

Infrastructure Master Plan Committee
Meeting Notes
January 15, 2008

The Infrastructure Master Plan Committee met on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in the Chamber Community Room. In attendance were the following: David Collmorgen, James Flournoy, Don Hannabas, Richard Joseph, Tony Moline, Barbara Thompson, Kenneth Williams, Keith Wright, Jim Watkins, Bobby Young, Susie Cardwell, and Paul Parker, presiding.

Paul Parker asked each person to give an update of current status and new developments of each of the following topics.

Whitehouse Drive Extension:

(Keith Wright) The extension will be from 59 South to 819. The road has been bladed where it comes to 819. There will be an extra entrance to Wal-Mart and sidewalks from the college to Wal-Mart. The Daniel McCall stretch will be under construction for 3-4 months. The work is being done in sections with no through traffic. The new Whitehouse has no utilities in the way, but they will need to build a bridge across Hurricane Creek. The total project will require 12 months to complete.

(David Collmorgen) The gas company will be through by the end of February and the phone company promised completion by March 15th. The service road section from Beards to Whitehouse will be the first section and will be closed 2-3 weeks. The construction yard will be the vacant lot where the Ramada used to be. TxDot will use message boards and press releases to communicate to the community.

I-69 Project:

(David Collmorgen) This project is now moving forward, but slowly. There will be a town hall meeting at the Civic Center at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 17th. Doors open at 5:30 pm. There will be 3 public hearings—one in Diboll on February 11th and one in Lufkin on February 12th.

59 North

(David Collmorgen) TxDot has all ready bought the truck stop and torn it down. The job will be let one year from August. Phase one will be from Moffett Road to the north. Paul Parker would like Keith Wright and David Collmorgen to do a 15-minute interview for Channel 15 on 59 North.

Downtown Underpass

(Tony Moline) This was a Governor's Community Achievement Project. It now has the anti-graffiti coat on it and the trees have been planted.

Downtown Revitalization

(Barbara Thompson)

- Pines Theater – Mark Strong is doing a rendering and they are waiting on consultants for committee meeting to determine the best use of the theater.
- Kerrville/Coach America has moved to Jennings Station the first week of January.
- V.A. buses run daily to Houston for medical treatment.
- A music festival will be held in April.

(Dorothy Wilson) – A historical preservation ordinance is being drafted for the historical area with the following stipulations:

Pre 1920's:	Cannot be demolished.
1920 – 1957:	These are significant buildings and should not be demolished but they can be.
1958 – Present:	Can be demolished.

They are also working on a façade grant program to help people downtown to be able to restore and preserve their facades.

(Richard Joseph) – Suggested that “historical downtown” directional signs are needed to direct visitors.

Communications

(Jim Watkins) The main arteries of the City already have fiber.

WIFI setup is provided by Consolidated Communications to downtown and will be expanding to Angelina College and the Wal-Mart area.

(Paul Parker) Channel 15 is no longer on a loop and can schedule programs. It is being shown on both Suddenlink and Consolidated and it goes live today. To put information on Channel 15, contact Bill Cameron.

Capital Improvements Program *(Paul Parker)*

This is a five-month program to identify projects and establish cost estimates of projects with at least a 20-year life and over \$100,000. Some suggestions might be:

- Skate Park (Don Hannabas)
- Entry signs to Lufkin (Tony & Barbara)
- Drainage issues
- Street issues

Diboll *(Kenneth Williams)*

- There will be a May election to possibly convert Diboll to a Home Rule Municipality. (It is currently General Law.) Diboll wants to grow.

- Diboll is working with Texas Parks to upgrade some of their parks. They have a \$400,000 match from Temple. They will have an amphitheater in one park. The Booster Club will build the theater and Diboll will provide the seating for it.
- Polk Oil is building a travel center with a Whataburger, McDonalds, and pizza.
- Deer Trace subdivision has its infrastructure and drainage finished with the streets almost finished.
- The library expansion has been started. Diboll has donated the relocation of the water and sewer for the project.
- A retail analysis study is being done to bring retail to Diboll. This should be complete by the end of February.
- March 15th and 16th will be the 1st Annual Tamale Festival.
- Diboll Day will be in September.
- Red light cameras will start this month.
- Diboll is still negotiating with Temple for water
- Diboll will have access to use Channel 15.

Census (*Dorothy Wilson*)

The data arrived yesterday from LUCA. It will be reviewed. It was suggested that Dorothy might be able to help some of the people in surrounding areas with the census procedure.

Water Project (*Keith Wright*)

The project continues of working toward a regional water supply for Lufkin and other areas of the county. This water would come from Sam Rayburn. They are trying to determine when to build the plant.

Parks & Recreation (Don Hannabas)

- They have been allowed to keep some part time workers and have accomplished twice the usual maintenance and upkeep and cleaned creeks at several parks.
- Park maintenance will be moving adjacent to Morris Park in June or July.
- Ball park lights have been taken down at Winston Park and that has provided more space.
- A section of equipment has been added to Kiwanis Park.
- Chambers and Winston clean-up have been completed and they are moving to Bronaugh Park. They would like to add restrooms to this park.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting will be March 18th at 8:00 a.m. in the Chamber Community Room.