





Planning, Development & Transportation

Traffic Operations
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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 1, 2016

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers

Through: Darin Atteberry, City Manager 
Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager 
Laurie Kadrach, PDT Director
Mark Jackson, Deputy PDT Director

From: Joe Olson, City Traffic Engineer
Martina Wilkinson, Assistant City Traffic Engineer

Re: **Work Session Summary – August 30, 2016 re: Managing Congestion**

At the August 30, 2016 City Council Work Session, Laurie Kadrach, Joe Olson and Martina Wilkinson reviewed historic and current measurement of traffic congestion in Fort Collins and discussed ongoing, short term and long term efforts intended to mitigate and manage congestion. All Councilmembers were present.

Discussion Summary

- Staff presented the definition, types and impact of congestion. Growth in historical volumes were also reviewed, and compared to population increases in the last 25 years.
- The measurement of congestion was explained, and how the system is providing anonymous, real time travel time information. This data is used to monitor arterial congestion and trends from quarter to quarter.
- Ongoing, short term and long term efforts to mitigate and manage congestion were presented. This includes a variety of tools, including signal timing adjustments, infrastructure projects, incident management, cultural and programmatic efforts, and work zone traffic review.
- In the future, staff is looking towards the eventual update of City Plan and the Transportation Master Plan, as well as technology changes that will impact transportation and traffic patterns.

Council Feedback

The Council provided a wide range of perspectives, interests, and guidance related to congestion and management strategies. This included:

- Support for the multi-pronged approach to congestion mitigation and focusing on efficiencies
- The strong support for data and its evaluation and interest in ensuring its utilization on projects such as College and Prospect; Look for opportunity to determine independent variables within data for strategies that improve congestion.
- Interest in neighborhood impacts such as ability to get out of neighborhoods onto arterials, internal calming efforts including proactive consideration of humps, and collecting baseline data of traffic in neighborhoods surrounding the new stadium.
- General support for initiatives that reduce VMT, including economic incentives to improve traffic, and interest in exploring Travel Demand Management (TDM) programs.
- Discussion on the benefit of grade separated crossings, roundabouts, right turn lanes, and the management of truck traffic through downtown.
- The potential impact of autonomous vehicles, Smart Cities, and the broadband initiative; encouragement of thoughtful integration of new technology.
- Minimizing work zone impacts with more night work, less lane closures, and the potential for extending the work season into winter where possible.
- Collaboration opportunities with police services to move speed stops onto side streets during peak hours
- Coordination with Poudre School District to maximize busing and limit private vehicles
- Consider holistic policies across departments that may limit road work such as inspection requirements and ability to make decisions impacting ongoing construction work as quickly as possible.
- Work with the communications staff to improve messaging of congestion and telling the story of the work the Traffic Operations department does.

Next Steps

Staff will:

- Continue to focus on management and mitigation of congestion using a number of tools
- Look for ways to better communicate the issues, challenges, and successes within Traffic Operations. This includes an annual congestion report to be created in early 2017.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 8, 2016

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

THROUGH: Darin Atteberry, City Manager *D.A.*
Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager *J.M.*

FROM: Wanda Winkelmann, City Clerk *W.W.*
Aimee Jensen, Deputy City Clerk

RE: August 30, 2016 Work Session Summary – Entertainment Districts

Wanda Winkelmann and Aimee Jensen presented an overview of Entertainment Districts. Assistant City Attorney Bronwyn Scurlock and Police Lieutenant Jeremy Yonce answered questions from Council.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What additional information, if any, does Council need regarding Entertainment Districts?
2. Does Council support consideration of an ordinance at a future Council meeting?
3. In addition to the stakeholders listed on the Public Engagement Summary, what additional public outreach should be conducted?

Discussion Summary:

- Council expressed concern about security, underage drinking, removal of alcoholic beverages from the Common Consumption Area (CCA), parking, and noise.
- Council discussed the possibility of piloting an Entertainment District for a year.
- Council would like more information about how other cities in Colorado approach Entertainment Districts (their specific rules and regulations); include pictures if possible.
- Council would like to review a staff-proposed regulatory framework to review.
- Council stressed the importance of outreach to neighbors around the Entertainment District.

Next Steps:

- The staff team will meet to explore how Council's concerns can be addressed.
- Staff will analyze the pros and cons of piloting a program for a year.
- Information from other municipalities (ordinances, rules, regulations, etc.) will be obtained. Best practices and lessons learned will also be explored.
- Staff will craft a draft regulatory framework for Fort Collins.
- The public engagement plan will be refined to include outreach to neighbors.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 2, 2016
TO: Mayor Troxell and City Councilmembers
THRU: Darin Atteberry, City Manager
Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager
Jackie Kozak Thiel, Chief Sustainability Officer
Lucinda Smith, Environmental Services Director
FROM: Lindsay Ex, Environmental Program Manager
RE: August 30, 2016 Work Session Summary – Road to 2020 Progress

Attendees:

Jeff Mihelich, Mike Beckstead, and Lindsay Ex participated in the Work Session. All Councilmembers were present; Councilmember Martinez excused himself during discussion due to his role in the Board on Elevations Credit Union (which was discussed during the presentation). Staff presented the transitional language to better communicate about the Road to 2020, how the initiatives associated align with the budget and have been vetted, how the City has demonstrated the success of the residential energy efficiency funding and is transitioning to private sector capital to achieve the program's outcomes, and finally, shared research on how other communities are funding their goals.

Discussion Summary:

- Councilmembers expressed that staff is on the right track with the development of the branding language, how branding does matter, and expressed support for the Road to 2020 language specifically and the conveyance of optimism and pragmatism in the words selected. Councilmembers highlighted the need for storytelling and to make sure that the new language connects with residents, families, and businesses with both the what and why, including the co-benefits of health, clean air and energy efficiency.
- Councilmembers appreciated the slide on how the budget aligns with the goals, while some expressed that additional funding would be needed to achieve these goals beyond what it is in the recommended budget.
- Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the way staff presented on the transition of on-bill financing from the City's balance sheet to the private sector and expressed support for the "private sector thinking" that led to this outcome.

Follow-up Items:

- Staff should continue to analyze the potential outcomes associated with increased integration and leverage the efforts of our key partners.
- Staff should continue to seek innovative approaches to achieving the goals, including where regulatory innovations can occur; the example of solar on rooftops was shared.
- Staff should seek federal grants and additional opportunities to leverage private sector and government funding, as well as potential tax credits. Staff is excited to share that the hiring process for the Climate Economy Advisor is nearing completion, and thus, we should be able to begin work on this shortly.

CC: Kevin Gertig, Utilities Executive Director
Mike Beckstead, Chief Financial Officer
Laurie Kadrach, Director of Planning, Development, and Transportation