/Questions to be Answered:

The Plan Fort Collins Project Management Team was seeking input and direction from the City Council on the policy choices and directions, in particular, focusing Council's input on those policy choices where there is no clear cut consensus or agreement. The specific questions to be addressed during the work session were:

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

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

3. Does Council have comments and/or direction on a definition of sustainability?

Council's Discussion/Direction:

The planning team asked the Council to address the following priority topics in order to understand how to proceed with the balance of Phase 2 of Plan Fort Collins:

- Sustainability Definition
- Land Ready for Business (EH3-A and B)
- Stormwater Conveyance in Public Streets ("Green Streets") (ENV8-A)
- Poudre River Corridor Activities and Protections (LIV10-A)
- Reshaping Existing Streets (T1-B)
- Vehicle Alternatives/Trails (T1-D)
- Transportation Investments to Achieve Goals (T2-A)

Sustainability Definition

Question seeking Council direction: Does Council have comments and/or direction on the draft definition of sustainability?

- There was no Council support to use the draft sustainability definition prepared by staff.
- The Brundtland Commission definition established in 1983, and a couple of other rather simple definitions were identified as good examples that had support as a base definition.
- Staff was directed to focus on a simpler, higher level definition with supporting guidance on an operating definition.
- There were mixed opinions as to whether the definition should be supported by a list of indicators as an explanation of the Triple Bottom Line approach to sustainability.

T1-B: Reshape Existing Streets

The discussion on policy choice T1-B was next because the transportation planning consultants would not be available on August 10 when the work session would continue.

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan support reshaping streets and context-sensitive street standards to address multiple needs including stormwater, and "tailored" for different areas of the community and levels of service for walking, bicycling, transit, and vehicle capacity? This choice is related to the Stormwater topic of "Green Streets".

- There was general support for multiuse streets.
- Such an approach could be desirable especially in some key areas with low traffic volumes and/or areas of high bicycle and pedestrian activity. (Example: Laurel Street along CSU campus).
- Location specific differences were noted so that there was the need to be context sensitive.

- There was some concern about potential costs associated with construction and/or on-going operations/maintenance.

T1-D: Vehicle Alternatives/Trails

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan support enhancing trails as part of the transportation system, beyond their current recreational purpose, and how to address new vehicle types?

- There was general support for further exploration of this idea but there were also some critical concerns such as:
    - trails should not be wider through a natural areas.
    - some trails are already too close to habitat areas in some locations.
- There might be some trail sections that can have dual or multiple use purposes for commuting purposes such as the Power Trail and/or Mason Trail.
- Another important issue is what to do about non-traditional types of "motorized vehicles" (electric bikes, etc).
- Conduct research to provide examples of other communities with potential conflicts.

T2-A: Transportation Investments to Achieve Goals

Question seeking Council direction: Should the Plan explore new tools to achieve more reliable long-term funding sources for capital improvements and operations and maintenance for all modes of transportation?

- There were some Council concerns as to the appropriateness of this being in the Plan Fort Collins process.
- There was no opposition to Plan Fort Collins exploring longer-term funding sources.
- Council would like to see more information about how this topic relates to the long-term transportation planning purpose of the Transportation Master Plan and the multimodal Capital Improvement Plan, including the fiscally constrained plan.

Next Steps:

The July 27 work session will be continued on August 10.