

## **Infrastructure Committee Meeting August 21, 2007**

The Angelina County Vision 2020 Infrastructure Committee met on August 21, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Chamber Community Room. Present were: David Collmorgen, James Flournoy, Don Hannabas, Tony Moline, Barbara Thompson, Kenneth Williams, Susie Cardwell with Paul Parker presiding.

The following updates were given on each of the areas of the Infrastructure Master Plan:

### **Downtown Redevelopment** (Barbara Thompson)

1. **Pines Theater** – The purchase of the Pines Theater building is a major step in the revitalization of downtown. Barbara reported that an architect from Austin has been to Lufkin and is helping with a rendering of the theater. Photos of the interior of the building are needed to help with the renovation. The theater has been cleaned and several foundations have expressed interest in helping with the remodel of the building. Mark Strong is assessing the building to help produce a ballpark cost required for the remodel in order to approach the interested foundations. The building was originally built in 1925 by the Kurth family. Paul Parker intends to consult with local people who use facilities for public performances, etc., to find the best use of the building with its stage, orchestra pit, seating, and other amenities.

2. **The Angelina Hotel** would be the other piece of property downtown that will eventually need to be addressed, according to Paul Parker, but that is not in the near future.

### **Beautification** (Tony Moline and David Collmorgen)

1. **The Downtown Underpass** – The underpass on Frank Street is about 3 weeks from completion. The panels are about to go on with the brick façade. The project was delayed due to finding asbestos and having to remove it.

2, **Cigarette Prevention Grant** - Tony reported that the pocket ashtrays have arrived from the Cigarette Prevention Grant and he needs to hand out the ashtrays. Tony also needs to distribute cigarette receptacles in a 3-block area. It was suggested that he put them at the courthouse and at the City of Lufkin office. He will also distribute them in Diboll at the Civic Center.

*Interesting fact:* It takes 40 years for a cigarette butt to disintegrate.

**Transportation and Utilities** (David Collmorgen and James Flournoy)

1. **59 South** – David Collmorgen reported that they are almost through with the 59 South right of way. There will be a 6-month delay once they receive the work order from Zachery.

Tulane will be closed for approximately 18 months while they tear the bridge out and build a new one.

Daniel McCall overpass will be closed for only approximately 2 weeks while they tie in the renovated overpass.

2. **59 North** – They will begin work on 59 North in January 2009. James Flournoy reported that the utilities will need to be relocated between now and January 2009.

3. **819 Overpass** – There are no funds available yet. The City is doing the bidding.

4. **94 Bridge** – There are 8 parcels of land that they will buy. The old road will be the detour.

5. **I-69** – Due to a change in judges in Harris County, there are some complications with funding to the I-69 Coalition.

**Diboll** (Kenneth Williams )

1. **Diboll Library** – Kenneth reported that there will be a \$2.5 million expansion to the library.

2. **Orchard Park Renovation** - Texas Parks and Wildlife Application has been made for the renovation to the existing Orchard Park. They will have a meeting in November on this. The park will include an amphitheater and many new amenities.

**Parks and Recreation** (Don Hannabas)

1. **Morris Frank Park** – Remodeling the restrooms and concession stands is underway.

2. **Bronaugh Park** – This is a future project for the The Landscape Task Force.

3. **Cassells Boykin Park**– A grant for \$.5 million has been applied for to assist with the construction of the new boat ramps and parking. Other plans include, handicap fishing facilities, a covered pavilion, and other amenities. This will make it possible to have professional fishing tournaments on Lake Rayburn.

**City of Lufkin** (Paul Parker)

1. Paul Parker reported that the City is still buying easements for the new water supply. This will be a 2-year project. It will cost approximately between \$60-\$70 million to get water from Rayburn.

2. He also reported that the City has put into effect a saturation of code enforcement with neighborhood associations to clean-up and improve the aesthetics of Lufkin. This involves the cleanup of lots, condemned buildings, deserted autos, junk and debris in yards, and other nuisances.

**\*\*Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at the Chamber Community Room.