

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

April 9, 2007

CALL TO PODIUM:

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

David B. Humpton

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment (Reappointments)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: From the City Manager

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:
Meeting with Secretary of Transportation Porcari

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:
Please see the attached memorandum and copy of the February 12, 2007 letter to Secretary Porcari with an attachment of the alignment options being considered.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Receive information.

MEMORANDUM TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: David B. Humpton, City Manager ^{DB}

DATE: April 3, 2007

SUBJECT: Meeting with Secretary of Transportation Porcari

As you may recall, Mayor Katz sent the attached letter to Maryland Secretary of Transportation John Porcari requesting a meeting to discuss issues associated with the conceptual Kentlands alignment for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). On Tuesday, March 27, 2007, Mayor Katz, Assistant City Manager Felton, Planning and Code Administration Director Ossont and I met with Secretary Porcari and a number of his staff to discuss this issue.

Overall, it was a very productive meeting. The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) had recently announced there would be a one year delay on completion of the final Environmental Impact statement for the CCT due to concerns about unreliable ridership assumptions. While this delay is unfortunate, most of the regional government transportation planners agree there are legitimate concerns about the current ridership figures.

In September 2004, the Mayor and City Council received a presentation from MDOT that showed four conceptual Kentlands alignments for the CCT. During the course of Tuesday's meeting, Secretary Porcari and his staff made it clear that they considered the two conceptual alignments that envisioned the CCT going up Kentlands Boulevard (alternatives #1 and #2) not feasible because of increased travel time which would impact ridership negatively. However, they indicated that the two alignments abutting the south side of Great Seneca Highway could still be considered. For your review, I have attached a map showing the various alignment options.

Given that the Mayor and City Council have never formally taken a position on the Kentlands alignment, we did not ask MDOT to initiate further studies of the alignment change at this time; however, Secretary Porcari has no objection to the City considering requesting an alignment change as we go through the visioning and charrette process for the Kentlands Commercial Special Study Area.

In addition, Secretary Porcari informed us that Henry Kay has returned to the Department of Transportation. Mr. Kay was a leading advocate and expert on the CCT during Secretary Porcari's first tenure as Secretary of Transportation, and we look forward to working with him again.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please let me know.

dbh/lms

Attachments

cc: Fred Felton, Assistant City Manager

Greg Ossont, Director of Planning and Code Administration



February 12, 2007

The Honorable John Porcari
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Secretary Porcari, *SECRETARY*

On behalf of the Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of Transportation. During your previous term, we had an excellent relationship with your department, and we look forward to working with you again.

As I mentioned during a recent Maryland Municipal League event, a few key staff members and I would like to meet with you in the near future to discuss issues associated with the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) project. The City of Gaithersburg is a strong advocate of this project, and many of our land use decisions over the last 20 years have been strongly influenced by the CCT. As you may be aware, land for the entire CCT right-of-way throughout the City and the land for three transit stations within the City are available to the State for this project at no cost.

Over the last six years, a number of City residents have advocated for a slight shift in the CCT alignment so that a transit station could be located to serve both the Kentlands community and Quince Orchard Park. While the Mayor and City Council has not yet taken a position on the proposed Kentlands alignment, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) staff did develop four alignment alternatives that would serve the Kentland community, and we received a presentation from MTA staff on these alternatives in September of 2004. For your review, I have enclosed a diagram that indicates the four alignment alternatives. At the time of the presentation, MTA staff was not in favor of any of the proposed alignment alternative.

The Kentlands community is one of the most successful neo-traditional communities in the nation. Looking to build upon this success, a number of City residents are advocating for the City to consider permitting significant in-fill development in the commercial areas. In an effort to develop the City's long-term vision for the Kentlands Commercial Area, the City will be conducting significant outreach activities with resident and business stakeholders in the coming months culminating with a land use planning charrette to be held in September 2007.

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MAYOR
Sidney A. Katz

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Geraldine F. Edens
Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.
John B. Schlichting
Michael A. Sesma

CITY MANAGER
David B. Humpton

The Honorable John Pocari

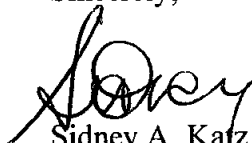
Page 2

February 12, 2007

The fundamental question and the key point of our proposed meeting is to determine if the opportunity still exists for the City of Gaithersburg to request a minor alignment shift, and whether any request to adjust the alignment would result in any significant delays to the CCT given the current status of the US 15/ I 270 Multi-Modal Corridor Study. I would like to stress that the Mayor and City Council are not requesting an alignment shift at this point, but are simply inquiring whether we have the flexibility to consider proposing an alignment shift as we go through our public visioning and Master Plan process for the future of the Kentlands Commercial Area.

It would be greatly appreciated if a member of your staff would contact Assistant City Manager Fred Felton directly at 301-258-6313 extension 2142 to schedule a meeting. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 301-926-0679 to discuss.

Sincerely,



Sidney A. Katz
Mayor

SAK/ms

Enclosure

cc: City Council

Isiah Leggett, County Executive

District 17 Delegation

David B. Humpton, City Manager

Frederick J. Felton, Assistant City Manager

Alignment options considered

