LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE ("LRC")
Meeting Action Report

Committee: Transportation

Members: City Representative Ann Lilly (Chair)
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Beto O'Rourke
City Representative Steve Ortega (not present)

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2010

I. Discussion and action on preventing cutting through sidewalks in order to build driveway access onto a property.

Summary:
Staff presented options to resolve the problems of uneven sidewalks, and reviewed the different sidewalk designs. Staff recommended strict adherence to the City of El Paso design standards and enhanced permit and design review, inspections and enforcement of construction of sidewalks and driveways.
The Transportation LRC was concerned with existing driveways that were prohibitive to pedestrians and those in wheelchairs, in particular the Alamitos area where an example of bad driveway construction on Tays St. was presented. Staff explained that this was a Housing Authority project and staff from Building permits and inspections will meet with the project supervisor to determine how this was allowed to take place.

Action Taken:
The LRC voted 3-0 to accept Staff's review of existing sidewalk design. Additionally the LRC asked that staff review the Municipal Code to make sure the uneven sidewalks were not acceptable, that the designs shown in the presentation as good be the default standard and the 'acceptable' be the variance.

Disposition:
Victor Morrison-Vega will report back to the Transportation LRC on his findings regarding the Alamitos Housing Authority Project.

II. Discussion and action on adding an intersection design to the Design Standards for Construction that allows bike lane access into complex intersections.

Summary:
Staff presented design samples of bike lane access into complex intersections and provided examples of current access into complex intersections on City streets. Staff also explained that the Plan for El Paso has a bike lane component which will incorporate changes in policies regarding bike lanes. The LRC requested that design standards be changed to no longer allow bike lanes to end at intersections. Staff explained that the standards are within the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) the preferred standard will be not to terminate bike lanes at complex intersections.

Action Taken:
The LRC voted 3-0 to accept staff's report.

Disposition:
Staff will report back to the Transportation LRC about the cost of adding bike lanes (in the Plan for El Paso) whenever streets are restriped that have designated bike lanes.

III. Discussion and action on options for on-street parking on University Avenue between Oregon and Blanchard.

Summary:
Staff reviewed existing conditions on this street, providing examples of the street at various times of the day. Options to alleviate the hazards were presented and discussed by Staff and the LRC. Options were: to utilize the parking district process, allow parking only on one side of the street, to allow parking on each side of the street on alternate days, or to leave the parking as it currently is.

Action Taken:
The LRC voted 3-0 to allow parking on only one side of the street.

Disposition:
Director of Department of Transportation will work with Representative Lilly to identify the section of University Blvd that will require the above regulation. Council action will be required.

IV. TxDOT report, discussion and action on various sidewalk gaps, Intersection Locations Study and Collaborative Partnership with the City of El Paso to address sidewalk gaps.

Summary:
TxDOT representative presented a report regarding sidewalk gaps and the Intersection Locations Study, reporting the City's responsibility for maintenance of newly constructed sidewalks, ramps, or other accessibility items. TxDOT will partner with the City to address sidewalk gaps and identify TxDOT funding to support the construction of new sidewalks.

Action Taken:
The LRC voted 3-0 to accept the TxDOT report.

Disposition:

Staff will develop an opinion of probable cost to address sidewalk gaps city wide, will identify possible funding sources, including both the City of El Paso and the MPO. The report will forwarded to members of the Transportation LRC.

SUBMITTED BY:

City Representative Ann Lilly, District 1
Chair, Transportation LRC

Jane Shang, Deputy City Manager
City Manager – Mobility Services