

MINUTES

Levy County Planning Commission

September 19, 2000

6:30 p.m.

The Levy County Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson Susan Haines. Other members present were as follows:

Eugene Pollock
Duncan McCallum
Tommy Thompson

Also present was Krista Kelly County Planning Director.

The purpose of this meeting is for a Public Workshop in conjunction with a grant we are receiving through Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on Access Management as it pertains to the US 19 Corridor.

Krista Kelly introduced Christine Williams and her associates with the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). They were here to give a presentation on the concept of Access Management and how our county can apply this to the project of the US 19 Corridor, which is the segment of US 19 between Fanning Springs and Chiefland. Background was given on Ms. Williams. She is the Senior Research Assistant with CUTR and has 10 years experience in this field and is currently working on a National Access Management manual for the Federal Highway System.

Ms. Williams gave a presentation on Access Management and the benefits of having a plan in place before an area develops to ensure the safety and efficiency of travel on the section of roads that area concerns. There is a relationship between major roadway improvements and land development. If we don't adequately manage access as the area develops problems begin to show up. The goal is to provide access to development and still preserve the safety and capacity of the transportation system.

The basic concept is requirements related to location, spacing and design of driveways, use of medians to manage turning movements, median openings and where they are located, and spacing of traffic signals. The general concept is limiting conflicts on major roadways due to merging, diverging, crossing, or weaving into traffic. Safety studies show that as access density increases the number of crashes increases.

The CUTR project is aimed at evaluating the current policies, plans and regulations with DOT and local government. Developing a conceptual access management plan which looks at guidelines and policies and techniques we can use to improve access management on the US 19 Corridor. This would also include an intergovernmental

agreement between the county, municipalities and DOT. CUTR will do a workshop on October 5, 2000 from 9am to 4pm at the Tommy Usher Center to better explain how access management works.

The techniques being looked at for our area are using the basic tools such as the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, Development Review, coordination, access management plan, and intergovernmental agreements. Looking at current policies and making suggestions to include in them.

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSE:

- Mr. Thompson – realizes the necessity of intergovernmental agreements and where do we stand with that. Signage is important, who controls the rules on signage? We need to find the common goal of everyone concerned to attract a good response. I would like to see alternatives to choose from so we know we are making good decisions.
- Mr. Pollock – He does not advocate frontage roads, we need to make access roads now or there will be problems later. The 4 lane of HWY 27 will see development between Chiefland and Williston. Consider using US 19 Corridor as guide for future development of that area also. We need to adopt a strategy for the corridor before we look at Capital Improvements.
- Mrs. Kelly - City is concerned that they require paved parking and access and that the County doesn't. County needs to take opportunity and change standards to become more in line with City. We do not have impact fees. Surrounding counties have impact fees that are increasing because of this our county will start feeling the impact of the overflow from these counties. The grant project is due November 15 but there are other supplemental grants available we can consider.
- Mr. McCallum - Is DOT agreeable with Access Management? The County and State have no agreement on road access to property, we need link between State & County regulations on road and land development. The city, county and state needs to all agree. County needs to take the lead on selling the Access Management package. The first step is having language to look at so we know how to proceed.

Ms. Williams - DOT needs to be aware of what local government wants in terms of permitting road ways. DOT and Planning board help control signage there is also a manual called FDOT Designs Standards. DOT is agreeable with Access Management and with working with local governments. Our county is at the right place to prevent future problems. The next step is putting together requirements between County, Cities, and DOT in a workshop. We need to put together policies and regulations as well as a model agreement. One thing that is missing in plans now is any redevelopment requirements in the codes.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be a workshop on September 27, 2000 at 6:30pm. The chairman Mrs. Haines asked whether there would be a resolution on what the duties of the Parks and Recreation Committee would be.

There being no further business for the Levy County Planning Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Haines, Chairperson