MINUTES WORK SESSION WESTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL

March 13, 2007, 7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers

Council met in Work Session on March 13, 2007 with Council Members, Craig Treneff, Damon Wetterauer, Jr., Kathy Cocuzzi, Anne Gonzales, Michael Heyeck, Diane Fosselman, Staff, Director of Law Bruce E. Bailey and Clerk of Council Mary Johnston present. William Highfield was excused.

1. <u>PRESENTATION ON SOUTH STATE STREET GATEWAY/HILLSDOWNE SECONDARY ACCESS</u> PROJECT.

Karl Craven, Planning and Development Director, stated staff will be discussing the City Gateway project, Hillsdowne Secondary Access Road Study, Corridor Streetscape and Development Standards, Cherri Park Square Secondary Access Study and Corridor Development Activity. Mr. Craven stated the current construction timeframe for the Gateway project is completion by 2010. Mr. Craven stated portion of the project include signal upgrade at State Street and Huber Village Boulevard, brick median, fencing and City of Westerville signage.

Mr. Heyeck stated he would like some of the money earmarked for fencing be used at other entrances into Westerville.

Julie Colley, Economic Development Coordinator, discussed the Hillsdowne Secondary Access Road Study. The purpose is to increase circulation between uses to eliminate curb cuts, remove residential neighborhood from commercial traffic patterns, enhance access and visibility to Concord Square Office Park, develop a welcoming and attractive streetscape and strategic public sector acquisition to enhance access and circulation. Mrs. Colley presented three alternate plans and the plans to extend Hillsdowne to Huber Village. Mrs. Colley stated staff held a public meeting with residents and business owners on September 18, 2006. Mrs. Colley shared some of the results from the meeting with City Council.

Mrs. Gonzales stated she liked Alternate Plan 3 but felt it needed some work.

Mrs. Cocuzzi expressed concerns with additional traffic at the intersection of Schrock Road and Hillsdowne Street.

Mr. Heyeck suggested staff explore the installation of a concrete median on Schrock Road between Hillsdowne Street and State Street.

Rick Kight, Planning Administrator, reviewed the Corridor Streetscape and Development Standards with City Council. These include landscape, lighting, pavement/sidewalks, furniture/mailboxes, screening walls and signage along State Street between Huber Village and Walnut Street.

Mr. Heyeck asked staff to consider transit elements in plans.

Mr. Kight reviewed the Cherri Park Square Secondary Access Road Study. This project will relieve traffic and improve safety on South State Street. Mr. Kight stated some business owners have committed to the project but discussions with Starbucks, Panera and land owners have not been successful to date.

Mayor Fosselman stated she is extremely disappointed this project hasn't moved forward and encouraged staff to continue discussions with all parties involved.

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Mrs. Colley reviewed the development activity that has taken place on South State Street.

Conclusion

Mrs. Gonzales asked staff for resident feedback on the Hillsdowne Secondary Access Road Study.

Chairman Wetterauer requested staff to take Council feedback/comments and report back to Council, provide a priority list of items and overall cost of projects with breakdown of individual items. Chairman Wetterauer stated a future Work Session will be scheduled for staff to provide an update on projects.

The Work Session adjourned at 8:28 p.m.	
Mary J. Johnston, MMC Clerk of Council	Damon E. Wetterauer, Jr. Chair of Council