



03-05-2025 Town Council Meeting

Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #4: Discussion about TPO request for Letter of Commitment for the Co-Gen Rail Transformation Project

Council Question:

To ensure that all parties are in the loop and able to answer constituent questions as they arise, can staff or the consultant 1) provide written updates on a regular basis (maybe quarterly?) and 2) create a project webpage where information can be found as has been done for the Greene Tract?

Also, can you all please help us understand how joint projects like this one fit into our decision-making around budgeting, staff resources, land use decisions, MPO scoring, etc. Thinking it is better for all parties involved to make sure it is built into our decision-making processes to the extent it can be rather than outside of them.

Staff Response:

Staff have reached out to CoGen/Rail project leadership about the Council's earlier request to make meeting minutes available, and we will let you know what we learn. In addition to Council Member Nollert, at least one staff member routinely attends monthly project meetings. The staff departments involved to date include the Office of Sustainability and Resilience, Planning/Office of Mobility and Greenways, Transit, and Public Works.

We know that the project scope for the future consultant includes the following elements for public awareness, public consultation, and stakeholder engagement:

- *A project website for public awareness*
- *Outreach and promotional materials to inform the public about the study process, including outreach to under-represented communities and social media content*
- *Translation for outreach materials into languages identified by the local jurisdictions*
- *Mechanisms for convening stakeholders and presenting to elected officials about the study*

To the question about how joint funding projects fit into the Council's decision-making and budgeting processes, it's ideal for projects to be identified and evaluated as part of the budget process so that they can be weighed against all other Town priorities. Realistically, things come up throughout the year, as this one has. Depending on the scope and cost of the project, a decision needs to be made to determine if it is something that should be pursued and brought before Council with a recommendation to proceed and a plan for how to pay for it. Our interest is to have this discussion with you about the requested \$10,000 contribution and options we've identified that would enable the Town to support this project.

Outside of sharing meeting minutes and future consultant resources/communications, we are interested in the Council's guidance on what information and frequency of communication would be most helpful to have going forward.