

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 3, 2020
To: Citizens Advisory Committee
From: Benjamin H. Pingree, PLACE Director
Subject: Summary Minutes for June 25, 2020 CAC Meeting

Committee Members present:

Elva Peppers, Chair	J.R. Harding
Jim McShane, Vice Chair	Allen Stucks
Bill Berlow	Kathy Bell
Daniel Petronio	Neil Fleckenstein
Hugh Tomlinson	Peter Okonkwo
Sean McGlynn	Robert Volpe

Committee Members absent:

Claudette Cromartie	Linda Vaughn
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I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

II. CONSENT

ACTION TAKEN: Jim McShane moved, seconded by J.R. Harding, the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed 12-0

1. Approval of the February 27, 2020, CAC Meeting Minutes

Option #1: Approve the February 27, 2020, CAC meeting minutes.

2. Acceptance of the Status Report Update on Blueprint Infrastructure Projects

Option #1: Accept the June 2020 Status Update on Blueprint Infrastructure Projects.

3. Recommendation of Acceptance of a Status Update on the Northeast Gateway: Welaunee Boulevard Project

Option #1: Recommend that the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors accept the status update for the Blueprint 2020 Northeast Gateway project

III. GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Recommendation of Acceptance of the Status Report on Local Stormwater Facilities

Autumn Calder and Susan Tanski provided a presentation to the CAC on the stormwater report requested by the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors, which included clarification of the purpose and types of stormwater ponds and the benefits provided, water quality regulations and standards for recreational waterbodies versus stormwater facilities, and examples of innovative technology for improve water quality of runoff. A copy of the presentation is on file at Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency.

Bill Berlow questioned if the water quality standards differed for facilities near commercial or residential areas. Mark Heidecker, with the City of Tallahassee Stormwater Division, stated that the location of the facility did not change water quality standard for the facility.

Sean McGlynn questioned the amount of treatment the varying facilities provided and why there was not more information included on the lakes and water bodies downstream. Mark Heidecker stated that the standards applied to stormwater systems were less stringent than those applied to a lake with recreational standards. While it was difficult to speak to stormwater management facilities without also including the downstream waterbodies, the focus of the report requested by the IA Board was on potential health hazards and to verify if the controls put in place by the City, County, and Blueprint were working effectively.

Neil Fleckenstein noted the varying standards for treatment of water volume in the parts of the county, such as closed basins or Lake Jackson Drainage Basin that had more stringent standards than required by the state which reduced pollutants entering the receiving waterbodies. He questioned if higher standards for nutrient enrichment could reduce the blue-green alga blooms. Mark Heidecker stated that nutrients were the positive pollutant to the Cyanobacteria blooms and the increased minimum criteria in Leon County and designation of the referenced special zones all helped to further reduce nutrient pollution. Furthermore, the pending Florida Senate Bill 712, may initiate a review of current practices and lead to updated stormwater design practices.

Autumn Calder stated protecting water resources was a core principle of Blueprint, and funding has been allocated through both Blueprint sales tax programs to support this, including \$50 million dedicated through the Blueprint 2000 program and \$85 million through the 2020 program.

Citizen Comments:

One comment was received on Item 4 and included as Attachment 1.

Bill Berlow moved, seconded by JR Harding, to approve Option #1.

Option #1: Recommend that the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors accept the Status Report on Local Stormwater Facilities.

The motion passed 11-1 with Sean McGlynn dissenting.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

- Office of Economic Vitality Project Updates
 - Drew Dietrich provided a brief overview of the activities of the Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) that included:
 - COVID-19 response and relief efforts, development of business and community resource websites, and business impact surveys.
 - The COVID-19- Economic Disaster Relief (CEDR) Grant program, which closed 12 days after activation, provided \$1,149,000 in grant funds to assist 561 businesses with more than 4,400 employees.
 - The Local Emergency Assistance for Non-profits (LEAN) Grant program awarded 233 non-profits, employing more than 2,300 people, with \$582,500 in grant funds.
 - MWSBE office updates:
 - Implementation of consolidated Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) Policy and Procedures for increased collaboration between Blueprint, the City and County.
 - Launched the MWBE Academy Webinar Series to support private and public construction opportunities at the South Monroe Walls development.
 - OEV staff continues to receive interest in company expansions with particular interest in bio-tech and agricultural projects. Recruitment operations continue remotely.
 - Presentation is on file at Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

Neil Fleckenstein requested additional information on agricultural interests. Drew Dietrich stated that Tallahassee was shortlisted for operations by companies, both nationally and globally. The close proximity of our airport to the rural communities in north Florida and south Georgia could potentially support cultivation of new crops for production and research and development. Two of the projects required non-disclosure agreements so specific details of these business interests was unavailable.

- Presentation on Projected Sales Tax Revenue Impacts from COVID-19
 - Tres Long provided a brief overview of the revenue projections as a result of COVID-19:
 - The current estimate projected approximately \$20 million reduction for Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency through Fiscal Year (FY) 2025; approximately \$17 million reduction for Infrastructure and \$3 million reduction for OEV. Overall projected sales tax revenue declines include a projected 11% decline in FY 2020, a 10.44% decline in FY 2021, and 2.5% increases for FY 2022-2024.

- Based on COVID-19 impacts, the 20-year revenue forecast projected a \$97 million reduction for the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency.
- The April 2020 sales tax remittance came in at a 30% decline, which was 10% better than initial projections.
- Further updates would be presented at the July 9, 2020 IA Board Budget Workshop.
- The final FY 2021-2025 revenue estimates will be presented at two public hearings for adoption of the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency budget. The first public hearing will be held at the next CAC meeting, scheduled for September 3, 2020, and the second and final public hearing scheduled for the IA Board meeting on September 17, 2020.
- Presentation is on file at Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

Daniel Petronio inquired regarding the available sales tax revenue data used that will be used to develop the final budget. Tres Long stated that there was a two month delay in receiving the data for sales tax revenue collection. Therefore, the most current data for June 2020 was the April 2020 data. Looking ahead to September, the final revenue estimates would be based on June 2020 data received at the end of August 2020.

Bill Berlow questioned how that would impact the capital projects. Ben Pingree stated staff continued to monitor economic trends and had already taken action through a hiring freeze and in mitigating expenditures. Mr. Long noted the 20-year modification however, there were currently no changes to the prioritization of projects for the Blueprint program.

V. PROJECT LIAISON UPDATES

Elva Peppers provided an update on the Capital Circle Southwest Greenway and Debbie Lightsey Nature Park, which were in a public comment period with virtual outreach opportunities scheduled for community engagement. The projects were on track with survey work under way and permitting was anticipated to be complete by February 2021.

Elva Peppers also provided an update on the Lake Jackson Greenway project which was just beginning with the Gresham-Smith consultant team.

Peter Okonkwo provided an update on Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3, which was 90% complete and proceeding according to schedule.

Neil Fleckenstein provided an update on the Bannerman Road project, including the evaluation of widening to four lanes from Tekesta to Meridian Road. Mr. Fleckenstein encouraged deeper investigation into the cost benefit analyses of expanding Bannerman Road to four lanes to Meridian Road. He questioned what would not be funded if the IA Board chose to allocate funds to expand the project.

Sean McGlynn provided an update on Lake Lafayette and St. Marks Linear Park project stating that the IA Board reallocated FY 2020 funding from the project to fund the LEAN Grant. Mr. McGlynn stressed the importance of the project due to the importance of the karst area and trail connections around Lake Lafayette.

VI. ADJOURN

JR Harding moved, seconded by Bill Berlow, to adjourn.

The motion passed 8-0 with Kathy Bell, Jim McShane, and Peter Okonkwo having already exited the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.