



Office of the City Manager

**TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager**

**DATE: June 17, 2011**

**SUBJECT: Issues Update**

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. If there are additional items you believe should be included, please let me know.

**CITY/COUNTY COMMITTEE SEEKS TO FORMALIZE.** For nearly a decade, a group of City Council and County Board representatives have been meeting to discuss a wide range of issues of common interest to the two units of government. At its May meeting, the committee (currently called the "County/City Intergovernmental Communications Ad-Hoc Committee") directed staff to create a new name for the group, a charter under which they could operate, and a method upon which they could base their evaluation of various cooperation opportunities.

The attached staff memo **(Electronic Copy Only)** was presented to the committee this week for discussion. The group approved the charter with some minor changes. This charter will be brought before the City Council for approval at the July 12, 2011 Peoria City Council Meeting and before the County Board in either July or August. Upon approval by both bodies and official appointment of the respective representatives, the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) will be launched. The MPC will be a place for both bodies to discuss issues in common. That includes two major categories:

- 1) Discuss strategies and common policies and resolve conflicts.
- 2) Discuss and evaluate opportunities for greater shared services, ranging from joint purchasing to functional consolidation.

To accomplish this second task, the MPC will utilize a concept selection matrix that will provide a score for an idea's feasibility and acceptability. This tool allows the MPC to have a universal set of criteria against which various strategies to consolidate a particular area can be judged. The matrix will also allow the MPC to evaluate selected strategies in different areas against each other. At the MPC's next meeting, the group will finalize the criteria and assign relative importance to each. The matrix will first be used to evaluate suggestions generated by the PASS Forward group, which is currently reviewing opportunities for greater cooperation in Public Works, Information Systems and Economic Development.

Questions regarding the MPC plan can be directed to any of the Council representatives (Bill Spears, Ryan Spain or Tim Riggerbach) or Chris Setti.

**PIONEER PARKWAY EXTENSION ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE RECEIVED.** City staff received notification from IDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) that the proposed Pioneer Parkway Extension project has received all environmental clearances for Phase I (project study)

engineering. The next step is to submit additional soil and bridge information, as requested by IDOT. This information will be added to the project Design Report, and submitted for approval to IDOT and the FHA. When the Design Report is approved, the City will have full Phase I engineering approval and will be able to begin property acquisition and design of the first construction phase at the intersection of Pioneer Parkway and Allen. Design Report approval is anticipated in fall, 2011.

**PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVED ENTERPRISE EXPANSION.** On May 24, 2011, Council directed staff to proceed with an application for extending the Enterprise Zone along Brandywine Drive and certain properties on University. As a part of the application process, on June 15, 2011, the Planning Commission reviewed the request and unanimously approved extending the Enterprise Zone for these properties.

Currently, there are three prospective developments that could occur if the expansion is approved. Discussions are ongoing with interested parties and indicate that there is potential for \$11 investment in this area of the City upon approval of the Enterprise Zone expansion.

**JAG GRANT TIMELINE.** The time line for the JAG Grant is quickly approaching. The Mandatory Public Hearing for the community is June 27, 2011 with notification to the Mayor and Council of the City's intent to apply for the Grant on the June 28, 2011 Council Agenda. The entire application then must be sent electronically to DOJ (Department of Justice) by 8:00 p.m. on July 18, 2011, to include proof of the public hearing, a copy of the Council Communication and minutes of the meeting, the MOU with the county, all program and budget narratives, the actual budget and program abstract, plus all government assurances regarding our CCR, DUNS, EEOC compliance.