

DATE: March 2, 2010

TO: Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

FROM: Kevin A. Cronin, AICP, Senior Project Manager,
Urban Development Department (UDD)

CC: Transportation Task Force (TTF)
Rich Newlands, PBOT
Amy Miller Dowell, E/SE Neighborhood Manager, UDD
Byron Estes, Neighborhood Division Manager, UDD

RE: March 9, 2010 URAC Meeting
3.6 – TTF Report & Recommendation

J. Scott Andrews
Commission Chair

Bertha Ferrán
Commissioner

John C. Mohlis
Commissioner

Steven Straus
Commissioner

Charles A. Wilhoite
Commissioner

Sam Adams
Mayor

Bruce A. Warner
Executive Director

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a brief report on the work of the Transportation Task Force (TTF) and a recommendation for the URAC's consideration. The purpose of the TTF was to assist the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee's (URAC) efforts by recommending funding priorities and investments relative to the annual "Infrastructure" budget (FY 10-11) and Five Year Forecast (FY 10-11/14-15). The TTF was charged with reporting back to the URAC by the March 9, 2010 meeting.

Background

Historically, the URAC had a transportation subcommittee, but it had not met in the last few years. At the September 8, 2009 meeting, the URAC endorsed the establishment of what came to be called the Transportation Task Force, which would provide advisory recommendations to the URAC and PDC. The committee is comprised of twelve (12) members from across the URA: four (4) neighborhood associations, two (2) business associations, two (2) at large members, and four (4) URAC members.

PDC partnered with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to develop a process that would engage the TTF and general public, provide accurate and timely information in a transparent manner, and openly debate the merits of projects and programs that would be eligible for tax increment financing (TIF).

There are three distinct transportation line items in the current FY 09-10 Budget: Streets/Sidewalks Local Improvement District (LID), Neighborhood Transportation Safety Improvements, and Lents Town Center Redevelopment. The latter is used to fund transportation elements of a larger redevelopment project, such as the street improvements in front of the Assurety NW building or the MAX Green Line. The TTF focused its efforts on the first two line items,



www.pdc.us

222 Northwest
Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR
97209-3859

tel: 503.823.3200

fax: 503.823.3368

TTY: 503.823.3366

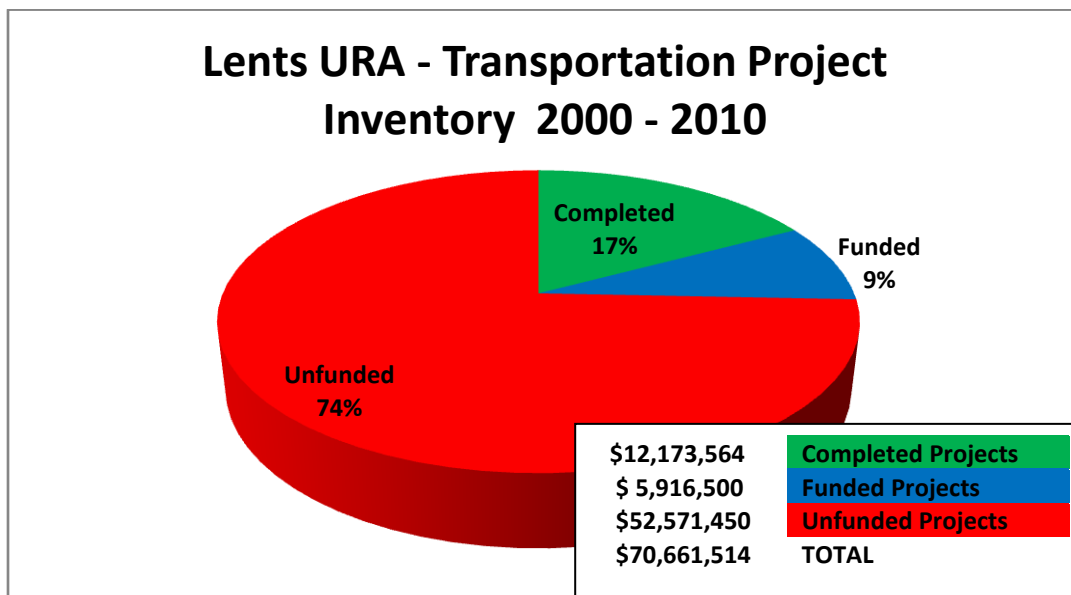


which in total amounts to \$10.4M in funding over the five year budget forecast. With the approval of the Foster-Woodstock Streetscape Enhancement IGA (\$2.6M) by the PDC Board on December 9, 2009, the net total to allocate towards transportation was \$7.8 M.

The TTF held three public meetings and one open house to review, discuss, and debate a number of items in order to reach a recommendation. Below is a quick summary of the meetings:

1. *December 9, 2009*: Reviewed committee charter, project delivery process, funding streams, current and projected budget, the first draft of a universal inventory of plans, projects and programs within the URA, and established draft criteria for evaluating the list of projects.
2. *January 13, 2010*: Reviewed a presentation of the Local Improvement District (LID) program in Lents URA, reviewed the updated project list, approved the evaluation criteria, and developed preliminary draft of recommendations based on staff evaluation and TTF input.
3. *January 26, 2010*: The Lents Neighborhood Association hosted an open house for staff to gather input from a wider audience. Twenty-eight people signed in and provided comments and suggestions on the preliminary recommendations.
4. *February 10, 2010*: Debriefed public comments from open house, reviewed a draft funding recommendation from staff, and unanimously approved a recommendation for URAC review and consideration. John Mulvey, URAC and TTF member, was nominated to help present the recommendation.

The project inventory included more than 80 projects culled from ten plans and programs that have been adopted or approved by City Council since 1998, and are eligible for PDC funding. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of projects in the Lents URA:



As you can see, the demand for funds far exceeds the available supply. The TTF had a difficult task in prioritizing the projects. For more info on the project inventory, please refer to two exhibits from the TTF process that summarizes the categories contained in the above chart:

1. Project Inventory – March 2, 2010
2. Project Map – March 2, 2010

In addition to the above exhibits, each meeting packet is posted on the PDC website: http://www.pdc.us/ura/lents_town_center/committees/transportation/default.asp

TTF Recommendation

Based on the technical analysis, TTF input, and comments from the community at the open house, the TTF recommends the following programs and projects for funding over the next five years.

Transportation Programming - Five Year Forecast 2010/11 - 2014/15		
Project/Program	Budget	Notes
Local Improvement District (LID) Phase IV	\$1,000,000	No change in funding from FY 09/10 - 10/11
Safe Routes to School	\$ 200,000	Low cost/high impact program
Neighborhood Traffic Safety Plan (Ellis/Favel)	\$1,400,000	Program funds to leverage other resources
82nd Ave High Crash Corridor Project	\$ 100,000	Federal Stimulus Project; complete sidewalk infill
Foster Road Transportation & Streetscape Plan	\$2,000,000	Matching Grant (Metro Flexible Funds)
122nd Ave	\$2,000,000	Matching Grant (ODOT TE*)
Ramona Green Street	\$1,000,000	Matching Grant (BES 1% Green Application)
Streetcar Study	\$ 100,000	Matching Grant (Metro CET Application)
TOTAL	\$7,800,000	FY 09-10 Budget & Five Year Forecast
DRAFT FY 10-11 Budget & Five Year Forecast	\$7,920,000	January 8, 2010

*TE: Transportation Enhancement

The recommendation is reflective of the evaluation criteria, which provide ten different ways to review the project merits. There was an emphasis on achieving geographic equity and a balance between the needs of businesses located along commercial corridors and improving neighborhood livability. In addition, leverage potential, as indicated in the “Notes” section above, also was an important factor to

consider as these projects will need to compete against a large pool of regional and statewide candidate projects. The TTF was diligent in its review and application of the criteria, but also reviewed the list in a holistic way to ensure URA wide goals were achieved. To this end, some projects are the continuation of existing programs (Traffic Safety, LID, & Ramona Green Street), while others are “new” projects for the URAC, but have been on the City’s “to do list” awaiting funds (122nd Ave, Foster Road, & 82nd Ave).

Staff Recommendation: Make a motion to accept the TTF report, approve the TTF recommendation, and direct the Budget Subcommittee to apply the transportation programming for the current Proposed FY 10-11 Budget & Five Year Forecast.

In addition, the recommendation is accepted with the knowledge that this proposal is viewed within the overall context of the Lents URA Proposed Budget & Five Year Forecast and will be subject to future budget processes, revenue forecasts, and overall agency budget priorities set by the PDC Board and City Council.

Next Steps

The TTF is not scheduled to meet until such time PDC staff, the URAC, or the Budget Subcommittee requests advisory comments on the budget or a transportation related issue. However, the recommendation can be revisited and applied on an annual basis. Reference tools, such as the project inventory, that was created for the TTF can be easily updated as new information becomes available and will serve as a convenient tracking tool for planned projects and future budgets.