



Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Summary Minutes

Tuesday, January 15, 2013 10:30 AM City & County Building, Room 391

Committee Members: Robb, Chair; Montero, Vice-Chair; Brown; Lehmann; López; Shepherd

Committee Staff: Gretchen Williams

Council Members Present: Brown, Lehmann, Lopez, Montero, Robb, Susman

Members Absent: Shepherd

Bill Requests

BR13-0019 Amends Ordinance Number 426, Series of 2007, as amended, designating the projects funded through Better Denver bonds, to amend allocations regarding cultural facilities, including nine new bond projects.

Scott Hergenrader, Better Denver Bond Program Manager

The request is to amend the 2007 Better Denver Bond Program companion ordinance, which lists the specific amounts to be spent on each identified bond project. The amendment will reflect reallocation of funds for Cultural Projects from projects that are no longer viable to new projects selected from submittals.

The Mayor formed a Steering Committee in the fall of 2012 to consider opportunities for using the remaining \$57.1 million for cultural facility purposes. After thorough review of sever proposals, the Committee selected eleven projects. It is critical that any reallocation retain the original total amounts for new construction and maintenance projects.

The attached PowerPoint presentation describes reallocation and new projects.

Councilwoman Montero wondered why the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), a cultural institution, was not funded.

Councilwoman Lehmann, a member of the Steering Committee, replied that the Committee decided not to fund projects that would not last past the life of the bonds. NWSS asked for funds to repair existing buildings for the next 5 to 10 years. The Committee decided there was too much unknown about the future of NWSS to put that facility on the bond project list.

Councilman Lopez said NWSS requires much more money than is available through this program. It needs a whole new plan and a new funding source.

Councilwoman Robb said bonding capacity remains a policy issue for her. The City had the option of not issuing these bonds and combining them with new bonding capacity. It has been six years since the voters approved these bonds.

Under the reallocation, the McNichols Building will get a new freight elevator and information technology upgrades for \$700,000.

Under New Construction, Boettcher will receive \$10,075,000 for repairs to the glass pavilion ticket area, concession areas, entry doors, main level windows, and roofing. One of the new projects is replacement of the bridge across Champa Street between the Convention Center parking garage and the Denver Performing Arts Center (DCPA), a \$2.5 million project.

Councilman Brown expressed concern about spending money on any part of Boettcher when we do not know if the Symphony will replace the building.

Skye Stuart, Mayor's Office, said Mayor Hancock wanted to move more money into the DCPA rather than Boettcher. Boettcher wanted technology that would not last the life of the bonds.

Another of the new projects is \$2 million in construction funding for the Levitt Pavilion Amphitheater at Ruby Hill Park and supporting infrastructure.

Valerie Kerns, Aide to Councilman Nevitt in Council District 7, said that this project came out of Ruby Hill Park Master Plan, Phase I of which includes a performance area. Levitt Pavilion is 501 3(c) organization that provides funding and assistance to establish performance spaces. Denver is the 7th city to be selected for funding. The park contains a natural amphitheater. We have started a major fund-raising effort for the balance required. Parking and traffic were primary elements when we asked for design proposals.

Mr. Hergenrader said there will be three Council actions required to do the

reallocation and bond issuance:

1. Approve companion ordinance amendments.
2. Approve debt issuance ordinance prepared by Treasury proposes new debt issuance of \$57,100,000 (actual issuance may be late in 2013 based on schedule needs for the projects).
3. Approve various project funding agreements and/or contracts for each project, which will come in between April and September.

Councilwoman Robb said she would like to bundle the Central Recreation Center with these new bonds. This is a policy issue we all have to grapple with.

A motion offered by Councilmember Brown, duly seconded by Councilmember Lehmann, to file the bill carried by the following vote:

AYES: Brown, Lehmann, Montero(3)
NAYS: (None)
ABSENT: Shepherd(1)
ABSTAIN: Robb(1)