

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
January 7, 2009
VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 32

Approval of Fourth Supplemental Interlocal Contract 481d between the City of Las Vegas and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) to increase funding and extend the date of completion for the City Parkway – D Street Connector between Grand Central Parkway and I-15 (\$187,000 – RTC) – Ward 5 (Barlow)

Appearance List:

OSCAR GOODMAN, Mayor

RICKI Y. BARLOW, Councilman

JORGE CERVANTES, Director, Public Works

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER

BEATRICE TURNER, West Las Vegas resident

GABRIELLE YATES, 901 Gerson Avenue

LOIS TARKANIAN, Councilwoman

15 minutes

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24 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

25 We'll go to Item number 32 and ask Mr. Cervantes to come up to the podium. Item number 32 is
26 approval of a fourth supplemental Interlocal Contract 481d between the City of Las Vegas and
27 the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada to increase funding and extend the
28 date of completion for the City Parkway – D Street Connector between Grand Central Parkway
29 and I-15. This is in Ward 5. Councilman.

30

31 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

32 Yes. I would like for Mr. Cervantes, if you will, to give background in relation to the D Street
33 Connector and City Parkway. Understanding from previous conversations that we've had and
34 also the term "connector" has caused or placed the City in a precarious situation. And so, if you
35 will please speak to it, as far as the connector, what that represents and if, in fact, there's going
36 to be any closures or non-closures. I want to make sure that we have all of that information out
37 on the record and before the residents of the community.

38

39 **JORGE CERVANTES**

40 Certainly. Good – morning, Mayor and Council. Jorge Cervantes, Department of Public Works.
41 The project connector is a roadway project where there's a realignment of a road where D Street
42 is being realigned to connect directly with F Street. On your screen here, you can see a
43 rendering of what that shows. It's where, if you're coming northbound on – F Street, the road is
44 being realigned so it connects directly with D Street where there's an interchange off of I-15 to –
45 D Street. So it provides for traffic to still be able to travel north/south on D Street; travel
46 north/south on H Street. Traffic on F Street is being re-routed. F Street is being closed under the
47 freeway, but the D Street underpass and the H Street underpass is still open passages. And so
48 this connector is just a realignment of a road to provide better connectivity in and out of the
49 community. This particular item here, agenda today, is to modify the agreement that we have
50 with the RTC, the funding source for this project, to allow additional funding to reconnect D
51 Street on the south end of the connector so that folks coming down D Street can work (inaudible)
52 all the way up to Bonanza. So they have the option of either using D Street all the way to
53 Bonanza or using this realigned roadway to get to – F Street.

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54 **UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER**

55 No.

56

57 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

58 Yes, thank you.

59

60 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

61 Okay, very good. Did you want to –

62

63 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

64 Yes, if – you don't mind, Mayor.

65

66 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

67 No, I don't mind. Whatever you –

68

69 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

70 Okay. We have some residents that had comments in respect to –

71

72 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

73 Alright.

74

75 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

76 – this item.

77

78 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

79 Let's put a three-minute timer on this, please.

80

81 **BEATRICE TURNER**

82 Beatrice Turner, West Las Vegas. So you will go off, come off D Street and go on Wilson
83 Street, right, and then connect back on F Street?

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84 **JORGE CERVANTES**

85 That's correct. The realignment is D Street, comes up, realigns through Wilson Street to F
86 Street.

87

88 **BEATRICE TURNER**

89 Absolutely – no way, no how. No. You got the home, you got the Rescue Mission there. You
90 know, I mean, no way. You mean to tell me that's how we got to travel through our community?
91 No way, no how, no way, no. Cause' no, we don't, no, we don't want that, no. We do not want
92 that! No way. And whoever – put this together, who, this design that it wasn't brought to us,
93 they need to be getting they (sic) pink slip today by five. No, no way do we want that. So they
94 here today for approval for that? Am I right?

95

96 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

97 That's correct.

98

99 **BEATRICE TURNER**

100 No. This need to be held until we can have a community meeting and this is brought to the
101 community so the community can understand this. That's what need to happen today.

102

103 **JORGE CERVANTES**

104 Councilman, just to –

105

106 **UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER**

107 You can't make a decision without people.

108

109 **JORGE CERVANTES**

110 Just for clarification. This item today isn't for this realignment. This item is just to connect D
111 Street back up to the Connector at this point here.

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112 **UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER**

113 Ain't no way in –

114

115 **JORGE CERVANTES**

116 That's the only thing this item is – for the funding.

117

118 **BEATRICE TURNER**

119 This need to be held and – explained to our community.

120

121 **UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER**

122 That's true.

123

124 **BEATRICE TURNER**

125 That's what need to happen today. So I'm quite sure you can hold this for thirty, for two weeks
126 to your next City Council meeting. Ya'll know how to get the meeting, get the notices out to get
127 folks to a meeting. This need to be held for at least for two weeks so the community can hear
128 this 'cause they all have left now to go to the church to – have prayer. I was the only one
129 (inaudible) behind 'cause I take prayer tonight. No. This need to be held up for at least the next
130 City Council meeting so that we can, this can be discussed with our community, especially like
131 Ms. Jamerson and all of them that live right there on F and McWilliams. No. This need to be
132 held up until, for we can have a meeting in the community, this is brought to the community
133 since wasn't nothing else brought to us. So at least we'll have a say on this right here.

134

135 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

136 Thank you for your comments.

137

138 **GABRIELLE YATES**

139 Hello.

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140 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

141 Hi. Please identify yourself.

142

143 **GABRIELLE YATES**

144 My name is Gabrielle Yates. I live at 901 Gerson inside Marble Manor. Now, I lived here five
145 years and what I see is just a total disaster for these Councilmen and Assembly people that live
146 here. One of the things that I can't understand is that how do you close a street and just – allow
147 other people to tell you where, and where there're supposed to live at? One, when I leave, if I'm
148 – supposed to be at work at seven o'clock at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Mayor, where
149 you see me plenty of times at before, and my boss wants me there at six o'clock, I have to walk
150 downtown to the DTC 'cause there's no buses that come at six o'clock, until six o'clock. So
151 there's the 214 and the 208, now we have to, and if – I had a car to drive, now I have age
152 discrimination, racial discrimination and transportation discrimination. Now you gonna try to
153 tell me that I have to take D to F to get a connector. We – are people that have to have a
154 decision made based on not a racial discrimination or economic development, but we have to
155 have common sense has to come in Vegas and lead somewhere for each and every one of us.
156 There is nothing to say that where the buses don't come on time, now you're trying to say, okay,
157 we're just gonna close out a whole neighborhood. And now we're supposed to sit back and let it
158 happen. That's what happen to Maxwell Bidwell in Philadelphia, but this is not Philadelphia.
159 And that because we have a slave set mentality that still lingers here in Vegas, it doesn't have to
160 happen here either. So when you – go home and you go to sleep at night, I want you to decide,
161 what would you tell your children when you close off them? And – then in years to come, that's
162 what's gonna happen. When each one of you decides to go to sleep at night, I want you to pray:
163 Lord, let me decide what is right. Let my conscious be my guide. And that's what I said in
164 Jesus' name. Amen.

165

166 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

167 Thank you.

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168 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

169 Thank you.

170

171 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

172 Alright.

173

174 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

175 Now, Mr. Cervantes, for – the record, the realignment and the connection that we're, that's
176 before us today, would you go back through and explain as far as what's taking place in respect
177 to this street because the community, at this time, as – you saw earlier, have very valid points in
178 regards to the closure of streets in the community. What's taking place today, to my
179 understanding and you correct me if I'm wrong, is that previously D Street was going to be
180 closed off, cul-de-sac (sic), and the realignment traveling south on D Street would come down
181 Wilson, reconnect to F Street onto Bonanza. Is that correct?

182

183 **JORGE CERVANTES**

184 That is correct, Councilman.

185

186 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

187 And – in addition to that, after conversations with my office, and I requested D Street to be re-
188 opened so that the residents of this community would not have to travel down Wilson and
189 connect in to F Street to make a left onto Bonanza to travel east. So I requested that D Street be
190 reconnected and reop, well not reopened, but not closed in order to continue the travel on D
191 Street south connecting to Bonanza. Is that correct?

192

193 **JORGE CERVANTES**

194 That – is correct, Councilman. The original design had the Connector but both F Street north of
195 I-15 and D Street south of the Connector were cul-de-sac (sic).

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196 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

197 Correct.

198

199 **JORGE CERVANTES**

200 As per your request, we looked at the design and were able to come back and connect D Street so
201 if you're coming down D Street, you can go all the way down to Bonanza and not have to go
202 through the Connector as you explained. This item before you today is just the agreement that
203 we have with the RTC, who is our funding source, to give us the funding that we need to make
204 that connection back of D Street.

205

206 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

207 To open D Street back up. So that's what we're doing, just for clarification, Ms. Turner. What's
208 taking place today is that we're voting on the funds in order to make sure that D Street is not
209 closed. And so I – thank you for that clarification because I don't want anyone in the community
210 to walk away with the misunderstanding that streets are being closed off in the midst of the City
211 having to deal with the lawsuit that's before us right now with the closure of F Street, which we
212 will – be addressing in the court of law upon the court date. And so, before us today is the
213 opportunity to receive the funds – in order to keep D Street a complete thoroughfare all the way
214 through to Bonanza.

215

216 **BEATRICE TURNER**

217 And Wilson won't be no connector. We won't –

218

219 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

220 As of – right now Wilson – is a connector between F and D. What they're doing is and – explain
221 this as far as the roadwork, as far as improving the road, the street on Wilson, improving Wilson
222 from D to F, explain that, Jorge, please.

223

224 **JORGE CERVANTES**

225 Sure. Today, Wilson is an east/west street that does connect between D and F Street.

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226 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

227 Correct.

228

229 **JORGE CERVANTES**

230 It Ts at both sides.

231

232 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

233 Correct.

234

235 **JORGE CERVANTES**

236 All we're doing is making a continuous road, improving the street from the current two-lane to a
237 four-lane facility to handle the demand of folks coming in and out of the downtown area and
238 connecting it directly. And then connecting D Street back up to that connector so you have
239 options. You can either come down D Street or you can use the connector to get to F Street.

240

241 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

242 Correct. And there's no, and – the only difference now, Ms. Turner, is the fact that if you can
243 make a right on Wilson and go to F Street. Correct? And – it's a two-lane street. What they're,
244 the improvement that's taking place is the fact that it's going from a two-lane to a –

245

246 **JORGE CERVANTES**

247 A four lane.

248

249 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

250 – a four lane, and also D Street will not be cul-de-sac; it's actually going to remain but it also
251 will be improved from Bonanza to the freeway.

252

253 **BEATRICE TURNER**

254 But do we understand that the Rescue Mission do (sic) commodities every other month, and
255 people have to come right there on Wilson. Right now they're doing it in the parking lot –

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256 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

257 Right.

258

259 **BEATRICE TURNER**

260 – but they have to come on Wilson in order to pick up their commodities.

261

262 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

263 Well, I understand –

264

265 **BEATRICE TURNER**

266 So how that, how that's gonna work out?

267

268 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

269 Let me explain that to you – , I've worked, I've been working very closely with the President of
270 the Las Vegas Rescue Mission and with their expansion, I've talked, I've spoken to them in my
271 office in regards to how, in fact, they have their residents or clients come and line up. They will
272 now be doing that internally on their property, specifically once their new kitchen is opened.
273 Everything will be done internally whereas today it's being done out on the sidewalk. And I told
274 them that that has to discontinue as far as their clients being out on the sidewalk. Everything has
275 to be done internally, which they're working with me on that currently. And so, what I don't
276 want to do today is pass up the opportunity of – following the recommendation of the
277 community in respect to making sure that, as of right now, we have the opportunity to get D
278 Street back, off of the – design for being closed and the new design, to make sure that D Street
279 remains open. And that's what we're voting on today.

280

281 **BEATRICE TURNER**

282 Well, you know, on Wilson, where you have the Rescue Mission, we – want to know what kind
283 of – scrubbery (sic), sidewalks or what is gonna go on there? So you telling me the people from
284 the Rescue Mission no longer will be able to do they (sic) business on Wilson? That's what you
285 telling me?

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286 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

287 They will be doing it internally.

288

289 **BEATRICE TURNER**

290 Inside?

291

292 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

293 Inside their properties, yes. That's what I'm sharing with you.

294

295 **BEATRICE TURNER**

296 Well, you know, first of all, I ain't supporting the F Street being closed off, so, you know – and,

297 if you don't want to bring this to the community and – explain this to them a little more, that's

298 fine with me. 'Cause we'll deal, like you said, in the court of law, we'll deal with it in the court.

299 But, you know, I think this need to be tabled for least three, two weeks 'til ya'll next City

300 Council meeting. And let this be brought to the community so they can understand 'cause

301 everybody sit at home don't have cable, you know, so they can't see this on Channel 2. So this

302 needs to be brought to the community.

303

304 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

305 And that's – not a problem. If, in fact, from – those residents who are not here today, in all

306 fairness, then we want to make sure that we continue to have open government and open

307 dialogue with our residents. I don't have a problem with tabling this item, well not tabling it, but

308 abeying this item for a number of weeks to basically explain to the community, as far as what we

309 are doing.

310

311 **BEATRICE TURNER**

312 Well that need to happen. 'Cause –

313

314 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

315 And that's not a problem.

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316 **BEATRICE TURNER**

317 – people like Reverend Bennett don't have cable. He don't even have two-way on his phone.

318

319 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

320 Well then –

321

322 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

323 Well, at this point – Mayor, being that we had so many residents here today, and I want to make

324 sure that all the residents understand what we're doing here today. **I would like to hold this**

325 **item in abeyance for 30 days.** That would be my motion at this time.

326

327 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

328 Alright. That's the motion. Let's vote on that, please. Post. **(Motion carried unanimously.)**

329

330 **COUNCILMAN BARLOW**

331 Thank you, Ms. Turner.

332

333 **JORGE CERVANTES**

334 Thank you.

335

336 **BEATRICE TURNER**

337 Thank you.

338

339 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

340 Mr. Mayor, could I just ask –

341

342 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

343 Motion carries.

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344 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

345 There's no problem, is there, Jorge, in holding this up? We're not going to lose any funding or
346 any –

347

348 **JORGE CERVANTES**

349 There isn't. Two weeks –

350

351 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

352 I –

353

354 **JORGE CERVANTES**

355 – (inaudible) anyway.

356

357 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

358 – just think it's extremely wise. I think we, what we heard today was some problems with
359 communication and trust, and I think it's extremely important that we do hold this back. You
360 take it back to the community, so that anybody who wants to can attend and ask questions.

361

362 **JORGE CERVANTES**

363 Sure.

364

365 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

366 So I think that was a very wise motion.

367

368 **(END OF DISCUSSION)**

369 /lc;da