

**CITY OF FIFE  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Fife City Hall  
5411 23<sup>rd</sup> Street East

July 1, 2013

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Brown.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Brown, and Commissioners Fagundes, Waldner, Bond, Braden, and Edwards

Excused: Commissioner Lemoncelli

Staff: Director Osaki, Director Blount, and Senior Administrative Assistant Bolam

Presenter: Michael Lapham, KPG, Inc.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. June 3, 2013

Chair Brown noted that the meeting was called to order by Chair Brown, not by Vice Chair Edwards. **Motion** (Braden/Bond) to amend the minutes accordingly. **Passed 6/0.**

**Motion** (Edwards/Bond) to approve the minutes of June 3, 2013 as amended – **Passed 6/0.**

**4. CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. CPA13-01 – Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Update

Director Blount presented the packet items, explaining changes from previous years and reminding that it is a moving target. He introduced Michael Lapham /KPG.

Mr. Lapham gave a power point overview of the 20-25 year plan, followed by the six-year Transportation Improvement Plan update. He explained the tasks that have been completed and the work that is still in progress.

Questions and answers:

- 70<sup>th</sup> Ave at proposed 167 and I-5 interchange
- Improving Levee Road, especially at intersection with 54<sup>th</sup> Ave
  - Commissioner Braden said this is the most smashed guardrail in town. Director Blount agreed, but stressed other intersections suffer fatalities and serious injury.

Mr. Lapham continued his presentation, showing the TIP map with a focus for this meeting on the four items with some funding:

1. 54<sup>th</sup> Ave Grade Separation – due to feedback received, this item has been moved up to priority #8. Discussion ensued.
  - o Director Blount explained that the railroad would prefer a grade separation over an at-grade opening of the road, and the city's agreement with the school district allows for an underpass.
  - o Regarding funding, the railroad's normal contribution is about 5%.
  - o Emergency crews can unlock the gates. Director Blount explained the current daily testing that occurs on site.
  - o The concrete barriers were identified as a problem in the case of emergency; it was explained that the City has the equipment to remove them, and they can be driven around.
2. Phase I of Port of Tacoma
  - o Grants are already lined up with City funding assigned; possibility of other grants that will complete the funding.
3. Pacific Hwy/54<sup>th</sup> Ave – 2<sup>nd</sup> west bound left-turn lane – fully funded for completion end of 2014.
4. Pacific Hwy non-motorized improvements – fully funded through WSDOT safety grant for completion late 2015.

Questions and answers:

- 70<sup>th</sup> Ave bridge – connected to the 167 project and will be funded and completed by WSDOT – will be at least a 4-lane roadway.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Street reconstruction from 50<sup>th</sup>-59<sup>th</sup> will have substantial business impacts – KPG working on TIB grant to fund.
- Commissioner Fagundes asked if the 54<sup>th</sup> Ave underpass is in conjunction with the 54<sup>th</sup> Ave overpass over I-5. (No, they don't need to be.) He stated there was high congestion on 54<sup>th</sup> Ave through what is now the school and park neighborhood when the road was open. It would be nice to have any potential opening/underpass be in connection with the closure of the I-5/54<sup>th</sup> Ave interchange.

**COMMISSIONER EDWARDS MOVED**, seconded by Commissioner Braden, to recommend that City Council adopt the City of Fife Transportation Improvement Program for 2013-2019. **Passed 5/1** (Fagundes, stating opposition to high placement of the opening of 54<sup>th</sup> Ave).

Director Osaki stated that the City Council's public hearing will be July 23, with Council looking at it at the July 16 study session.

Chair Brown asked for clarification of the weight restriction on Levee Road. Director Blount answered that the weight restriction had been lifted due to the construction on 70<sup>th</sup> Ave, and that the City is considering an axle-based restriction rather than weight-based.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

