



City of Farmers Branch

City Hall
13000 Wm. Dodson Pkwy
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Meeting Minutes

Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force

Monday, May 10, 2021

4:00 PM
Virtual Meeting
Microsoft Teams

City Hall

This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams teleconferencing in accordance with the temporary suspension of the Open Meetings Act to allow telephone or videoconference granted by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Present 10 - Mayor Robert Dye, Tina Firgens Director of Planning, Shane Davis Director of Sustainability and Public Health, John Land Deputy City Manager, Bonnie Potraza Planning and Zoning Commissioner, Natalie Lundsteen City Council District 1 representative, John Atkins City Council District 3 representative, Richard Jackson City Council District 4 representative, Tamara Cleghorn City Council District 5 representative and Kyra McCardle Planning Consultant

Absent 5 - Marc Bentley Director of Public Works, Charles Cancellare Parks Superintendent, Matthew Peters Art and Cultural Board Member, Councilmember Cristal Retana and Jorge Gonzalez City Council District 2 representative

A. AGENDA ITEMS

A.1 [21-241](#) Introduce new members to IH-35E Betterments Task Force.

Mayor Dye called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

Mayor Dye stated the following: thanked the task force members for their attendance; staff is working with TxDOT regarding the proposed betterments resulting from work previously completed by the task force; the benefits of updating the task force regarding work completed and next steps related to the betterments; and the importance of the proposed betterments related to the corridor.

Mayor Dye opened discussion on agenda item A.1 Introduce new members to IH-35E Betterments Task Force.

Ms. McCardle stated the following: the task force was established in 2020 and was composed of staff members from various departments as well as members of City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission; and at their April 26, 2021 meeting, City Council appointed representatives from each Council district to the task force. Ms. McCardle then asked the task force members to introduce themselves.

The task force members introduced themselves.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Mayor Dye closed discussion on this

agenda item.

A.2 [20-242](#)

Consider approval of the July 8, 2020 Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force meeting minutes; and take appropriate action.

Mayor Dye opened discussion on agenda item A.2 Consider approval of the July 8, 2020 Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force meeting minutes; and take appropriate action.

Mayor Dye asked for any questions or comments regarding the minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Dye asked for a motion.

A motion was made by Ms. Tina Firgens, seconded by Mayor Robert Dye, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 9 – Mayor Dye, Ms. Firgens, Mr. Davis, Mr. Land, Ms. Potraza, Ms. Lundsteen, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Jackson and Ms. Cleghorn

Absent: 5 – Mr. Bentley, Mr. Cancellare, Mr. Peters, Councilmember Retana and Mr. Gonzalez

A.3 [21-245](#)

Discuss prior work completed by the Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force, and review the current status and next steps related to the IH-35E phase two highway widening.

Mayor Dye opened discussion on Agenda item A.3 Discuss prior work completed by the Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force, and review the current status and next steps related to the IH-35E phase two highway widening.

Ms. McCardle gave a presentation related prior work completed by the task force and next steps related to the phase two highway widening project, including: providing an overview of all work completed to date; direction received by staff from City Council at their June 23, 2020 meeting; phase one betterments approved for funding by City Council at their July 14, 2020 meeting; an overview of work completed by TxDOT to date related to phase one betterments; and next steps.

Discussion from the task force was as follows:

- Ms. Firgens asked Ms. McCardle to address landscaping improvements related to the proposed betterments, including the potential to apply for funding of these improvements through the Green Ribbon program.
- Mr. Jackson asked about the following related to the Valley View Lane and Valwood Parkway intersections: the cost estimates related to the burying of overhead utilities located at these intersections; and whether there would be consistency between the aesthetics of these intersections and that of the Beltline gateway located in Carrollton.
- Ms. Firgens and Mr. Jackson discussed the potential to bury overhead utilities related to the proposed betterments improvements.
- Ms. Cleghorn asked about bike trails related to the proposed betterments improvements. Mr. Davis addressed Ms. Cleghorn's question.

- Mr. Jackson asked about anticipated pedestrian traffic levels for the Valley View Lane and Valwood Parkway intersections, and whether additional residential development was planned for the corridor.
- Ms. Lundsteen commented on the importance of connecting the corridor to the west side of the city.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Mayor Dye closed discussion on this agenda item.

A.4 [21-243](#)

Discuss agenda items for future Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force consideration.

Mayor Dye opened discussion on Agenda item A.4 Discuss agenda items for future Mayor's IH-35E Betterments Task Force consideration.

Ms. McCardle stated that the task force may potentially meet in June 2021 to discuss recommendations related to the proposed betterments improvements depending upon the costs of these improvements received by staff from TxDOT.

Mr. Jackson asked whether the costs related to the proposed improvements were fixed, including those for building materials such as lumber and concrete.

Mr. Atkins commented on the importance of burying overhead utilities, and asked whether the City could make this a requirement.

Hearing no further questions or comments, the Mayor closed discussion on this agenda item.

B. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Mayor Dye adjourned the meeting at 4:40 PM.

Mayor

City Administration