

**Vision 2020 Infrastructure Meeting Notes
November 9, 2010**

The Infrastructure Committee of Vision 2020 met on November 9, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. at Lufkin's City Hall, Room 202. Present were Susie Cardwell, David Collmorgen, James Flournoy, Mayor Jack Gorden, Richard Joseph, Dennis McDuffie, Ellen Temple, Barbara Thompson, and Keith Wright, with Bob Brown presiding.

Bob Brown opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with a welcome to all. Progress on the Infrastructure initiatives was reviewed by each group as follows.

Transportation (*David Collmorgen*):

- 59 S. Project: Work is complete except for replacing 168 trees.
- 59 N. Project: This project will let in 18 months at a cost of \$45 million over a 3-year period. They are waiting on the right-of-way money needed in order to put in the underpass.
- Highway 94 Bridge Project: This project will be completed by the next of next summer (2011) and Ellen can begin work on canoe access.
- Frank Street: work will begin soon on street work.
- Northwest Loop to the cloverleaf at the Zoo project: This work lets in February for resurfacing.
- State Hwy 7 to Neches River: Will be retopped in 2011.

Economic Development (*James Flournoy*)

- Lufkin's Industrial Park: Has been rebid.
- Moffett Road project: Will bid next week.
- FM 2021 in Redland: Working on utility relocation
- Sidewalks: \$1.5 million has been awarded for sidewalks to connect the schools. Sidewalks will go from MLK to Kurth to Sayers and then to 2 schools. Sidewalks will go from the middle school to the Azalea Trail. Sidewalks will go from Grace Dunn Park to Feagan and to Chambers Park.
- Huntington's Safe Walk to School: the sidewalks are finished.
- Water Development Grant: This is due on December 20th.
- Parks & Wildlife Grant for Boat Ramps: This is due in February.

City of Lufkin (*Keith Wright*)

- The City has a grant for a road to the new power plant.
- City Engineers are working on Sayers, Kurth and Fuller Springs to reconstruct those streets.
- Burley has some traffic issues that will be addressed.
- The City just bought two new pumpers for the Fire Department.

- There will be 16" water line all the way to Diboll from 59 North. Sidewalk work is being done due to this.
- The Civic Center expansion plans are being finalized. The project will id in March and will require a year for construction. It will double the size of the Civic Center.
- Fire Station #3 and Central Fire Station will be combined into one new Fire Station on Lufkin Avenue across from Georgia Pacific. Central Fire Station will be used for training.
- The Pines Theater has been stabilized externally. The City staff will oversee the construction, but will bid it out. The City hopes to bring in events to this facility and remain a multi-use facility. They have plans to install a good sound system, a good projector, new bathrooms, and new seating.
- A study is being done on the red light at Whitehouse, and the City is waiting on the results.

City of Lufkin – Main Street (*Barbara Thompson*)

- The Haunted House downtown was successful.
- A new business is going in at 112 Sheperd Street
- The Abraham's Building (the old Roma's) is being renovated by Mark Hicks as a rental facility for parties, receptions, etc.
- The City now has directional signs for downtown and will be installed soon directing visitors to downtown.
- The Christmas parade will be Tuesday, November 30th at 6:00 PM. It will be a lighted parade this year.

City of Diboll (*Dennis McDuffie*)

- The easements for water are 85-90% complete.
- Diboll is building a new elementary school and it should be completed by the fall of 2011.
- Lumberjack Road will be extended a ¼ mile. This will be a 2-year phase for curbs and gutters and resurfacing.
- The entrance of Lumberjack at Hwy. 59 will be worked on by TxDot to control the traffic flow to the school.
- The renovation of the Lottie Temple Civic Center is now finished.
- Diboll has received a grant to redo ¼ mile of Hendricks and this will help in case of another evacuation.

Parks & Recreation (*Richard Joseph*)

Winston Park:

- A ribbon cutting was held at Winston Park for the special needs project.
- The pool at Winston Park is gone and is very green and looks great.
- There is now a walking area around where the pool used to be and is being used.
- The softball park was completed last year.

Kit McConnico Park:

- The new restrooms will be completed soon that were destroyed by the storm
- The parking lot expansion is done.
- The new concession stands are completed that were destroyed by the storms

Morris Frank Park:

- The girls' softball park lighting is complete.
- The parking lot will be expanded.

Green Infrastructure (*Ellen Temple*)

- The Highway 59 reforestation with East Texas native landscaping has created a lot of interest in native plants, including a new column in the newspaper by Elaine Gardner about native plants. The Lufkin Daily News and the Agriculture Extension both have put in a demonstration garden.
- Tara Watson-Watkins and Julie Shackelford are working to mark all the biking trails for use by visitors and locals. There are three great trails: Kit McConnico and Azalea in Lufkin, and Old Orchard Park in Diboll.
- There are many requests for paddling trails now that the Neches River is part of the Texas Parks & Paddling Trails. We are in need of a livery service that goes from Anderson Crossing to Hwy 94. It is now cleared all the way.

City of Lufkin Planning (*Trent Cantrell*)

- To date, one person has used the Façade Grant approved for downtown business owners to restore their store fronts.
- The new landscape ordinance is in place and the pre-submittal process has gone very well. The education process that goes along with the new ordinance has been smooth.

City of Lufkin (*Paul Parker*)

- Construction is underway on the Zoo circle. This goes from the first Pavilion to the water.
- Many improvements are being funded through the bond issue that was approved.
- The entrance signs to the City are being worked on.

City of Lufkin (*Mayor Jack Gorden*)

- So many of the projects that we are working on and have accomplished are directly related to the Angelina County Vision 2020 plan. Some of these include the MSA goal, the biking, hiking, and paddling trails, the downtown facelift, and the reforestation of our entrance with trees.

New Business: Bob Brown announced that he will be stepping down from the position of Chairman of the Infrastructure Foundation after this meeting. Bob has done an excellent job on this project and will be working with Jane Ainsworth and Jerry Huffman on someone to continue in the position of Chairman.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be in January and a date will be forwarded as soon as the date is set.