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2013-06-28 News

Shrewsbury Mayor Raises Questions On Connector Plan

City schedules public hearing on north-south road; I-44 hookup

by Dennis Hannon

06/28/2013 - Shrewsbury Mayor Felicity Buckley did not attend the work session of the board of aldermen Tuesday night, but she had a dominating impact just the same.

Buckley left a list of trenchant questions about the South County Connector project, which not coincidentally is to be the subject of a public hearing at the board's next meeting, July 9.

Recitation of the questions - performed by Board Member Mike Travaglini, who presided over the meeting - took roughly as long as any other segment of the brief proceeding.

The mayor raised the following issues:

- The funding coming from only county taxpayers, when the connector equally serves South St. Louis.
- Who will maintain the connector and the landscaping?
- Who will pay for the landscaping?
- The county does not have the resources to fund current road upgrades and maintenance, how then to pay for the connector project?
- How does this serve mid-South County, since the roadway will terminate in the city of St. Louis?
- How does this plan fit with future extensions of MetroLink?
- All traffic study data needs to be made current to determine needs accurately.
- MetroLink was supposed to address the same need as the connector.

Buckley went on to question the impact of the road project on Shrewsbury specifically. For example, the proposed elimination of the Interstate 44 entrance and exit on Shrewsbury Avenue - an idea she has spoken of approvingly - will have a large and unexplained impact on the city, she said.

Buckley also proposed that the project go along the south side of Deer Creek, rather than intruding upon the newly resurgent shopping center on the north side. She also suggested that the road will not be able to carry the traffic it will attract, which could result in backups into streets in Shrewsbury.

The board decided on an open format for the public hearing, with everyone

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