



Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Summary Minutes

Tuesday, June 03, 2014

10:30 AM City & County Building, Room 391

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

Committee Staff: Debra Bartleson

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

Members Absent: Brown

Bill Requests

BR14-0472 Revises Ordinance No. 73, Series of 2013 to delete the Shared Parking Project for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and Denver Zoo at a cost of \$4,400,000 and add the following projects: (1) Denver Museum of Nature and Science Discovery Zone and Rocky Mountain Science Collections projects at \$2,200,000.00 and (2) Denver Zoo Large Carnivore Holding Building at \$2,200,000.00, totaling \$4,400,000 and reduce the Ordinance Amount of the completed Westwood Child Care and Development Center from \$2,686,000.00 to \$2,421,850.00 and apply the savings of \$264,150 to Neighborhood House Child Care and Development Centers, resulting in a change from \$794,000.00 to \$1,058,150.00.

Scott Hergenrader and Shawn Ropp, Better Denver Bond Program; George Pond, Denver Zoo; Ed Scholz, Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Shawn Ropp, Public Works, stated that Denver Better Bond staff is proposing four

modifications to the contract involving the Denver Zoo, Denver Museum of Nature & Science (regarding shared parking), and Westwood Childcare and Development Facility. (See attachment.) The proposal is to eliminate the plan for shared parking between the Zoo and Museum at a cost of \$4.4 million and utilizing the funds for a new carnivore holding building at the Zoo and to build out the Discovery Zone at the Museum. Mr. Ropp explained that as they got further into the designing for the shared parking project staff acknowledged that expansion of parking was going to be difficult to do in City Park. Ed Scholz, Denver Museum, said they are not abandoning resolution to parking issues as everyone is committed to finding a solution; everyone felt it was best to review the City's Master Plan to identify another alternative to surface parking. They are committed to safety and working with parks and neighbors and they decided to put the money to projects that will benefit the public quickly. Councilmember Robb said she's happy with this proposal having bond funds going back into cultural amenities rather than parking. Mr. Scholz noted that the money was identified last year from bond projects that incurred savings or by reprogramming, which resulted in the \$4.4 million being available to spend on Denver amenities; so the proposal is within the context of what voters approved.

George Pond, Denver Zoo, indicated that off-site parking is at East High School and he believes there are approximately 200 parking spaces. He stated that they shuttle approximately 300 employees to the school during working hours. Mr. Ropp added that \$16 million from the Boettcher allocation was put on hold and later a request for proposal was solicited to use those monies for other cultural amenities' use. These proposals were vetted with the Bond Counsel.

Mr. Pond said the \$2.2 million will house a new carnivore building to exhibit viewing of Amur Tigers and will create a dynamic visitor experience. Mr. Scholz indicated that the \$2.2 million for the Museum will pay for the build-out of the new Discovery Zone and the collections center (\$1,920,000). The Discovery Zone will be twice as large and the area is scheduled to officially open this coming Saturday. He reminded the Committee that the City owns the building and everything in it.

These proposals were approved at the May 7 Bond Committee, said Mr. Ropp. The Westwood Childcare Center incurred savings of \$264,150 (located at Lowell Blvd. & Kentucky). The proposal is to move those monies to the Neighborhood House Childcare and Development Center. Councilmember Lopez supports the proposal to keep monies in facilities located in west Denver.

Councilmember Shepherd asked what the process is for projects to be selected. Councilmember Robb stated she is on the Bond Executive Committee, and noted that bond money must be used for the stated purpose. There is a protocol and any change under 10% of a project can be decided by the Committee, and if it is over 10%, it must come to Council Committee for review and decision. Mr. Ropp explained that savings come from market improvements and construction timing. Projects in need of funding are identified through the Capital Improvements Program process, and could be brought to Council for ordinance change. The Bond Committee conducts quarterly reviews of all projects. Mr. Ropp stated that when

the Mayor's Office generated the request for proposal last year to use the additional bond monies, it was stated that monies had to be used on a fiscal asset of Denver.

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

AYES:	Susman, Lehmann, Lopez, Montero, Robb, Shepherd(6)
NAYS:	(None)
ABSENT:	Brown(1)
ABSTAIN:	(None)