

**City of Westminster City Council Study Session  
March 5, 2007**

Mayor McNally called the Study Session to order at 6:33 PM. All Council was in attendance.

City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Brent McFall; Assistant City Manager Steve Smithers; City Attorney Marty McCullough; Deputy City Manager Matt Lutkus; Community Development Director John Carpenter; City Engineer Dave Downing; Budget and Special Projects Manager Barbara Opie; Public Information Specialist Joe Reid; Senior Projects Coordinator Tony Chacon and Management Analyst Aric Otzelberger.

The guests in attendance were Rachel Ceccarelli with the Westminster Window; Bob Briggs with the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority and Chris Quinn with the Regional Transportation District.

**FasTracks Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) and Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) Technologies Presentation**

Chris Quinn was present from the Regional Transportation District to discuss the analysis that the RTD Northwest Corridor team is in the process of conducting in order to determine a specific type of commuter rail technology for operation on the Northwest Rail Corridor as part of the FasTracks system. The technologies currently under consideration include Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) and Electric Multiple Unit (EMU). In late 2006, a cost analysis for the two technologies was completed for the Northwest Rail, North Metro and East Corridor projects. This analysis takes into consideration capital costs, as well as operating and maintenance costs for each technology over a 30-year life cycle. Based on RTD's analysis, DMU is a more cost-effective option from a capital and operating standpoint for the Northwest Corridor.

This presentation was informational in nature and no action was necessary from Council. Council expressed their general support for the DMU technology due to cost and aesthetic concerns of the EMU technology. City Manager Brent McFall discussed hopes that advances in fuel technology could prove to make DMU even more cost effective, whereas a commitment to the electric lines for the EMU would likely prevent RTD from harnessing new fuel technology. RTD plans to publish a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) this summer. RTD hopes to make the decision on DMU/EMU technology prior to the release of the EA. The Draft EA will be a detailed report summarizing the impacts of the recommended alternative and the proposed methods to mitigate them. The unveiling of the Draft EA will be followed by a 30-day public comment period, which will include public meetings.

**City Participation in the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority**

Former Regional Transportation District (RTD) Director and State Representative Bob Briggs was present to discuss the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority's (RMRA) effort to create a rail corridor through Albuquerque/Denver/Cheyenne, plus a Denver International Airport/west slope rail corridor along I-70. The RMRA's goal is to have these rail corridors designated as the eleventh High Speed Rail Corridor (HSRC) in the nation by the Federal Railroad Administration. The first step in attaining HSRC status is to prepare a Feasibility Study for the proposal. Every affected local government has been invited to join the RMRA to gain representation on the Board of Directors. Mr. Briggs requested at least \$5,000 per year for two years from the City of Westminster for membership on the Board of Directors, but expressed his desire to have the City join the Board at the support level of \$10,000 per year for two years. On November 15, 2006, the Westminster Transportation Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the City Council that the City of Westminster join the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority.

Council directed Staff to bring this item back to a future City Council meeting for authorization of the expenditure for a two-year membership in the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority.

### **Restrictions on Gifts to City Councillors, Boards and Commission Members, and City Employees**

In November 2006, Colorado voters approved Amendment 41, which included provisions related to the acceptance of gifts by public officials. The Amendment, which subsequently became Article XXIX of the Colorado Constitution, contains a provision that states that the Article does not apply to home-rule cities that adopt policies that address the matters contained in the Article. City Manager Brent McFall, City Attorney Marty McCullough, and Deputy City Manager Matt Lutkus discussed a proposed Councillor's Bill that would prohibit the acceptance of money or gifts of substantial value that would influence a public official's actions. Under the proposed ordinance, City Council, all City employees and all Board and Commission members would be subject to its provisions. The proposed ordinance would treat any violation of the ordinance as a criminal offense that would be punishable by fine or imprisonment or both. Once this ordinance is approved, the provisions of Article XXIX will not be applicable to City of Westminster officials and employees.

Council directed Staff to schedule consideration of this Councillor's Bill for the March 12 City Council meeting.

Mayor McNally adjourned the Study Session at 7:45 PM to enter into an Executive Session of the Westminster Economic Development Authority (WEDA) for the purposes of discussing a proposed redevelopment assistance agreement for the Northgate Shopping Center pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(e).