



CAPITAL METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC HEARING
GARCIA MIDDLE SCHOOL, CAFETERIA; 7414 JOHNNY MORRIS ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78724

~ MINUTES ~

Executive Assistant/Board Liaison Gina Estrada
512-389-7458

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

6:30 PM

Capital Metro Board Room

I. Presentations:

1. Proposed Ethanol Receipt Siding Project

Charlie DeWeese, Freight Rail Manager, gave a brief presentation.

Chair Martinez - This is not about revenue for Capital Metro, it is about our obligation as a rail operator and to ensure all the safety regulations are met.

Public Comment:

1. Anna Bowlin - Representing Travis County - showed map with rail tracks with a 2000 ft. buffer, school sites, community centers etc... She discussed the 2 phase project in the works and the Ethanol pump station.

2. Joe Gieselman - Representing Travis County TNR - Concerns regarding receptors within 2000 ft. of rail road tracks. Main concern is what evacuation plans do you have?

Hershel Lee, Travis Co. Fire Marshal, asked for a meeting to be set-up regarding this issue, will tell how it will be built etc..., including evacuation plan. Once approved information will be available.

Chair Martinez - Can citizens see plan before approved?

Lee - Generally, public does not get involved.

John Langmore - If there was a derailment who is responsible?

Lee - Responding Fire Dept., whoever gets there first. Once there they will decide what action to take, City and/or County.

Chair Martinez - Standard training, it depends on certain climate conditions etc...

3. Phil Tate - City Manager of Manor - First time we have known about this project. A half-mile evacuation would mean the whole downtown Manor area. If an accident happens I don't think our fire department will be capable of handling it. He would like for Manor City Council to be in on future talks on this issue.

4. Jon Trevino - Rail tracks are in front of his house. We have not been notified of this.

Chair Martinez - The public process has not been done yet, that is why we are having this meeting.

5. Ron Davis - Travis County Commissioner - The public has not been notified, it is in your arena, and you didn't let anybody in this area know about this. This came basically through Capital Metro. There has to be some responsibility somewhere in this. You are the ones that are generating revenue on this by leasing this facility or letting someone else use it by delivering hazardous freight. The Rail Road Improvement Act of 1990

probably has an educational tool that could tell you what the responsibility is if you took a look at it.

Chair Martinez - You mentioned we are leasing a facility; we are not leasing the land or the facility. This is our obligation to carry it if we are requested and we do have the authority to charge for that service.

Davis - Railroad, who are the liable freight carriers?

DeWeese - Austin Western Railroad, contractor to Capital Metro the railroad of record for transporting freight.

Davis - That's confusing. Who is going to be accountable?

DeWeese - General Manager of Austin Railroad, he is responsible for his employees.

Davis - Thank you for coming out. Take this information to the schools for safety training.

Bill Richman - Austin Railroad - We are in partnership with Capital Metro and we are well qualified.

6. Terence Carr - How will my children be affected? How do they find the sites? Is this the only site they can use?

Chair Martinez - This facility is like a gas pump, this site has already been there. This is just a facility to unload the ethanol. The public process has not begun yet. Capital Metro doesn't have a decision in this, the Commissioners' Court does. We will be reduced to 4 or 5 freight trains a month compared to 40 to 50 trucks a day on our highways.

7. Wanda Carr - At this new facility would it be additional tanks? What about emergency evacuation? I was told by a neighbor about this meeting, there needs to be more concrete information given to the residents.

Chair Martinez - Respond regarding outreach efforts.

Pam Madere- We have been in touch with Travis County, meeting with the public and if there are any questions you can contact me.

Beverly Silas - What did you do to notify people?

Madere - We did not do ads, homeowners association or other outreach because it was not our meeting it was Capital Metro's. We will be sending out notifications.

8. Julia Benford - The issue is communication, we did not hear about this meeting. What safety measures are being taken to protect from vandals?

Madere - There is perimeter fencing and trained employees.

Chair Martinez - Do you know on other sites such as Arlington, is there on-site security in Arlington?

Madere - There have not been any security issues at the site in Arlington. I do not know the nature of their security but I will find out and brief the Board on that.

Chair Martinez - I would like a follow-up or a full briefing, could be in a memo on what security measures will be put in place.

Heidi Neff - Resident of Manor - Concerns with freight running at night - Are these trains running at night or day? What are the measures as far as loading and unloading the trains?

Chair Martinez - On this particular track it will be allowed to be used during the day hours.

Bill LeJeune - These particular trains we will not dictate the hours they will come, there will be no restrictions whether at night or whatever, and they are not limited through the passenger line itself.

Langmore - Can staff address concerns regarding the issues addressed? Like safety on the tracks, location of the tracks etc..., something to let the people know who to contact regarding their concerns. Which parties are responsible to address each issue?

Chris Riley - Thanked Commissioner Ron Davis for helping to arrange this meeting. We will address these issues and any other concerns that you may have.

II. Adjournment

It was moved by Silas and seconded by Chafetz to adjourn the meeting.

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Date: August 11, 2010

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Legal/Board Support Specialist II