

Streetscapes and Gateways Subcommittee Meeting Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 8:30 A.M.

A meeting of the Streetscapes and Gateways Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, November 18 in the third floor conference room at City Hall.

Members Present: Jennifer Beane, Rob Dickerson, Ryan Edwards, Charlie Hayes, Mike Holland, Nick Walden, Bee Watts, and Burke Wyatt

Members Absent: Paige Brigham, Norm Cook, Jeff Hale, Anthony Laxton, David Roberts, II, and Gayle Schwarz

Others Present: Freese and Nichols staff members and City staff members

Subcommittee Chair Rob Dickerson opened the meeting at 8:35 A.M.

Ms. Andrea Surratt explained that Mr. Charles Archer would go over the results from the previously collected prioritization data. She encouraged everyone to not change their answers and understand that the data was collected through a democratic process.

Mr. Archer added that the group should not focus on the individual questions, but rather the big picture. He explained that they were beginning to form a picture based on data from all three subcommittees. He also added that when given the option to eliminate certain streetscapes or to scale back streetscapes, elimination was overwhelmingly chosen as the best option. He also added that the group had determined that streetscapes are a better investment over gateways. But when it came to connecting streetscapes to Riverwalk or distributing them across the city, the group was divided in half. Also, 59% chose a budget of \$12 to \$14 million, 33% chose a budget of \$10 to \$12 million, and 8% chose a budget of \$8 to \$10 million.

He then went on to discuss the preferences of Streetscapes in the following order, with number one as the most preferred:

1. Streetscape 4 – Lenoir Rhyne Blvd SE (Tate SE – US 70)
2. Streetscape 7 – Old Lenoir (9th Ave NW – 12th Ave NW)
3. Streetscape 8 – Old Lenoir (Riverwalk – 12 Ave NW)
4. Streetscape 9 – Southern Riverwalk/Citywalk Connection
5. Streetscape 6 – NC 127 (30 Ave – 8th Ave NE)

There was some group discussion about the final costs and what all was included in the estimates. Mr. Archer explained that lighting and medians had been included in the final costs but could be subtracted out in the event that the group chose to scale back some of the streetscapes.

The preferences of Gateways were presented in the following order, with number one as the most preferred:

1. Gateway 2 (Lenoir Rhyne Blvd @ I-40)
2. Gateway 1 (US 70 @ US 321)
3. Gateway 4 (US 321 @ Clement Blvd)
4. Gateway 3 (Springs Rd @ McDonald Pkwy)
5. Gateway 5 (US 321 @ Riverwalk)

Ms. Surratt explained that at the full Bond Commission meeting on December 8, the subcommittees would have the opportunity to work with members of other subcommittees to examine FNI's options, as well as the opportunity to create an alternative option for the projects. She added that the data collection will be emailed out to everyone, as well as a video with an explanation of the data. This information will enable everyone to go into the December 8 meeting with a good understanding of the information.

Mr. Archer added that the goal is to take the \$35 million, split it between the three projects, and then go into design. There was some group discussion about the bidding process for designers.

Ms. Surratt also added that some wayfinding was being pushed forward, which will include signage that goes through major corridors and will direct to various places like the SALT Block, LR, shopping, and Downtown. This will be completed without funding from the bonds.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 A.M.

Rob Dickerson, Chair
Streetscapes and Gateways Subcommittee

Sarah Prencipe, Deputy City Clerk
City of Hickory