

City of Thornton
Planning Commission Meeting
Minutes
March 19, 2024

ROLL CALL: Those Present were: Chair Anna Sparks; Vice-Chair Rahem Mulatu; and Commission Members Bruce Thomas; Nora Brandon; Jeff Tompkins, Julorie Davidson, Jacque Phillips, and Randall Stutz. Absent – Commissioner Andrew Bryant

Commissioner Tompkins attended the meeting virtually.
Commissioner Bryant absence was excused as he notified in an email on the 13th of March that he would not be able to attend.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT - Jessica Whitney, Senior Assistant City Attorney; Warren Campbell Planning Manager; Kent Moorman, Regional Transportation Engineer and Gohlub Vang and Alexis Alarid, Recording Secretaries.

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 p.m.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MULATU TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER STUTZ AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BRANDON TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. COMMISSIONER PHILLIPS AND CHAIR SPARKS ABSTAINED AS THEY WERE NOT IN ATTENDANCE.

Mr. Campbell introduced Kent Moorman as the case presenter for information item on the Transit Plan. Mr. Moorman presented slides and information regarding the plan.

Vice Chair Mulatu asked what microtransit means. Mr. Moorman responded.

Vice Chair Mulatu asked questions regarding the reliability of Regional Transportation District (RTD) and who is funding RTD? Mr. Moorman Responded.

Commissioner Phillips asked for clarification on how microtransit will be utilized by the public. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Phillips asked what the outreach for this program looks like for the community, so the public is aware of this service. Mr. Moorman responded and there was additional discussion on where and what the service can be used for.

Commissioner Phillips asked if this will be addressing the mobility problem in Thornton regarding the sidewalks in original Thornton or in the south end that are not American Disability Act (ADA) compliant or if it is a separate study. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Brandon asked how capacity would be determined, especially during special events in respect to microtransit and flex rides. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Brandon asked when soliciting for these private companies, will a part of that process be an inquiry on how they plan to recruit drivers when there are bus driver shortages. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Brandon asked if we help with funding will they make the RTD expansion happen. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Stutz mentioned how much Thornton residents are paying RTD and asked if it is significantly different in the north end of town, than the cities in the south because they get more RTD attention. Mr. Moorman responded. There was further discussion on the population in the city.

Vice Chair Mulatu asked if the grant funding is sustainable or what is the length of the funding. Mr. Moorman responded. There was further discussion on if the funding runs out are the taxpayers going to get taxed to sustain it. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Phillips asked if this would mostly be used for the senior citizens that are unable to drive, people with disabilities who are unable to drive or low-income households that don't have a source of transportation. Mr. Moorman responded. There was additional discussion on who they anticipate using this service. The question was asked if there would be an age restriction. Mr. Moorman responded.

Chair Sparks asked Commissioner Tompkins if he had any questions while attending online. Commissioner Tompkins stated he did not.

Commissioner Thomas thanked Mr. Moorman for his presentation.

Commissioner Stutz asked is there going to be a plan for all the new up-in-coming developments that could benefit from using this service. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Davidson stated that it was mentioned that students would be using the flex rides, and asked if that was due to the fact that they don't have bus routes and if that's why they anticipate a big population of students using this service. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Davidson asked do we know how much it would potentially cost if the anticipated students do use this service and if it would be more beneficial and cost

effective to see if the schools can get a different source of funding to get more bus routes for the students. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Davidson asked if RTD was running proficiently based on the routes they are supposed to hit what percentage of this budget could be removed. Mr. Moorman responded.

Vice Chair Mulatu asked can college students use this service to get dropped off at their college for free. Mr. Moorman responded. There was further discussion.

Vice Chair Mulatu asked if this will be similar to what Medicaid/Medicare do where they take their patients to their appointments. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Phillips discussed the economic benefit to the plan and how in perspective of other City projects the cost is not much adding that the south end isn't as safe at night and that this would give an opportunity to help people to get to the N Line safely. Commissioner Phillips supported the plan because there is an existing safety issue, and this could help improve some of these concerns.

Commissioner Davidson asked if long-term care facilities are able to utilize these services. Mr. Moorman responded.

Commissioner Brandon stated that she uses the inline at the East Lake Station but currently uses her bike.¹, ~~so with this plan she could use the flex ride for those situations.~~

The Commissioners further discussed and thanked Mr. Moorman for his presentation.

OTHER MATTERS:

There are currently two items scheduled and a Study Session on the Development Code regarding Zoning and Land Uses for the April 2, 2024 Meeting.


Mr. Campbell mentioned the April 3rd tour of the Thornton Water Facility, will look for another date for the Commissioners that can't make the 3rd there will be a subsequent date coming out.

Chair Sparks stated the City has in the past conducted tours of the city that included members of various council, board and commission members. The tours would visit different stops in Thornton and provide educational information. Warren Campell will look into it.

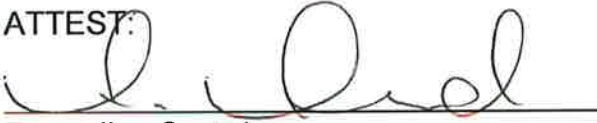
¹ As amended by Commissioner Brandon

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:04 P.M.

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO



Anna Sparks, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Recording Secretary

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