

Minutes

RTA Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee

9:03 a.m. February 4, 2020

Committee: Welo, (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair), Byrne, Joyce, Moss, Pellot

Other Board members: Bibb, Clough

Not present: McCall, Serrano

Also Present: Anderson, Astolfi, Benford, Beveridge, Birdsong, Bober, Brooks-Williams, Brown, Burney, Caver, Collier, Cottrell, Dangelo, Davidson, Davis, Fields, Garofoli, Gautam, Gibbons, Gibson, Jones, Kirkland, Leon, Lewis, Lincoln, Loh, Moss, O'Brien, Pinkney-Butts, Schipper, Sims, Snell, Stocking, Sutula, Tarka, Togher, Ulrich, Vukmanic, Wiehe, Winn, Young, Zeller

Mayor Welo called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that six (6) committee members were present.

RFP Procurement: West 25th Street Transit Oriented Development Plan

Maribeth Feke, director of planning and Ashley Bober, procurement contract administrator, gave the presentation. We received a FTA competitive grant for planning along a high capacity, major transportation corridor (ie: W. 25th Street). The MetroHealth Line is a BRT like system. It began in 2017. Ridership is 1.7 million. It is at the highest ridership level in the system or half of what the HealthLine is now. The corridor runs from the heart of downtown Cleveland going south and splits into Broadview, State and Pearl roads. It serves through Strongsville. The corridor starts from Ohio City into the Clark/Metro Health area. It has the highest percentage of Hispanic people in the state. MetroHealth is putting \$9 billion into its hospital. It is engaging the community in its planning. It ends in Old Brooklyn, which is a middle class, growing community. There is a two-mile stretch from downtown to the split.

The corridor does not meet all the criteria for the grant. The scope includes engagement, transportation design of the bus shelters, land use and zoning to support TOD, density, financing and marketing. The federal process will take five years. There has to be engagement with the residents and stakeholders. They will use several ways to engage people like focus groups, meetings, online surveys, etc. It will take a year to produce the executive summary. Results of the study will catalyze support, progress design efforts, progress the development of full BRT, provide TOD zoning/land use guidance for the City of Cleveland for entire Corridor and develop TOD financing prototype.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued October 14, 2019. Twenty-nine interested parties accessed it on the GCRTA web site. Four firms proposed. The evaluation panel was comprised of various RTA departments. The panel also consisted of representatives from City of Cleveland, Metro West Community Development Organization and The MetroHealth System. The recommended firm is Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. headquartered in Boston, MA, but they have a local office in Cleveland, Ohio. The DBE Goal of 0% was established due to lack of certified DBE firms. Stantec is a global design firm specializing in urban community projects. They have over 22,000 employees in 400 locations that span six continents. Since 2015, they have led to more than \$25 billion in investment in walkable, mixed-use, and sustainable communities in North America. They are an experienced and qualified project manager and project team. Their clients include Cleveland, Boston, Denver and others.

Staff requests that the Operational Planning and Infrastructure Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees the award of a contract to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in a total contract amount not to exceed \$414,068.00. Mayor Welo asked if this would be a joint team effort. Maribeth said that eventually it would have to be engineered. They will have to work with ODOT and City of Cleveland Traffic Engineer. Ms. Moss mentioned that the corridor is very narrow, congested, and asked how dedicated lanes could be built. Maribeth said that Councilman McCormick has a plan to create more curb space. They will work on curb management too.

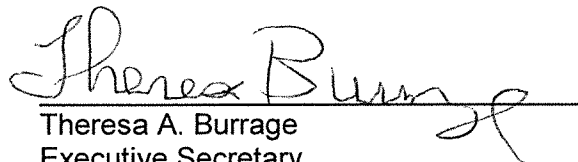
Greg Zuka, director of economic and community development for MetroHealth System said the TOD plan aligns with their vision of community investment and the community development corp. and the City of Cleveland. As part of the \$1 billion campus project, they are making an effort to partner with local agencies and the city. The campus investment is having an overall impact in the community and not to gentrify, but to invest in the people who live there. They want to create more housing diversity and a more thriving community as the highest employer in that neighborhood. They are creating three mix-use development project with affordable, workforce housing. Ricardo Leon, executive director with Metro West Community Development Organization said it serves three near west neighborhoods. They serve 30,000 people and 1/3 of them do not have access to a vehicle so public transit is important. They are collaborating with MetroHealth, City of Cleveland, Jasmin Santana, Ward 14 Councilwoman and Cleveland Foundation on a masterplan. One part of that is looking at mobility and transportation.

Matthew Moss is a planner with the City Planning Commission. This plan will augment their work like curb space management. They have been working with the CDCs on comprehensive parking solutions to free up curb space and a comprehensive master plan for the Clark Fulton neighborhood. Freddie Collier, director with the City of Cleveland said this project is in line with the Mayor's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative that targets disadvantage communities and commercial corridors that link high investment areas to areas of disinvestment. This project is about strategic alignment. They believe the return will be substantial for the people in the neighborhood. Mayor Clough likes the collaborative effort. Adam O'Brien is the office leader for Stantec. They have a series of experts to deliver the best planning effort. Ms. Moss asked how many of their employees are in the Cleveland office, what percentage of work will be done in Cleveland and the number of Cleveland residents working on the project. He said that Stantec has been in Cleveland since 2009. Prior to that, another firm acquired them, which has been in Cleveland since 1938. They have 72 people in the Cleveland office. A small group will be involved in the Urban Planning Group. David Dixon, the principal out of Boston has lived in Cleveland will be a part of the team. Seventh Hill in Cleveland will be involved with community engagement.

It was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mayor Byrne to move this to the full Board.
Mayor Welo adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.



Floun'say R. Caver, Ph.D.
Interim Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Secretary