

# City of Lancaster



## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**7:00 A.M.**

## **WASTE WATER TREATMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**

The January meeting of the Public Works Committee was brought to order at 7:15 AM, January 20, 2010 in the Waste Water Treatment Conference room, 800 Lawrence Street, Lancaster, Ohio.

In attendance:

Councilman Robert Hedges, Committee Chair; Councilman John Zekas, Committee Member; Councilwoman Melody Bobbitt, Committee Member; Council President Ken Culver; Mayor David Smith; Rick Mark, Engineering; Carrie Woody, Public Transit; Toby Shamblin, LDOT Superintendent; Greg Hintz, LDOT; Dave Hinerman, LDOT; and Tim Dietz, LDOT.

In the first order of business, the Committee considered and unanimously agreed to reschedule all remaining meetings of the Public Works Committee to commence at 7:30 AM on the same dates as previously noticed and placed upon the City calendar. Teresa Sandy, Ann Palmer, and Ed Campbell are requested to make the appropriate changes to the postings.

A brief discussion regarding leaf collection in 2010 was held at the request of Mayor Smith. The Mayor noted that no money has been budgeted for the program in 2010 and there is currently no street pickup scheduled for 2010. It was discussed that notices to the public should be issued in the spring that there are no scheduled leaf pickups scheduled for the fall so that residents can plan accordingly. Residents who

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dump leaves onto City streets could be subject to potential fines. The actual costs incurred for leaf pickup in 2009 will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting (February 17<sup>th</sup>), so that the Committee would be able to make an informed recommendation to City Council regarding the costs for a single fall leaf pickup should income to the General Fund increase above expectations sufficiently to allow for such expenditures. As always, the City will continue to pick up leaves that naturally fall on street surfaces.

LDOT Superintendent Toby Shamblin welcomed the members of the Committee and presented the following summary of current Public Works activities, which were discussed with and among attendees.

- Welcome by Superintendent Shamblin.
  - Transit update (Carrie Woody)
    - Transit is looking to establish safe rides home for New Year's Eve beginning in 2010 and St. Patrick's Day beginning in 2011.
      - Public hearing(s) will be required to do so (which is why they were not in effect for 2009 and 2010, respectively).
    - Pickerington/Violet Twp. Update
      - Total Rides, year to date = 65
      - Contracts
        - Pickerington Schools
        - Board of DD
        - JFS
        - Hopefully soon BBBS
        - Performing Mobility Passports this Friday
    - Stimulus Grant (\$358,900)
      - Working w/ the Law Director on advances of funds to create PO's.
        - Sanitation Department may be able to advance funds for ARRA
      - Two buses have been ordered with grant funds and should be delivered in the next few weeks
      - Obtaining quotes for Base-Vehicle Communications
      - Waiting on ODOT concurrence for computer hardware
    - Capital Grant (\$60,000 for Scheduling/Dispatch Software)
      - Again, working w/ Law Director on advances of funds.

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- LDOT or Sanitation
- In process of final review between two software packages, Route Match and Trapeze.
- Will send recommendation to ODOT for concurrence.
- 12 week installation timeline
- Cemetery Update (Toby)
  - Cemetery Software (Webcemetery - \$11,000 purchase plus \$3,600 per year for maintenance and updates) to preserve existing information regarding internments and graves and to assist in future cemetery operations.
    - 3 incremental grave sales will cover the yearly software maintenance cost of \$3600.
      - Budgeted for 130 burials in 2010 (\$195,000)
      - Breaks down to 3 burials or grave sales/week.
    - Vendor contract has been signed
    - Data has been converted
    - Mapping will be set up next
    - System will provide data functions that the Cemetery Dept. currently needs to manage the operation.
    - Allows public access to specified information via a website. Information requests (particularly for genealogical research) currently consumes quite a bit of staff time; this time will be greatly reduced by having the information web accessible
      - Genealogical searches
      - Family members looking to locate graves
      - Memorials
- LDOT Update (Toby & LDOT Staff)
  - Traffic Control
    - Council President Culver asked about traffic control on Cherry Street at Bib's Restaurant because of possible pedestrian/vehicle accidents when patrons try to cross Cherry Street to access the restaurant from the parking lot on the opposite side of the street.
      - Plans are in place to upgrade that crossing with Safe Routes to School funding. While these upgrades will help alert motorists to pedestrians, it is ultimately the motorist's responsibility to yield to motorist as required by State law.
    - Pearl and Main intersection
      - Councilman Hedges inquired about long delays for signal changes for

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traffic on Pearl to access Main Street. Tim will investigate the signal loop and coordination of timing w/ Main and High.

- Edy and Fair intersection
  - Councilwoman Bobbitt asked about signal control issues regarding this intersection. Discussed fatal incident and reasoning behind not having a protected left turn movement.
    - Need to have an established left turn lane.
    - There are no site issues.
    - West Bound traffic volumes don't warrant it.
- Pierce and Fair intersection
  - Councilwoman Bobbitt asked about signal control issues regarding this intersection. Discussed possible safety issues regarding vision-impaired pedestrians who use the intersection and have reported near-accidents from motorists making right turns (with a green light) into the pedestrian's path while crossing.
    - Light timing is sufficient to safely traverse the intersection on a green light.
    - The problem arises when moving traffic attempts to make a rolling right turn that crosses the pedestrian crosswalk without first allowing pedestrian traffic in the crosswalk to clear.
    - The current signals do not allow for retiming to assure that pedestrian traffic and motorists entering the intersection both start simultaneously and such timing is not required by Ohio traffic control regulations.
    - A 'bandaid' fix to allow retiming would require, at a minimum, a new cabinet at a cost of \$8,000 to \$10,000.
    - This intersection is on the list for possible future improvements. At such time, additional turn lanes might be added and new signal system installed.
- LED Replacements
  - Lancaster currently has 85 signaled intersections. Conversion of signals to LEDs at 73 intersections has been completed.
    - Costs for conversions have been \$1200-\$1400/intersection
    - There is about a 5 year return on investment on these conversions.
    - 50% savings have been observed
      - Costs per intersection have dropped from \$40-\$42/month to \$19-\$21/month
- Street Light Audits (City of Lancaster currently spends about \$200,000 per year for street lighting)

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- Working w/ AEP on a monthly basis to make sure all work orders have been properly completed.
- Wacker Dr. street light issue was revisited
  - The city has financial responsibility for installing and maintaining the lights.
  - Discussions with AEP to help facilitate the completion of lighting are ongoing.
- Downtown Light Comparison/Conversion
  - Induction lighting was installed on N. Broad from Main St. to Shaw's Alley to compare these lights, which produce a true white light and last approximately 30-60,000 hours to the current high-pressure sodium lamps and possible LED conversions.
    - Expect 30% cost savings over current high-pressure sodium lamps
    - Retrofits are \$72 each for induction lamps versus \$1100 each for LED conversions
    - Retrofit labor time is 10-15 minutes for high-pressure sodium lamps versus several hours for LED conversions
    - Clean, white light. No yellow haze.
    - Doesn't create as much heat in the globe
- Storm Water
  - Inlet/Basin Maintenance
    - As we can as snow melts
  - Salt Barn/Wash Rack Projects
    - OWDA Project Update
      - Drummond Construction chosen as General Contractor
      - Pre-con meeting held 1/7/10
      - Notice to proceed to go out around 1/24/10.
      - Construction on Wash Bay to start first of February.
      - Salt Barn construction to begin end of March/early April
      - Substantial completion date is 10/1/2010
- Snow/Ice Control
  - Salt Status
    - Year to date salt usage
      - National Weather Service statistics
        - Year to date snowfall has been in the 10"-15" range
        - Snowfall during the entire month of January in 2009 was in the 3"-5" range.
      - 1050 tons of salt have been applied (42% of budgeted tonnage)

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- Equals \$66,223 of the \$95,000 budget for salt
- It is too early in the snow season not to replenish the salt we use
- The winter forecast for additional snowfall is not favorable to make it through the remainder of the snowfall season without additional salt purchases.
- Plan to manage to an empty barn (existing) at end of season due to move to new salt barn to be used for future seasons.
- Legislation, to be introduced and passed next meeting.
  - Appropriate an additional \$60,000 (950 ton)
  - If we don't need it, we won't use it
  - Would rather be prepared than get behind the ball and risk public safety.
- Paving (Toby and Rick Mark)
  - Coordinated Effort – Chairman Hedges expressed regrets that Mayor Smith had to leave earlier in the meeting. Chairman Hedges expressed a concern that there have been occasions in the past where adequate coordination between various departments has not been sufficient to prevent conflicts of paving and utility replacement/upgrades and requested assurances that coordination efforts have been improved.
    - Discussed annual meeting of Department Heads and Supervisors to discuss project planning.
    - Intended to establish line of communication for coordinating projects between different departments.
  - The Urban Paving Initiative
    - Funded as 20% local match for mill and fill, but any other work (i.e. Curbs, ADA upgrades) are 100% city financial responsibility
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money is being used to pay off the loan for downtown improvements.
    - This is creating a timeline for projects every 5 years.
  - State Capital Improvement Program/Surface Transportation Program (SCIP/STP) Projects
    - Rick provided a review of sources and projects.
    - STP projects are funded under the Federal Hwy. Bill.
    - Average apportionment is \$512,000/year
      - \$102,000 of the apportionment goes to repay the Memorial Dr. loan each year.
    - A summary of the Round 24 application was provided to committee members by Rick Mark
    - N. Columbus St. application is for construction in 2011

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- Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Grant
  - This grant is SCIP money.
  - \$598,000 for street improvements.
    - This is in a recommendation stage, we won't know if we are awarded the funds until April.
- Tax Avenues for street funding (due to insufficient time, discussion on this item was deferred until the next meeting)
  - Income tax vs. Property tax assessment
  - Hand outs distributed for review
- Status of our Roads (due to insufficient time, discussion on this item was deferred until the next meeting)
  - Hand out distributed for review
- Road Maintenance (due to insufficient time, discussion on this item was deferred until the next meeting)
  - Potholes
  - Dura patching

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

The next scheduled meeting of the Public Works Committee will be convened at 7:30 AM, February 17, 2010 in the Waste Water Treatment Conference room, 800 Lawrence Street, Lancaster, Ohio, an ADA accessible facility, and members of Council and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Councilman Robert B. Hedges  
Public Works Committee Chairman