

## MAPS COMMITTEE CONCERNED AT LACK OF TOTAL MYRIAD RENOVATION; SAYS SERIOUS BUDGET PROBLEMS ON HORIZON

From CITYnet

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*Eric Groves  
MAPS Board Member*

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Members of the MAPS Citizens Oversight Board Wednesday raised concerns over the planned \$26 million facelift for the Myriad Convention Center and suggested city residents are going to be unhappy with the job because the entire center won't be renovated.

Members of the board's Construction Review Subcommittee said they were concerned city residents will be shortchanged because the project could be scaled back to meet the budget numbers.

Committee members said even if the Myriad renovations "go over budget, that's something we should look at to make sure it's a first class facility."

Members also complained that only the "convention" space in the center is undergoing renovating while no money will be spent on the parking facilities and restrooms located in other areas. Another major concern is the extremely deteriorated Myriad roof which officials are considering replacing — at least in part.

"It's a great event center, but it is not a convention facility and it was important to address the exhibit halls and convention space," said Jim Bruza, a principal with Frankfurt-Short-Bruza, the architectural firm hired by Oklahoma City as the MAPS Program Coordinator.

Board member Eric Groves replied "that the public is expecting something different and it's possible that the public will not be satisfied with the renovations and will be very surprised and very disappointed. We need to face up to that and we need to see if the city will find money somewhere else...probably not in the police budget."

Bruza agreed and said the maintenance on the Myriad has been neglected and "we certainly don't want to do the (\$26 million) renovations with a bad roof over our heads."

Assistant City Manager Jim Thompson said "if we had \$20 million more we could spend it."

Thompson said the budgets have always been a concern for everyone and with the Myriad in particular, the contrast "between a brand new facility in one part and duct tape on the (arena) seats" may be too much for the public to bear.

The committee may have been laying the ground work for the forthcoming budget figures that are due in two weeks from Frankfurt-Short-Bruza. The firm has been recalculating the entire MAPS budget in the aftermath of the ballpark bids which came in millions over the estimates put forth by MAPS developers.

## OKLAHOMA MANUFACTURING TAXES AMONG LOWEST

From Senate Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Manufacturing companies in Oklahoma face one of the lowest tax burdens in the region, according to a study by a national, non-partisan research organization.

"Our business taxes are among the lowest in the nation, especially when it comes to manufacturing," said Senator Cal Hobson, Vice-chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "That makes our state especially attractive to the kind of companies that traditionally create the best jobs."

The Lexington legislator says the latest study was compiled on the advice of visiting economist Steven Gold of the Urban Institute, who suggested during a recent appearance before a Senate committee that Oklahoma should examine actual tax liabilities on specific kinds of industries such as manufacturing.

(Continued)