

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REPORT
May 23, 2023

1. Call to Order

Mayor John Gates called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 1001 11th Ave, Greeley, Colorado, with hybrid participation available via the City's Zoom platform.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

City Clerk Heidi Leatherwood called the roll.

The following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Tommy Butler

Councilmember Deb DeBoutez

Councilmember Dale Hall – participated via Zoom

Mayor Pro Tem Brett Payton – Absent (Excused)

Councilmember Ed Clark

Councilmember Johnny Olson - Absent (Excused)

Mayor John Gates

**4. Reports from Mayor and Council Members
None**

5. Traffic Technology to Address Safety and Quality of Life in Greeley

Police Chief, Adam Turk, and Deputy Director of Public Works, Will Jones introduced the item at 6:01 p.m.

City Council requested that the Police Department (PD) and Public Works Department (PW) research technologies available for traffic calming, specifically to include speed/red light cameras and decibel measuring devices, to improve public safety, wellbeing, and quality of life in Greeley.

PW and PD have researched various technologies and contacted surrounding agencies who have or continue to utilize technology to address traffic and quality of life concerns. This includes red light cameras, mobile speed units and noise reduction/enforcement technology. Staff recommendation was to pursue photo radar at this time.

Councilmember DeBoutez thanked staff and asked if this would be a tool to assist the PD. In response to the question, Chief Turk noted that this will be a force multiplier but will not replace traffic safety officers and will be used in high priority areas.

CM Butler asked if there are benefits to new stop sign cameras? In response to the question, Commander Mike Heck said he has not done extensive research on stop sign cameras, but he will look into it.

Councilmember Hall participating via Zoom, mentioned he is not in favor of adding this technology and wondered how accurate the photo radar is in identifying the driver of the vehicle. He also noted that this action could be perceived as money generator by residents. In response to the question, Commander Heck felt confident that the technology would capture the driver's identity because the officer watching the equipment has to confirm the picture is clear and focused at the time the photo is taken.

Mayor Gates also noted that he is not a fan of cameras, but he does see the need for traffic safety and wants this to be a tool for the PD to use. Chief Turk added that revenue generation is not the goal, slowing traffic down is the motivating factor.

Councilmember Clark reminded Council to be responsive to citizens and suggested an aggressive education program with this new technology.

Council consensus was to pursue the photo radar option and come back to Council with more information and project details.

6. Hillside/Farr Park Neighborhoods -15th Avenue Ct Underpass of US 34 Bypass

Deputy Public Works Director Booshan Karnik introduced the item at 6:30 p.m.

On November 1, 2022, a City Council Initiative was created by Councilmember Clark to review safety issues of the 15th Avenue Court underpass of US 34 Bypass. Staff held a neighborhood meeting on January 25, 2023, to seek input on safety concerns and use of the underpass. The neighborhood residents strongly supported keeping the underpass for connectivity and requested staff review opportunities to improve the underpass for pedestrians, bicyclists, accessibility, and safety.

Staff requested feedback on a draft plan for replacement of the existing underpass. The efforts to widen, change slope and update the underpass will cost \$4 Million. Public Works will be seeking grant funding for the project. If funding and approval are met, construction would begin in 2025.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked about the timeline, as two years seems like a long time for residents to wait for improvements. Can there be lighting updates and landscaping made in the meantime? In response to the question, Mr. Karnik will look into it.

Councilmember Clark was surprised that the residents were supportive of the widening and renovations suggested and is pleased that these improvements will be made.

7. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events
None.

8. Adjournment
With no further business, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Approved:

John D. Gates, Mayor

Attest:

Heidi Leatherwood, City Clerk