

Jan. 23, 1996

To: City Transportation Commission
From: Dan Dettmann, Tom Walsh, Dan McCormick, Ron Schildt
Re: DOT Organization Structure

As staff engineers in Traffic Engineering, we'd like to give an initial response to the proposals contained in the Jan. 18 letter from Larrousse/Hinz/Nelson:

1. We strongly support recommendation #2, i.e. to allow the department to continue to function on a team basis and to revisit the administrative structure issue 12-18 months after the City Traffic Engineer position is filled. This not only allows the City to first experience the full new management staffing in Traffic Engineering, but also allows the City to benefit from the new engineer's knowledge and experiences with organizational structures.
2. Long range transportation planning (TP) is recommended to be housed in City Planning. Our comments, concerns, and suggestions for TP are as follows:
 - a. The goal of providing a stronger link between TP and land use planning is laudable. At the same time, the existing linkage between TP and transportation operations needs to be maintained. Neither the planner nor the operations engineer will be as efficient and successful without direct frequent interaction. The operations engineer needs to know and have influence on TP.
 - b. The transportation planner should have transportation operations experience. The history in our division has been that planners have had years of transportation operations experience, which served to keep their planning well related to operational realities and current City policies.
 - c. The division of responsibilities between TP under City Planning and the "shorter range" planning that will continue to be done in Traffic Engineering needs to be defined.