

## **COMPLETE OUR STREETS TASK FORCE** **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**December 4, 2007**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR KATHY TAYLOR  
TULSA CITY COUNCILLORS**

**The members of the Complete Our Streets Task Force want to thank you for the opportunity to serve Tulsa. Our Task Force has studied information, heard from Citizens, interviewed experienced professionals, and searched past and present practices in order to understand about the design, construction and financing of the City streets. This has been a fast paced 60 day endeavor but one that was undertaken with much commitment and passion. Each of us was encouraged from the beginning to think creatively, ask lots of questions, delve deep and always have the best interest of our City in our minds and hearts. We submit to you our commendation and recommendations.**

### **COMMENDATION**

**This Task Force would like to commend the Public Works Department, Charles Hardt and his direct staff for managing a difficult task of maintaining and reconstructing our streets on a very limited budget over many years.**

### **TASK FORCE MISSION AND ACTION**

**To take a comprehensive look at Tulsa's streets and report to the Tulsa City Government on the most efficient way to improve, build, fund and maintain our streets on an on-going basis.**

**The Task Force consisted of 22 concerned Tulsa citizens that met as a group numerous times. We then divided into three committees of Smart Urban Design, Construction and Finance. These committees met frequently gathering pertinent information, listening to many resources and studying statistics. In addition, there was one Citizen Input Town Meeting at Centennial Park with over 150 in attendance. These concerned Tulsa citizens were extremely disturbed about the current status of our streets but respectful in their recommendations and suggestions. Their comments are reflected in our recommendations. The Task Force also received information in all three categories from Norman, Wichita, Omaha, Kansas City and Indianapolis.**

## **GENERAL STATEMENTS**

**The condition of the streets of the City of Tulsa is a long story with a history of little resources devoted to the infrastructure. The maintenance and reconstruction budget has been very small compared to the need. The priority of our streets has varied through past administrations which has put our streets in the crisis condition that they are today. At times there are influences that bear on street issues from City Hall, neighborhood associations and individual citizens. It is very apparent that monies for street maintenance, construction and repairs is woefully inadequate.**

**Based on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) that the City of Tulsa uses to monitor and rate our street conditions, the Tulsa index is below 60, based on a scale of 1-100. All of us learned from our school years... that is a failing grade.**

- 1. The City of Tulsa should fully support the efforts of the coalition of Tulsa Area Governments and the Oklahoma Municipal League to return a half cent (\$.005) of Oklahoma's state sales tax back to the communities where it will be designated for street improvements.**
- 2. 28% of Tulsans do not have access to a vehicle, so when thinking of Tulsa streets, this Task Force has taken into account cycling, jogging, walking and more mass transit forms of transportation needs.**
- 3. There should be a very strong, long term commitment to educating the Tulsa citizens about the tax structure, changing trends of transportation, the complete needs of our street repairs and construction. We should use all methods available to continually tell this story. PSA's on television, regularly scheduled informative programs on TGOV or any other stations that are available and information in City water bills among the few possible venues for information.**
- 4. Very concise education campaign to inform citizens which roadways the City is actually responsible for in maintaining, designing and constructing. The difference between the City streets, State responsibilities on expressways and County roads.**
- 5. Be honest with the citizens. Tell exactly how much is needed, what is needed, how it will happen and stick with it**
- 6. The young professionals of today choose where they want to live based on quality of life issues before looking at the job or workplace. Therefore, it is critical that Tulsa invest in transportation, streets and ambience.**
- 7. Create a Citizen Oversight Committee to assist on voted initiatives and progress and provide an interactive website where citizens can follow the progress on street issues.**

This “Complete Our Streets” respectfully submits the attached committee reports from Smart Urban Design, Contracting and Financing.

**COMPLETE OUR STREETS TASK FORCE:**

Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.	Co Chair and Chair – Finance Committee
Sharon King Davis	Co Chair and Chair – Contracting Committee
Patty Eaton	Chair – Smart Urban Design Committee
Tim Armer	
Howard Barnett	
Ron Bussert	
Art Couch	
Lisa Frankenberger	
Keith Franklin	
Derek Gates	
Gene Harris	
William B. Jones	
Kell Kelly	
Art Justis	
Bob Kuhn	
Jerry Lasker	
John Lotti	
Steve Mitchell	
Jack O’Brien	
Tom Snyder	
William Tisdale	
John Weidman	