

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 14, 2023
To: Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
From: Autumn Calder, Blueprint Director
Subject: Summary Minutes for September 7, 2023 CAC Meeting

Committee Members present:

Peter Okonkwo	
Leroy Peck	
Hollie Myers	
Fred Varn	
Mary Glowacki	
Rod McQueen, Chair (Virtual)	
Kathy Bell	

Committee Members absent:

Chris Daniels	Elva Peppers
Adner Marcelin	Jim McShane
Ashley Leggett, Vice Chair	Sean McGlynn
Whitney Doyle	

I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

III. PRESENTATION / INFORMATION ITEMS

Status Update Presentation of the Northeast Connector: Bannerman Road

Northeast Connector Consultant Project Manager, William Waldroff provided an update presentation on the Northeast Connector project. Mr. Waldroff provided an overview of the segmentation of the Bannerman Road road-widening component of the Northeast Connector, and provided the CAC graphics showing the typical sections of each segment. Mr. Waldroff provided the current status of the project and informed the CAC that the Northeast Connector also included the Orchard Pond Greenway, Bull Headley Sidewalk, Tekesta Sidewalk, and Meridian Road Greenway components. Mr. Waldroff indicated that the project design will be at 60% completed in Fall 2023 and 90% of the plans will be completed by Spring 2024.

Committee member, Fred Varn, asked how will the road widening affect Tekesta park and Mr. Waldroff replied that although there will be no path built into the park, there will be approximately 16 pull-in, parking spots including disabled parking spots added in close proximity to the sidewalk, to serve as a trailhead.

Committee member, Hollie Meyers, asked whether there were any plans to bring new residential developments in the project area onto City of Tallahassee sewer systems, Mr. Waldroff indicated that was outside the scope of the Northeast Connector project.

Committee member Mary Glowacki asked about right-of-way acquisition, and the use of existing right-of-way, Mr. Waldroff indicated that they have to wait until the plans are at 60% completion, because that means that the designs are pretty much done, so after 60% completion, the right-of-way needs are set. In response to questions regarding wetland impacts from CAC member Peter Okonkwo, Mr. Waldroff said that they do have some wetlands and wetland impacts in the project & currently have not secured the permits from the city and county yet, but have been in communication with the City and County on the impacts they're currently facing.

Blueprint Director, Autumn Calder then talked about the stormwater standards that Blueprint has to meet for Northeast Connector project area, and how they're making every effort to minimize residential and environmental impacts. She said that the project team is getting close on the precise location of the stormwater ponds, and highlighted there were 111 parcels along the corridor.

CAC Chair, Rod McQueen brought up the need to ensure that the landscape selection provides good view lines, and that there is adequate lighting for our school bus stops along the project corridor, to ensure the safety of Leon County Schools students. Mr. Waldroff agreed and gave specific examples of how the project is addressing those concerns.

OEV Status Report

Office of Economic Vitality Deputy Director, MWSBE Darryl Jones provided a status update on OEV activities. As part of this update, he highlighted the Amazon facility, Non-Competitive Projects, and Workforce Engagement information.

Q2 2023 Blueprint Infrastructure Project Status Report

Blueprint Principal Planner, Mike Alfano provided brief information on the Q2 Infrastructure Project Status Report document.

IV. CONSENT

1. Approval of the April 27, 2023 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

As there was not a quorum present, the CAC members could not vote on the minutes. However, there were no objections raised, or edits requested.

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

2. **Status Update Presentation on the FY 2023 Annual Report**

Blueprint Principal Planner, Mike Alfano gave a presentation on the FY 2023 Annual Report, including Blueprint's impacts such as investments made by Blueprint in FY 2023 and the metrics of improvements that projects funded will provide, projects under or going to construction in late 2023 and in 2024, and on the awards won by Blueprint in FY 2023. He also highlighted information within the FY 2023 Annual Report for OEV. Blueprint will furnish copies of the Annual Report to the CAC, upon publication.

As there was no quorum, no vote was taken.

VI. **PUBLIC HEARING 5:00 PM**

3. **First Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget and Fiscal Year 2024 – 2028 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program Budget for the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency**

Blueprint Director, Autumn Calder, provided an overview of the FY 2024 Budget development process and indicated that the FY 2024 budget has to be adopted before the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year which starts on October 1, 2023.

Blueprint Finance Officer, Tres Long then went over the revenue estimate updates and five-year infrastructure revenue sources. He indicated that revenues have gone up and are projected to continue to rise.

Blueprint Director Calder then presented on the proposed Blueprint Infrastructure FY 2024 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan, as well as highlighting the leveraging successes of the Blueprint Program and impacts of the five-year work program.

Office of Economic Vitality- MWSBE Deputy Director, Darryl Jones then provided an overview of OEV's 5-year revenue sources and uses, as well as the proposed FY 2024 OEV Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

Committee members, Fred Varn and Mary Glowacki asked questions regarding Blueprint's use of bonds, loans, interest rates, and debt service, and how that factored into the budget. Mr. Long provided an overview of the use of the sales tax to pay off debt service, and how those payments are included in the proposed budgets. He said interest rates for the upcoming planned bonds are not known yet, because they're competitive and have to be negotiated. For the loans, he said Blueprint is currently in the application approval process through Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). As it relates to the bond rates, Mr. Long said that it should be by approximately mid-Spring when Blueprint goes to market. Director Calder also provided that three previous bond issuances had been issued to Blueprint and paid back. Mr. Long highlighted how focus/direction from the IA Board has been to implement as many projects as possible, in the near term. He also provided that all Blueprint projects are fully funded, and assured CAC members that there will be sufficient revenue to cover the debt service.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.

NEXT CAC Meeting: October 26, 2023 at 4:30pm at the Blueprint Grand Conference Room.