

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
FINANCE COMMITTEE
WED., MARCH 11, 2009**

This meeting of the Finance Committee of Kent City Council was called to order at 8:23 p.m. on Wed., March 11, 2009 by Wayne Wilson, Chair. He said the only item on their agenda dealt with the MOU with Kent State and PARTA.

PRESENT: MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DeLEONE, MR. HAWKSLEY, MR. KUCHAR, MR. TURNER, MS. WALLACH, AND MR. WILSON

ALSO PRESENT: D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; J. BOWLING, CITY ENGINEER; AND L. COPLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

ABSENT: G. FERRARA AND H. SHAFFER, COUNCIL
J. FENDER, MAYOR

Dave Ruller, City Manager, said that **Jim Bowling, City Engineer**, would be making the presentation at this time. Mr. Bowling explained that PARTA has the opportunity of using \$192,000 in federal monies for the multi modal project. He said they need a 20% match, and PARTA has recommended a three-way split with Kent and Kent State University. He said Kent would need to participate with \$16,023, or 7% of the match. He said PARTA is negotiating with Transystems on the preliminary design at this time. He said the money would come from the Urban Renewal Fund. He said they were looking for authorization of the MOU at this time.

John Drew, PARTA General Manager, said he was born and raised in Kent, and was old enough to know about the businesses that used to be in Kent previously. He said they have some transit dollars they can access. He said they are into Phase 2 of Transystems program, and can leverage about \$192,000. He said at the last board meeting, the board voted unanimously for the project. He said they are moving forward, and appreciate the opportunity to move forward. He said this is important to all of Portage County, as they will have a spot where they can go north, southeast, and west. He said they will be able to bring in people from all over Portage County, and take them to Cleveland and Akron. He said it is an exciting opportunity. He encouraged them to come up with the 1/3 share. He said there are more dollars coming, adding that he would be returning at a later date for more money.

Mr. Hawksley asked Mr. Drew if he had a time frame, and Mr. Drew said the next phase will help determine that time frame. He said he wished he could tell him, but did not know. Mr. Hawksley asked him the best case scenario, and Mr. Drew replied, "Last week."

Ms. Wallach asked if Transystems was the firm the multi modal committee worked with previously, and he said that was correct. He said they are one of the strongest in their trade, and has done a great job. He said they are in the process of negotiating the price on the next phase. Mr. Bowling said he was told they would be meeting on St. Patrick's day (March 17).

Mr. Kuhar said they mentioned connections to Akron and Cleveland, and asked if they were talking about an interconnected transit system, and Mr. Drew said they currently have routes to Akron and Cleveland. He said they are at the "C" Midway Lot on East Main Street, as that is their hub. He said it works, but is not what they need in the future as there is not enough room and/or parking. He said everything is going to grow, and they want to be part of that growth. Mr. Kuhar said the current facility is small, adding eh sees problems with traffic on Main Street. He said he hoped the new facility would eliminate that problem. Mr. Drew said he hated to say "eliminate," adding it would be far better than what they have now. He said the cars and busses would not be together, as they are now, and the busses can move freely, with ample turning space.

Mr. Turner asked what they are looking at in the feasibility study, and asked where they were in the prospect area, and Mr. Drew said he was confident. He said they have the ear of some key people in the

federal government who like the private/public partnerships. He said the federal government likes this project. He said he sees no reason why this will not come to fruition. He said they will move forward as quickly as possible.

Mr. Turner asked if they have looked for some Park 'n Ride areas where they could park and ride downtown, instead of a lot of parking in the downtown, and Mr. Drew said all of their routes connect with each other. He said there are a lot of busses that will meet at this location, with riders. Mr. Bowling said the study shows the need for eighty-eight parking spaces. Mr. Drew said the first floor of the parking is the most expensive, and as they build higher, the cost is much lower. He said it is a great opportunity for everyone.

Mr. Wilson said they showed some retail on Erie Street, and asked if that is in their mind, and Mr. Drew said the next step would tie that down. He said a lot will be determined by how Transystems perceives people to use the stores. Mr. Wilson suggested a fourth partner, a retail person, adding that they could offer some thoughts.

There was no audience comment at this time.

Mr. Silver said they need an emergency clause in the authorization.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MOU WITH KENT STATE AND PARTA, WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

Motion made by Mr. Hawksley, seconded by Mr. DeLeone.

Mr. Hawksley said he remembered when this was put on AMATS' Transportation Improvement Plan nearly twenty years earlier.

The motion carried by a voice vote of 5-0-2, with Mr. Kuhar and Mr. Wilson abstaining.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Wilson adjourned this meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) **TO AUTHORIZE THE MOU WITH KENT STATE AND PARTA, WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**