

DATE: December 2, 2009

TO: Transportation Task Force

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Urban Development Department (UDD)

CC: Juan Carlos Ocana, Public Participation Coordinator, PDC
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SUBJECT: Meeting No. 1 - December 9, 2009

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The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Transportation Task Force (TTF) about the various transportation projects and programs that the PDC through the Lents Town Center URA has funded or may be able to fund in the future. At our first meeting, the TTF will review an extensive list of projects and programs. Although we will not have an opportunity to specifically review every project due to time constraints, the project team has developed reference tools to assist our efforts in setting funding priorities for next fiscal year (FY 10-11) and the following four budget years (2011-12 to 2014-15).

Background

PDC is not a transportation agency. However, it uses its tax increment financing (TIF) dollars to leverage other public and private resources to invest in transportation infrastructure. PDC partners with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to design and fund transportation projects within the URA. PDC has funded numerous transportation projects and programs in the first ten years of the URA's life. For a list of completed and funded projects, please refer to Attachment 1: "Lents Transportation Project List."

Regarding LTC URA funding, there are three transportation line items in the current FY 09-10 Budget and Five Year Forecast (Attachment 3): Streets/Sidewalks Local Improvement District (LID), Neighborhood Transportation Safety Improvements, and Lents Town Center Redevelopment. The first is a long standing program to improve substandard local streets in Portland that was authorized for Lents by the PDC Board in 2000. The second is a catch all budget item for transportation that funds streetscape or traffic safety projects. The latter is used to fund transportation elements of a larger redevelopment project. These funds are not specifically targeted for transportation, but are allocated to accomplish redevelopment projects that have transportation needs by project site, such as the streetscape improvements in front of the Assurety NW building.

Transportation Project List

The project team compiled a project list based on approved or adopted plans that govern transportation infrastructure investments. Below is a list of those plans (as well as two programs) in chronological order:

Lents Business District Transportation Plan (1999)
Lents Traffic Safety Plan (2001)



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Foster Road Transportation & Streetscape Plan (2003)
Inner Powell Boulevard Streetscape Plan (2007)
Transportation System Plan (2007)
82nd Ave of Roses High Crash Corridor Safety Project (2008)
Streetcar System Concept Plan (2009)
Foster-Woodstock Streetscape Enhancement Project (2009)
Safe Routes to School
Local Improvement District (LID)

In addition, there is the Lents Urban Renewal Area Plan (1998) that governs investments over the life of the URA. Some transportation projects and programs are mentioned specifically in the URA Plan and are noted in the project list. Given the demand on URA resources, and the need to accomplish as many projects as possible in the next ten years in the life of the URA, *new projects will not be added to the list.*

Prioritization Process

The TTF has a very difficult task: prioritize a long list of projects and programs that exceed available funds. According to the FY 09-10 Budget & Five Year Forecast, the LTC URA has \$10.4M in transportation funding. On December 9, 2009 the PDC Board will consider a recommendation to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with PBOT to fund the Foster-Woodstock Streetscape Enhancement with \$2.6M in TIF. Assuming the Board approves the IGA, \$7.8M will be available for transportation projects and programs.

Based on the current list of unfunded projects (Attachment 2), staff has identified a minimum of \$31M to accomplish all plans and programs. The unfunded amount is a planning level cost estimate and will likely increase over time once escalation and design specifications are factored. The URAC can recommend additional funding for transportation investments, and the PDC Board can approve that funding over time, but for the purposes of this prioritization process, the project team assumes no additional funds will be allocated. The TTF will need to make very hard choices to prioritize and recommend a select number of projects to fund in the next five years.

As with any prioritization process, there needs to be a systematic method for evaluating projects based on a set of criteria. Staff is developing proposed criteria for TTF consideration. The criteria are qualitative in nature and aim to strike a balance of competing city policy goals: geographic equity, project readiness, economic development/job creation, neighborhood livability, responsiveness to alternative funding streams, and directly leverages other city/PDC initiatives.

Next Steps

After the TTF has developed a common understanding of the project list and criteria, staff will evaluate the project list against the criteria and draft results of the analysis for consideration at the second meeting in January. A third meeting in February is scheduled to determine a final recommended list of projects that will be reviewed by the LTC Urban Renewal Advisory Committee in March 2010.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Map: Transportation Project List
Attachment 2: Spreadsheet: Transportation Project List Inventory
Attachment 3: Spreadsheet: FY 2009-10 Budget & Five Year Forecast