



City of Santa Barbara Planning Division

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

September 5, 2013

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Mike Jordan, Vice Chair Deborah L. Schwartz, Commissioners Bruce Bartlett, John P. Campanella, Sheila Lodge, June Pujo, and Addison Thompson.

STAFF PRESENT:

Renee Brooke, Senior Planner
N. Scott Vincent, Assistant City Attorney
Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner
Steve Foley, Supervising Transportation Planner
Dan Gullett, Associate Planner
Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

A. Action on the review of the following Draft Minutes and Resolutions:

1. Draft Minutes of August 8, 2013
2. Resolution 011-13
Certification of Final Environmental Impact Report for Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance

MOTION: Lodge/Schwartz

Approve the minutes of August 8, 2013 and resolution 011-13 as corrected.

This motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

B. Requests for continuances, withdrawals, postponements, or addition of ex-agenda items.

None.

C. Announcements and appeals.

Ms. Brooke made the following announcements:

1. The Planning Commission meeting of September 12, 2013 is cancelled so that the Commission can attend the Joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting on September 12, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room at 630 Garden Street.
2. The Planning Commission's August 8, 2013 certification of the Environmental Impact Report on the Single Use Carryout Bag Ordinance has been appealed to City Council and will be heard on October 1, 2013.
3. The Historic Landmark Commission's approval on August 14, 2013 of 1330 Chapala Street (Arlington Village) has been appealed to City Council with a hearing date to be determined.

D. Comments from members of the public pertaining to items not on this agenda.

Chair Jordan opened the public hearing at 1:05 P.M. and, with no one wishing to speak, closed the hearing.

III. NEW ITEM:

ACTUAL TIME: 1:05 P.M.

HIGHWAY 101 HOV PROJECT UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this hearing is to update the Planning Commission on the status of the South Coast Highway 101 HOV Lanes Project; allow for Planning Commission discussion of approval considerations, environmental review, and the project scope; and to forward the Planning Commission's input in these areas to the Caltrans District 5 Director with the intention of increasing Caltrans' responsiveness to City-related issues.

Case Planner: Dan Gullett, Associate Planner

Email: DGullett@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Phone: (805) 564-5470, ext. 4550.

Dan Gullett, Associate Planner, gave the Staff presentation, joined by Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner. Mayor Helene Schneider, and Gregg Hart, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), were also present to answer questions.

Chair Jordan opened the public hearing at 1:49 P.M.

The following people spoke provided public comment:

1. Sharon O'Brien Goldman read and submitted written comment requesting a southbound onramp at Cabrillo Boulevard.
2. Thorn Robertson, Coast Village Road merchant, agreed with Ms. Goldman. Also submitted a comment letter asking the Commission to request an F Modified type

alternative for the Cabrillo intersection, rather than using Los Patos as the primary on or off ramp, that satisfies level of service concerns.

3. Danny Copus, Coast Village Business Association, believes that more work needs to be done. Concerned with cost of the project and how it will be paid for in the future. Concerned with the flow of traffic underneath the freeway under the F Modified plan. Agrees with the need for a southbound on-ramp, but concerned with impact of any turn lanes. Freeway widening will not alleviate all of the traffic from the beach. Surprised that improvement to the Level of Service F intersection has not been introduced into this project.
4. Jack Overall, Montecito Association, was concerned with project funding and asked that the EIR not be passed before funding details are worked out.

With no one else wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed at 2:03 P.M.

Commissioners' comments:

- Commissioner Schwartz commented that she would've liked Caltrans to be present to answer Engineering questions. She also stated that she would like Caltrans to confirm in writing if Malcolm Dougherty of Caltrans supports retention of the left side ramps at Cabrillo Blvd. She stated that we must reopen a southbound on ramp at Cabrillo Blvd based on sufficient empirical evidence available today. She stated that based on her conversations with experienced engineers, including a southbound on-ramp in a configuration that retains left hand off ramps would be difficult to engineer, if feasible at all.
- Commissioner Pujo sees discord in communication and for adequate feedback would like to see a written plan and scheduled discussions, provided on a regular basis, that covers the time between now and the time of the hearing on the Coastal Development Permit (CDP); and between now and the certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
- Commissioner Pujo stated that the City had previously submitted a detailed letter and to pick and choose items from the original letter would weaken and diminish the strength of the original letter. Any new letter should focus more on how we move forward. We need a way of monitoring the progress in new project developments.
- Commissioner Thompson maintains the same comments as those he made last year. Believes that F Modified is the best alternative of those presented. When the draft EIR was reviewed there were some significant impacts to City streets that were not included in the EIR that should be, including the intersections at Cabrillo Boulevard and Coast Village Road/Olive Mill Road. The railroad bridge must be included or it will become an inadequately planned project. Based on past history with Caltrans not fulfilling commitments made on the Operational Improvement Project, he stated that he will not vote in favor of a Coastal Development Permit without Caltrans submitting an adequate EIR. Strongly urges including a Union Pacific Railroad representative in planning meetings.

- Commission Campanella was concerned over differences of opinion with Caltrans that will not be mitigated unless included in a re-circulated EIR. He suggested including studies in the EIR that have been done and to work together on mitigations so that everyone is satisfied when it comes back to the Commission.
- Commissioner Bartlett agreed with Commissioner Thompson's comments. The Coastal Development Permit approval should include the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge. Inclusion of the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge should be included in an EIR recirculation. Agrees with Commissioner Schwartz to include a statement in the letter to Caltrans on whether they support maintaining the left side ramps and reinstalling the missing southbound on ramp at Cabrillo Blvd. We need a local solution that works for the City, Union Pacific, and Caltrans. Noted that Union Pacific could replace the Railroad Bridge more efficiently than Caltrans.
- Commissioner Schwartz wanted to stay focused on approval considerations, environmental, and project scope but found it challenging to provide direction to Caltrans without knowing if the project the Commissioners reviewed last year is the preferred project that Caltrans is considering. Anxious to know if some of the parameters not included in F Modified, such as the retention of a fast lane off ramps at Cabrillo, will be reintroduced since that would impact the project description, environmental review and the Commission's review of the project. The sooner the City receives written confirmation from Caltrans on its position regarding left hand ramps, the clearer the City will be moving forward.
- Commissioner Schwartz referenced specific components in the July 3, 2013 Staff Report that are critical elements to further analyze and resolve, including: Union Pacific Railroad; Cabrillo Boulevard Interchange; Olive Mill Roundabout; and Left Side Ramps. Recalled that last year she and other commissioners were surprised that the Olive Mill interchange was not included in the project. Cited a 2005 letter from the Montecito Association identifying improvements to the Olive Mill interchange. Requested that improvements to the Olive Mill interchange be included in the project description and funded.
- Commissioner Lodge supported a letter being written by the Commission, with stronger wording than what was drafted, that makes it clear that a southbound on ramp, the widening of the railroad bridge, and an Olive Mill Road roundabout must be part of the project. Maintains same comments as made before.
- Commissioner Jordan agreed with Commissioners Lodge and Thompson that the Commission's letter to Caltrans is an opportunity to make Caltrans aware of the City's expectations before a Coastal Development Permit is requested.
- Commissioner Pujo urged Caltrans and SBCAG to hold regularly scheduled feedback discussions with the City, with a schedule prepared in advance and regular formal or informal progress reports back to the Planning Commission, and to use discussion points as target points.
- Many Commissioners were hesitant to believe Caltrans would act on their comments given that a previous promise was broken.
- Some Commissioners commented that Union Pacific's cooperation was critical to any proposed changes to the railroad bridge.

- Commissioner Schwartz asked that if Caltrans' position changes from what was stated at the May 16, 2013 SBCAG hearing, then a new project should return to the Planning Commission long before a request for a Coastal Development Permit is made.

MOTION: Lodge/Bartlett

Send letter to Caltrans requesting that Caltrans:

- Include replacement of the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge at Cabrillo Blvd. and improvements to the Olive Mill interchange as project components in the EIR.
- Disclose and address identified traffic impacts to City Streets and intersections analyzed in a re-circulated EIR.
- Design any proposed Cabrillo interchange to operate at LOS C or better.
- Implement the City's Highway 101 Design Guidelines in any proposed Cabrillo interchange design.
- Provide immediate disclosure, in writing, of Caltrans stance on left hand ramps.
- Meet with staff and interested parties, for regular round table discussions on points of the letter.
- Provide the City advance notice of anticipated EIR preparation, recirculation, and certification timeline.

This motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

ACTUAL TIME: 3:47 P.M.

E. Committee and Liaison Reports.

1. Staff Hearing Officer Liaison Report

None.

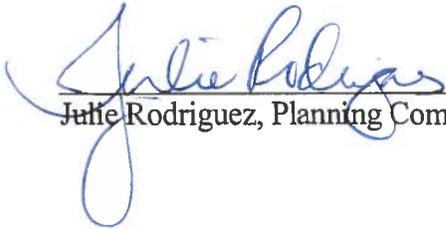
2. Other Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. Commissioner Lodge reported on the Historic Landmarks Commission meeting of August 14, 2013.
- b. Commissioner Thompson reported on the Airport's formal ceremony on September 16, 2013 to name the Airport Terminal.
- c. Commissioner Jordan announced that the City is now recruiting for Boards and Commissions and suggested viewing the City's website, www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov for more information.
- d. Commissioner Jordan announced that it was First Thursday and encouraged the public to participate.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 3:52 P.M.

Submitted by,



Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary