

**Vision 2020 Infrastructure Meeting Notes  
July 21, 2009**

The Infrastructure Committee of Vision 2020 met on July 21, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. at the Huntington City Hall. Present were Amanda Anderson, Susie Cardwell, David Collmorgen, Don Hannabas, James Flournoy, Bruce Milstead, Ellen Temple, Barbara Thompson, Keith Wright, with Bob Brown presiding.

Bob Brown opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with a welcome to all, followed by a welcome and introduction by Bruce Milstead of Mayor Pro-Tem, Willy Ricks.

Progress on the Infrastructure initiatives was reviewed by each group as follows.

**City of Lufkin** (*Keith Wright*)

- There are approximately 40 projects on the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and a major portion of these are now on hold until the spring.
- Sales tax is up approximately 4% from this time last year.
- Sewer has been added near the Fairchild property for possible development in the future.
- A grant has been requested for the expansion of the Civic Center. This would be a separate building tied to the current building by the lobby. Design of this area is still in process, but it would include a large open area for exhibits, etc., a kitchen, shower, and smaller rooms for sessions.
- The industrial park in Lufkin is a 404 Wetlands project.
- The Pines Theater is now dry and has no exterior leaks. The marquee is being worked on and should be completed in August. The building has been cleaned out and now can get a better idea of its use.
- A historical ordinance is being reviewed for downtown Lufkin to give guidelines to construction.
- The current sewer system is being upgraded to meet state requirements.
- A landscape ordinance is going before the Planning & Zoning Committee for public hearing Monday at 5:00 PM.
- Lufkin is now in great condition on their water supply. Feeders for water are Sam Rayburn and the Angelina River with Kurth Lake as a storage tank. Lufkin will be working on the needed infrastructure to move the water where it is most needed which is to the south.
- The purple litter ordinance signs have gone up all over town and are currently picking up about 450 pounds of garbage a day.

**Downtown Lufkin Revitalization** (*Barbara Thompson*)

- DETCOG has moved their insurance department that handles the claims from Hurricane Ike to downtown across from the First Street Art Center.
- Mark Hicks is building office space for lease behind Maricela's Day Spa.

- Mark Hicks has also acquired the Antique Emporium (behind the Angelina Hotel)
- Mark Hicks has rented space next door to the Main Event downtown to a vintage clothing shop.
- A new lawyer (John D. Reeves) has moved downtown on 1<sup>st</sup> Street.
- The Angelina Hotel is now shut down. The roof is leaking and has caused extensive damage to two floors.
- Trees will be planted downtown in the fall with the help of Angelina Beautiful/Clean and Ellen Temple. Due to the awnings, they may need to modify their plans.

**Parks and Recreation** (*Don Hannabas*):

- Kit McConnico Park will get a much needed extension of their parking lot.
- Morris Frank Park will be getting new women's restrooms.
- The ladies softball league is raising money for lighting to extend the hours of their games.
- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is progressing. They have a November deadline for completion of the plan.

**Angelina Beautiful/Clean** (*Amanda Anderson*):

- Amanda reported that a task force will be created to work on the City of Lufkin entrance signs and they are currently gathering information for the signage.
- Angelina Beautiful/Clean meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be on August 6<sup>th</sup> and you are invited to participate.
- The \$1 Donation program is underway. They are planning on commercials and PSA's for Channel 15.
- ABC has had calls from numerous groups wanting to clean up specific areas. They are planning to start the Adopt A Spot program with the students.
- ABC has an Everything Speaks checklist that they will be sending out to businesses in the county.

**Green Infrastructure** (*Ellen Temple*)

- The goals on page 23 of the Green Infrastructure brochure are progressing nicely.
- The Friends of the Forest are moving and working on the trails damaged by hurricane Ike. One of these is the sawmill trail.
- The Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the first section of the paddling trails which is the same area used for the Neches River Rendezvous. This will include signage on the highway indicating a Texas Paddling Trail.
- The next trails meeting will be on Thursday in room 202 at City Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Bruce Milstead would like to have Huntington represented at future meetings.
- Per Keith Wright, two of the trails in the Green Infrastructure Plan are in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and will be on hold. These trails are the Azalea Trail and the Ellen Trout Lake Trail.

**Transportation** (*David Collmorgen*):

- TxDot should be completed with the 59 South construction by October 2010. For each day that they finish early, they will receive a \$18,000 bonus.
- Beginning this Thursday, the third level of southbound 59 will be closed for two weeks while the concrete pavement is re-attached where it joins the street.
- One of the last things done on the 59 south construction will be the landscaping and sod put in place. This will probably be done in March or April.
- On Tulane, they are currently drilling piers and may be completed by Christmas.
- The Corp of Engineers has made the Hwy. 95 project a priority and it should begin around September.
- The 1818 bridge was shut down for two weeks, but are now back at work on it.
- The Zavalla Rodeo Arena has been condemned.
- There is a townhall meeting on Wednesday at 6:30 PM in Nacogdoches at the SFA Student Center regarding our state transportation projects. David extended an invitation to all to attend.
- Keith Wright reported that the 59 north and Loop 287 project has been scaled down due to funding. The federal Tiger Grants are available if the projects are selected to complete this. The plans are 75% done and are shovel-ready. This would raise the bridge, do away with the cloverleaf, but not affect the railroad overpass. It was suggested that information be given to Dawn Glover on this project to forward to Senator Nichols.

**Economic Development** (*James Flourney*):

- The City of Diboll is negotiating with Lufkin for a water contract.
- Cassel's Boykin project is completed with phase one and raising funds for phase two. A fishing tournament is lined up for March 2010 at Cassels-Boykin.
- The Safe Walk project in Huntington is waiting on funds and hopes to move forward soon. This will provide sidewalks that connect the schools, parks, etc., all over town.
- The Huntington school campus additions are completed and improvements are being made to the football field.
- The park project in Diboll is complete.
- Huntington has a new 400-acre housing subdivision.
- The industrial park in Lufkin is waiting on funds from a grand to begin infrastructure.

**City of Huntington** (*Bruce Milstead*)

- The cleanup of the City is still underway with much progress being made.
- Sales tax is up \$67,000 above last year at this time.

- Subdivisions are going up in the surrounding areas.
- Work continues on the streets of Huntington. The City purchased a 2002 Gradall and will clean ditches to improve the water flow.
- The City will purchase a roller to improve the City streets. There is still land available for purchase in Huntington and they hope to attract new residents.
- As James Flourney mentioned, about \$800,000 of sidewalks will be put in to connect throughout the town.

**Bob Brown**

Bob has been appointed to the new Tourism Board and sees that all of this ties in directly to the matters addressed by this board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. and was followed by a tour by Bruce Milstead of Centennial Park, railroad path, and location of future sidewalks.

**Next Meeting:** September 15th at 8:00 a.m. The location is to be announced.