

Working Group Summary – April 30, 2018

BYPASS ROAD UPDATE

Alan Cohen provided an update on the Bypass Road. As of the meeting date, the County has hired Atkins Engineering to complete a Project Development & Engineering (PD&E) Study. The consultant will review the feasibility of the current route proposal as well as that of additional potential routes proposed by neighbor groups. Alan has continued to meet with civic associations in the area of the proposed bypass. Alan will explore the possibility of defining a member of TAM staff as a liaison to Atkins for the purpose of the PD&E Study. He committed to include neighbors in the process addressing the concern raised that the County would move forward without consideration of the neighbor's input.

ZONAR PRESENTATION

Jason Doyle of Gridics presented on the topic of Zonar software. Zonar allows planners to quickly provide a summary of zoning requirements for a given project, including automatically depicting the massing of a proposed project showing accurate setbacks and stepbacks from adjacent 3D buildings. The software also has the ability to generate a public URL for any given project, allowing for more robust public engagement of proposed development.

The following is a summary of the Questions & Answers session at the end of Jason's presentation:

- Do you have any information to show how this impacts time for zoning review?
 - 50% to 75% reduction in review time depending on the project.
- Can this be used to determine what infrastructure changes [potable water, sanitary sewer] are needed?
 - Not initially but an infrastructure module is part of the City of Fort Lauderdale contract with Gridics and will be added during the first year of the contract. Work will start on this module in the next month and the functionality will add potable water and sanitary sewer as well as traffic based on a general level of service. Specific requirements, including generation by square foot of each use, have yet to be defined. We're expecting preliminary infrastructure and traffic modules to come within the next 4 or so months and then a few months for staff to implement.
- Will you see ongoing (under construction/pending) projects?
 - Zonar overlays on top of existing base maps such as Google Maps. If a project is under construction it could be added but the 3D layer is imported from the City of Fort Lauderdale and updated by the City.
- How often will 3D buildings be updated?
 - We can update the 3D buildings as frequently as the City updates it, though regular updates can be cost prohibitive.
- Are the shadows cast by 3D building massings realistic?
 - The software currently shows base shadow at 3:00 PM but we're working on the ability to customize shadows based on various times of the year.
- Can this be used to study development impacts to views, such as diminished beach views?
 - Theoretically, yes.
- Is the city using this now?
 - In short, yes. The first training session was held a week ago, the next follow-up will be to ensure that it can be incorporated into workflows. Staff will be implementing the software over time.

- Can this incorporate sea level rise projections?
 - We did through simple layers, though there is work with University of Miami to better visualize more complicated projections. The co-founder of Gridics is a big advocate for sea level rise education.
- Is there a timeline for when the city can turn this software on or is this dependent upon their ability to learn?
 - They are using the software now and have received preliminary training. Typically when we do training we're at the 85% level of understanding. The first 6 weeks include feedback from staff to tweak the software so that it's more effective. Approximately 60 days after the initial training we see how it's going and reassess positive or negative impacts.
- Do you train new staff or does staff train new staff?
 - We try to find an "evangelist and expert" member of staff to train new staff in-house, though we do regular webinars and other technologies to deploy efficient training. Florida is easier as we have project managers and account managers out of our Miami headquarters that can help with training.
- Are there other products out there that compete with you?
 - Directly, no. All of our clients have procured the software as sole-source, non-competitive bids. Two cities worked with ESRI as a mapping platform, but our underlying value is the computational rules engine that knows how to accurately apply values. ESRI's product is also not generally as user-friendly or capable as our own.
- How long does it take your company to transcribe data?
 - We like to say 4 to 6 weeks before we can begin training. Bigger cities tend to take longer, NYC for example took 3.5 to 4 months but Delray Beach, a much smaller city, took about 2 weeks.
- Is it a one-time fee or is it ongoing?
 - There is a one-time training fee and an ongoing user license. Cost is based on number of users so it's completely dependent upon the size of your staff.
- Are you finding private sector resistance to the software?
 - Between one-third and one-half of the money we've raised is from the development community (early adopters) but architects and land use attorneys are generally not big takers. We have about 20-30 commercial brokers/developers. Anyone can purchase a private license, however.
- If you're under contract with the City, what happens when a developer comes to you to do a project in Fort Lauderdale?
 - We're going to incorporate some of the pre-calculated zoning information that developers might be able to use in individual software licenses. We will still charge developers if they want to purchase a software license.
- What's the cost per user?
 - \$250 per month per user.

After the Q&A Session, Commissioner Sorensen phoned Anthony Fajardo and Al Battle. Anthony and Al clarified that Zonar is a 2 year contract, the first portion of which includes incorporating the existing zoning code and utilizing the software as provided. The other portion of the contract is to implement the ability to build out a 3D environment that we can then modify to test development scenarios and the infrastructure module. The infrastructure module is under development and not yet completed.

Although staff is using the software now, further utilization won't happen until the 3D environment is fully implemented.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

17th Street Interdistrict Corridor Meeting – The 17th Street Interdistrict Corridor Meeting with the 17th Street Causeway Association was raised again. MJ Matthews will work with Marilyn Mammano and property owners to arrange the meeting. The meeting would cover the existing Interdistrict Corridor zoning code requirement for redevelopment projects which requires a multi-use pedestrian and bicyclist path.

SE 17th Street Signal Plan – Robert Modys provided an update on the signal plan implemented by Broward County. The timing plan resulted in an AM Peak reduction in delay of 62% for westbound vehicles and a 5% improvement for eastbound vehicles. The PM Peak saw a delay reduction of 38% for westbound vehicles and 34% for eastbound vehicles.

Other Thoroughfares – Jonathan Ford clarified that within Fort Lauderdale, FDOT manages major thoroughfares (US1, Broward, Sunrise Blvd, etc.) to establish improved “intelligent” signalization systems. Currently these systems are planned to be extended further south on US1 to I-595. This is separate from a signal timing plan based on a time of day or special event but allows for true on-the-fly signalization based on current conditions.

Jonathan clarified that Broward Boulevard all the way to University is in the intelligent signal network already, although construction has led to intermitted communications issues

The Working Group requested that staff provide an update on the Broward Boulevard project. Jonathan Ford clarified that the project is on-schedule for completion in summer 2018 but a more specific timeline can be provided at the next meeting. The group also mentioned that there was a sign at Broward Boulevard and NE 3rd Avenue that display the erroneous “Sea Aquarium Parking Ahead” and that traffic lanes were closed when it appeared that work wasn't underway.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Staff to reevaluate Waze Government Agency Partnership given the new leadership in the City Attorney's Office.
2. Staff to provide more details from Broward County regarding the SE 17th Street revised signal timing plan including when the measures were implemented, how the baseline for comparison was drawn, and potentially explaining the 62% westbound AM improvement in delay.
3. A future meeting topic will be the discussion of a “built out” SE 17th Street corridor utilizing Zonar.
4. Staff to provide an update of construction on Broward Boulevard.
5. Alan Cohen will work with Atkins to determine the best approach of involvement of a City Staff Liaison to the Bypass Road Study.
6. A meeting will be scheduled with property owners regarding the existing Interdistrict Corridor Requirements.

FOLLOW UPS FROM PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

1. Working Group members will continue to provide staff with reports of misdirected tourists utilizing Waze if observed. Staff reached out to Waze and did not have luck in a response. The City needs to be a Government Agency Partner to realize success in this area.

2. Staff reached out to the Hilton regarding the Academy buses. The Hilton committed to addressing the issue as it's observed. Alan Cohen stated that the issue of Academy buses parked on Grande was not associated with the Convention Center. The Convention Center has space onsite for bus staging and utilizes it.
3. Although a Letter of Support for the FDOT I-595 project was drafted, the request will be modified to come in the form of a Resolution of Support from the entire Commission with reference to the SE 17th Street Working Group vote.