

Citizens Oversight Committee (COC)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2006

Mayor Peyton called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with apologies for Ron Salem's absence.

Mayor's remarks:

Update on the courthouse project – Spillis Candela has been chosen as the courthouse "Owners Consultant" to work with entities like the State Attorney and Public Defender to develop their space plan as well as devise some specifications for the design-build consultant.

City had three respondents for the design-build consultant RFP, two were selected to compete in the second round interviews due to the close scores of their proposals. Joint venture of Auchter/Perry-McCall/Rink Design/DLR Group and Turner/KBJ. The Auchter/Perry-McCall group won the interview and we are in contract negotiations. The scores were very close and the final tally included some drama as the scores were initially calculated incorrectly.

Construction on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Bay Street courthouse continues, to prepare space for new judges coming online in 2007. The state attorney will continue to take space in the City Hall Annex as it is vacated by other city departments – Public Works will move into the Ed Ball Building in November, to be followed by other departments throughout 2007. Goal is to get government off the river and into a concentrated complex around Hemming Plaza.

Overall the courthouse program is proceeding well; encouraged by the start of users meetings involving the judiciary, State Attorney, Public Defender, JSO and others who have an interest in the development of the courthouse complex master plan. The ideal scenario would involve building a consolidated courthouse rather than splitting criminal and civil functions, but the budget will ultimately dictate which path is chosen.

Road program continues progress following restructure late last year. Reviewed the purpose of the road reorganization legislation passed in late 2005 - reduced scope on some projects, added scope on others, created the new State Partnership Program. That legislation helped both COJ and JTA overcome some significant challenges so that we are once again seeing real progress.

Kernan under way - JEA utility relocation and 4 new signals happening now. Major construction between Beach & Atlantic to start November, if not sooner - we are in the process of awarding that contract.

Seven projects are slated to start before the end of the year - listed in the status report. 2007 is expected to be the busiest year for road project starts, with 23 expected to begin throughout the year.

We hope to have a new road program manager on board soon. Dave Schneider is currently still handling both the courthouse and the roads, and with both programs picking up momentum, we need someone to focus on each entirely.

17 road projects in construction – Lone Star substantially complete, hopefully we can forget the scars and enjoy the new road. Hendricks Avenue moving forward. About 100 miles left to pave; many remaining were on hold for JEA repairs or other projects. Will continue to build sidewalks until funds run out.

In closing, over half done with 10-year program; hopefully we will see a slowing of the cost escalations so we can deliver what is left without any additional adjustments. However, we will adjust if necessary.

Questions:

*Is there a courthouse design already?*

There is not a design yet. The intent is to design everything now as part of the master plan process and then build to budget. Ideally we would be able to do everything all at once, but we are committed to sticking to our budget. The master plan approach will allow us to be positioned to execute according to dollars available in the future.

*Is there a particular order to the roads listed to start within the next quarter?*

They will move to construction as they are able – none will purposely be put before another.

*What can be done about people parking on sidewalks?*

Best thing to do is report them to JSO's non-emergency number so the Community Service Officers can site offenders.

*It seems like the sidewalk program would be a good opportunity to get small businesses involved in the program. What's being done to encourage that?*

The businesses that we have on the sidewalk program do fall into our JSEB program – they are small businesses. It's exactly those types of contracts that present great opportunities for small businesses. The Procurement Department is always looking for opportunities to get small businesses involved.

With no further questions, Mayor introduced John Davis, Chief Engineer with JTA, to present an update on JTA's road program.

John Davis's remarks:

JTA is proud to be a partner with the Mayor and City of Jacksonville. Effort to restructure the road program was intensive but cooperative. Situation was a result of the cost of materials increasing far beyond budget – 14% price index increase between August 2005 and August 2006 alone, so the trend is continuing.

Believe that the cost estimates reflected in the reorganization are sufficient to overcome the construction cost escalation, provided the costs flatten out as is expected. The FDOT recently bid the Branan Field Chaffee interchange, and the

responses came back about \$20 million below estimate. Don't believe the average will flatten that much – the true value will be somewhere in the middle.

Davis proceeded through the PowerPoint presentation, which described the status of JTA's projects, both bond-funded and BJP. Noted that some projects, such as Wonderwood and the AC Skinner Parkway, are now considered BJP projects due to the funding restructuring. Wonderwood just getting started; AC Skinner to be done by the end of October.

Noted that the Beach Blvd. Intracoastal Waterway Bridge is well underway and will be constructed in specific phases – the north portion will be fast-tracked to be complete in 500 days, allowing JTA to move all traffic to the new bridge in order to ease work on the southern section. The project is expected to take 1100 days total.

In the process of reviewing proposals for the design/build of the Beach/Kernan overpass. Expect award by the end of the year. McDuff bids due November 13. In right of way acquisition for the East-West Connector and Atlantic/Kernan overpass.

JTA has done a couple of design/build projects – jury is still out on the relative success of that method. Believes it does save time and money, providing the opportunity to get projects out sooner for today's dollars than wait and pay tomorrow's prices.

Recommended members to visit [www.jtafla.com](http://www.jtafla.com) to get updated information about projects.

Questions:

*What is the status of the US17/Timuquana Overpass?*

As part of the restructuring, the overpass project was moved to US17 (Roosevelt) and Collins Road. However, the restructure also provided funding for an engineering study at US17 and Timuquana. When that study is completed, the design and construction portions of the US17/Timuquana project will fall to the State Partnership Program for future funding.

The same goes for the US17/Eastport intersection – current funding only allows for engineering study. Design & construction will need to come via the State Partnership Program.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.