

The following are excerpts from the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission.

Urban Transportation Plan Amendment – Bike Path on Master Drainage Ditch 27

Transportation Advisory Committee, March 26, 2012:

1. Discussion with Possible Action of Master Ditch 27: Mr. Cardenas introduced Mr. Andrew Dimas with the Planning Dept. Mr. Dimas demonstrated an illustration of Master Ditch 27 to show the outlay of ditches in that area. He said they are working on an update for the master plan for hike and bike trails. The first step is taking in existing conditions. One of those first steps is inventory of the current master ditches to make sure all of them are on the current bike and hike trail map. This step incorporates it on the existing map that the MPO and the City have worked on together. Therefore, when creating a new master plan everything is included. Mr. Rock inquired when adding to a hike and bike trail are there any additional improvements. Mr. Dimas responded they are protecting what currently exists. For that reason, if it is concrete, it is making sure that any equipment being used by the Storm Water Department will not damage it. Some of the subcommittees with Bold Future have actually asked to preserve green space and not add any type of crushed granite or concrete because the cross-trainers like to use grass versus any type of impervious surface. Mr. Cardenas asked while the exhibit was being presented if the new high school is a definite. Mr. Dimas answered it is not a definite, but they do add it into the equation just in case it goes through and it is recognized in the plan. Mr. Cardenas inquired if the pedestrian and hike and bike portion of the Urban Transportation Plan be updated as well. Mr. Dimas responded yes this would be part of the master plan hike and bike trail. Mr. Cardenas questioned if this would be coming as a separate item for the hike and bike trail or would it all be tied into one. Mr. Dimas stated that it all be tied into one as an amendment to the current Urban Transportation Plan. Mr. Rock stated that Master Ditch 27 is along Brooke Rd. and this is not a well-developed road for biking and hiking. He said this was the intent of his earlier question about adding sidewalks and things like that. Mr. Dimas mentioned the idea with the master plan is putting it in the books now and when developers start plotting and constructing the roads, they would set aside those portions. Mr. Dimas said it is easier to define it now then try to retro fit later.

a. Recommendation to Add Master Ditch 27 to Existing Hike and Bike Trail System on Both Sides of the Ditch with Possible Action Taken: Ms. Beard motioned to add the Master Ditch 27 to the Master Plan. Mr. Dudek seconded. Motion passed.

b. Recommendation that Collector be Retained on the Plan with Possible Action Taken: Mr. Jacobi motioned to stand with committee's previous motion that the proposed right-of-way be removed. Mr. Dudek seconded. Motion passed.

Planning Commission, March 28, 2012:

Master Ditch 27:

Mr. Payne stated that it has been proposed to add Master Ditch 27 to the existing Hike and Bike Trail System illustrated in the Urban Transportation Plan. Mr. Payne continued that in the future, the major drainage systems for the city will be incorporated in the Hike and Bike Master Plan set to be completed in late 2012. Mr. Payne stated the proposed designations would allow drainage systems to be incorporated into existing and future plans. Current infrastructure would only require maintenance as already scheduled and any improvements set forth because of the Hike and Bike Master Plan will be designed according to Storm Water operations. Mr. Payne concluded that Staff recommended adding Master Ditch 27 to the existing Hike and Bike Trail System for a future trail system on both sides of the ditch. After Mr. Payne's presentation concluded, the public hearing was opened with no one coming forward and the public hearing was closed. Chairman Garza called for a motion. A motion to **approve** adding Master Ditch 27 to the existing Hike and Bike Trail System for a future rail system on both sides of the ditch was made by Commissioner Tamez and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion passed with Commissioner Nadkarni absent.