



Denver City Council

Public Works Committee Summary

Date: Jan. 24, 2007

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Johnson, Chair; Lehmann, Vice-Chair; MacKenzie, Montero, Robb
Committee Members Absent: Brown
Other Council Present: Garcia

Agenda:

- 1) *Development Review Process*
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1. Development Review Process

Committee Discussion

Rob Duncanson, PW - Development Engineering Services, explained that the Public Works division provides comprehensive engineering plan review, inspection and material testing in the City's rights-of-way (r-o-w). The services encompass four primary areas: permits (includes meter bagging), transportation (including traffic systems), materials testing, construction inspection; and survey review. An electronic plan review is maintained on the City website and it is estimated that in 2006 a total of 5,300 reviews were completed within 12 days. The development reviews are completed through a cycle of reviews by various agencies, including planning. Dependent on the type of project, zoning may not precede the review. Water requirements are included for sign-off approval on projects. Not all agency reviews are on-line, but the City is moving towards an all paperless review. There is front desk assistance for customers seeking the same information. Plan Review Technicians are available to provide concept planning assistance. Mr. Duncanson noted that electronic review has improved the interfacing between customers and city processes and provides real-time assistance.

Other program particulars include:

- Monthly evaluations of the program.
- Parks & Recreation is involved in the processes, for example, landscaping decisions requires a Parks Permit.
- An update on patio regulations will be scheduled in the spring – staff is currently looking at economic models relative to business enhancements versus pedestrian safety.
- Management is working on replacing four engineers working in this area that have left the City.
- City personnel work with the Colorado Dept. of Transportation (CDOT) on state highway issues, and although City personnel assure that all legal matters are addressed and that proposals are eligible for approval, the final decision is CDOTs.
- A new communications representative – Ann Williams - has been added to Public Works staff, but since beginning her employment, she has been responding to snow issues.

Councilmember Robb questioned how responsibilities for r-o-w overlap with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). Mr. Duncanson explained that problems outside of the City's purview go to the BID office, and are the property owner's responsibility. An option for problems regarding r-o-w in BIDs is to require the BID to perform the work required.

Councilmember Lehmann noted that developers and appropriate city personnel should work collaboratively regarding transit oriented development because of permitting and legislative standards involved with r-o-w and it is helpful to have everyone on the same page when designing developments that involved parkways, streets, etc.

Councilmember Garcia requested an update at a future Committee meeting regarding traffic calming measures that the City is looking at. Mr. Duncanson explained that Development Engineering doesn't get involved with signage and traffic signaling until development begins to take place. Councilmember Johnson said she would schedule that item for the February 14 meeting.

*Debra Bartleson
Legislative Services*