



WESTMINSTER

Staff Report

TO: The Mayor and Members of the City Council

DATE: November 9, 2015

SUBJECT: REVISED Briefing and Post-City Council Briefing Agenda for Nov. 9,

PREPARED BY: 2015 Donald M. Tripp, City Manager

Please Note: Study Sessions and Post City Council briefings are open to the public, and individuals are welcome to attend and observe. However, these briefings are not intended to be interactive with the audience, as this time is set aside for City Council to receive information, make inquiries, and provide Staff with policy direction.

Looking ahead to Monday night's Briefing and Post-City Council meeting briefing, the following schedule has been prepared:

Dinner 6:00 P.M.

Council Briefing (*The public is welcome to attend.*) 6:30 P.M.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CDOT's North I-25 Managed Toll Lane Project Update & Funding Request

POST BRIEFING (*The public is welcome to attend.*)

None at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

None at this time.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

None at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None at this time.

INFORMATION ONLY

None at this time.

Items may come up between now and Monday night. City Council will be apprised of any changes to the post-briefing schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald M. Tripp
City Manager

NOTE: Persons needing an accommodation must notify the City Manager's Office no later than noon the Thursday prior to the scheduled Study Session to allow adequate time to make arrangements. You can call [303-658-2161](tel:303-658-2161) /TTY 711 or State Relay) or write to mbarajas@cityofwestminster.us to make a reasonable accommodation request.



Staff Report

Pre-City Council Briefing
November 9, 2015



SUBJECT: CDOT's North I-25 Managed Toll Lane Project Update & Funding Request

PREPARED BY: Barbara Opie, Assistant City Manager

Recommended City Council Action:

Review the status update on the north I-25 managed toll lane project and provide direction regarding CDOT's funding request.

Summary Statement:

- The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is currently completing the construction of a \$60 million managed toll lane in each direction project on I-25 between US 36 and 120th Avenue. It is anticipated to be complete in the first half of 2016.
- CDOT is working to extend the managed toll lanes from approximately 120th Avenue to Highway 7. Unfortunately, CDOT has insufficient funds to reach Highway 7 and is working to construct the managed toll lanes as far north along I-25 as they can. Their current projections show funding to reach approximately 144th Avenue. CDOT plans to advertise this project for bids on January 7, 2016, and needs to know officially what their budget parameters are prior to advertising the project.
- CDOT approached the local jurisdictions along the I-25 corridor to see if there is the possibility to partner in closing their approximate \$5 million funding gap to extend the managed toll lanes north to approximately the E470/Northwest Parkway interchange. Staff does not recommend helping fund this \$5 million gap.
- Staff from the original intergovernmental agreement (IGA) entities for the current project met to review CDOT's request. CDOT is apparently taking this project to their Board at the next meeting on November 19 for consideration; they do not appear to have a Board meeting scheduled for December, which is why the request is moving forward at this time. Staff is asking for direction as CDOT staff is seeking funding from the north I-25 entities prior to this next Board meeting.

Expenditure Required: \$0

Source of Funds: N/A

Policy Issue

Does City Council concur with Staff’s recommendation not to provide additional funding to the north I-25 managed toll lanes project for the extension of the lanes from approximately 144th Avenue to approximately the E470/Northwest Parkway interchange?

Alternatives

City Council could direct Staff to work with the neighboring cities and counties to find a way to assist CDOT with the funding needed to extend the managed toll lanes to approximately the E470/Northway Parkway interchange. Staff does not recommend this as the benefit for the cost of this extension seems limited in its ability to positively impact the movement of traffic in this area.

Background Information

In 2012, Adams County, the City and County of Broomfield, Weld County and the Cities of Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton, and Westminster entered into an IGA with CDOT to contribute \$4.525 million toward the construction of one new managed toll lane in each direction on I-25 between US 36 and approximately 120th Avenue. A \$15 million federal TIGER IV discretionary grant was awarded to the project. The City of Westminster’s contribution totaled \$500,000 paid over fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015. This IGA was amended in 2014 with increased contributions by Adams County and the City of Northglenn allowing for the wooden fence along the highway to be replaced with post and panel concrete sound walls bringing the local contribution up to \$8.025 million; Westminster’s contribution did not change with this amendment.

CDOT has been working since this original project commenced to design and construct a second phase of this managed toll lanes project north. The original target for phase two was to extend the managed toll lane north from approximately 120th Avenue to Highway 7. The cost estimates made this impossible and CDOT created a smaller phase two project to extend the lanes to 144th Avenue or, as an alternative, to approximately the E470/Northwest Parkway interchange.

As CDOT has refined this second phase, the available funding takes the project to approximately 144th Avenue. CDOT staff approached the entities involved in the original IGA to see if there is the possibility to help close the approximately \$5 million funding gap to extend the managed lanes beyond 144th Avenue to approximately the E470/Northwest Parkway interchange. This meeting occurred on October 8. From this meeting with mostly elected officials, Staff was asked to review CDOT’s request and provide a recommendation. CDOT needs formal responses prior to going to advertisement, which is currently scheduled for January 7, 2016. Per CDOT’s procurement practices, they do not publically disclose their project budget prior to the release of the request for proposals but they must have the formal budget identified prior to advertising their projects. As such, they need to have their funding sources clearly identified.

However, it has come to Staff’s attention that CDOT is apparently planning to review this at their next Transportation Commission and Bridge Enterprise Board meeting on November 19 (the December meeting is cancelled). They were hoping for each City to provide a letter of commitment by year-end for funding in 2016 and/or 2017.

Representatives from Adams County, Broomfield, Thornton, Federal Heights, Northglenn and Westminster (Weld County was unable to attend) met Thursday, November 5, and discussed several components of the project and expressed concerns about the amount requested, the net impact of the

extension from 144th Avenue to E470/Northwest Parkway, the possibility to meet with CDOT’s High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HTPE) regarding how the toll revenues were being utilized, etc. In the end, the group agreed that the net benefit of extending the managed lanes from 144th Avenue to E470/Northwest Parkway for the \$5 million cost to local entities was minimal at best; that the amount of improvement in the movement of vehicles in this area was limited and that the improvements to 144th Avenue would provide significant enhancement to the corridor for the time being. The group shares the desire for CDOT to continue efforts to fund the managed lanes all the way to Highway 7 and wants CDOT to apply the funds they have identified on their end to ensure the lanes get to 144th Avenue. Staff is not recommending a local financial contribution at this time, which means the project will only go to 144th Avenue.

Due to CDOT’s plan to discuss this at their November 19 meeting, those in attendance at Thursday’s meeting were asked to go back to their respective elected officials to make sure they were in agreement with the recommendation not to provide local funding at this time. We all committed to get back to each other by the end of next week in order to share feedback with CDOT prior to their November 19 meeting.

Staff recommends that no additional funding be offered to CDOT for this segment and that the entities move forward with CDOT to extend the managed toll lanes from approximately 120th Avenue to 144th Avenue. Staff wishes to inform City Council about this request and seeks concurrence with Staff’s recommendation.

Staff will be in attendance at Monday’s Pre-Council Briefing to provide additional information and answer any questions.

The City’s efforts to partner with CDOT supports City Council’s goal to provide Visionary Leadership, Effective Governance and Proactive Regional Collaboration and extending the managed toll lanes on I-25 promotes the goal of Ease of Mobility.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald M. Tripp
City Manager