



## **MEETING MINUTES**

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### **TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMITTEE (TCC)**

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA  
Thursday, April 24th, 2008 6:00 PM

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CALL TO ORDER: Chair Tabor called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

#### **ROLL CALL:**

##### TCC MEMBERS

William C. Boyd	Present
Mark Bradley	Present
Keith Coffman-Grey	Present
Michael Cooper	Present
Steve Maas	Present
David Pritchett	Present
David Tabor	Present

##### Attendance

##### CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager  
Michelle Bettle, Acting Administrative Specialist  
Jeannette Candau, Redevelopment Specialist  
John Rousseau, Traffic Technician II  
Dru van Hengel, Transportation Operations Supervisor

##### LIAISONS PRESENT:

Addison Thompson, Planning Commission Liaison

#### **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

None.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Ralph Fertig representing the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition distributed the monthly newsletter containing the results from a survey taken at the Earth Day event and announced Bike Week.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

2. **Approval of TCC Minutes for March 27, 2008**

Mr. Coffman-Grey moved and Mr. Boyd seconded approving the TCC Minutes for March 27, 2008 as written.

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Abstain: 1

Absent: 0

## REPORTS

### 3. West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project

Jeannette Candau, Redevelopment Specialist for the City of Santa Barbara, presented a report on the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project, giving the background of the project, status of the current proposal, details and conceptual designs of proposed changes, the intended end result of the project, timeline for moving forward and a summary.

Ms. Candau invited questions and comments from the Committee. Mr. Pritchett pointed out that the West Beach area is due for Redevelopment-funded projects. Mr. Pritchett then asked if Staff had considered recessed lighting for the pedestrian crosswalks similar to those on Hollister Avenue in Old Town Goleta and was there any evidence that the lighting would make the crosswalk safer. Dru van Hengel addressed Mr. Pritchett's question about lighting, assuring him that Staff had considered the lighting and there wasn't sufficient evidence to suggest that the lighting increased the safety for roadway users for this type of roadway and due to the fact other jurisdictions in the County have removed similar lighting, Staff is not considering the lighting at this time.

Since the project contains numerous design details that are intended to increase the safety of the pedestrian, Mr. Pritchett suggested and that if the project was found to be consistent with the Circulation Element, the Transportation & Circulation Committee should address within the motion, the concern that a future review board could eliminate a design detail that contributes to the safety of pedestrians and thus change the consistency with the Circulation Element. Mr. Pritchett concluded by giving his approval for the project.

After asking a couple of questions to clarify details of the project, Mr. Mass gave his approval of the project.

Mr. Coffman-Grey commented that the area definitely needs a lot of work and overall, he believes it is a great project. He then voiced his concern that there is only one signalized crossing being added with this project. Ms. Candau pointed out that traffic signals were not warranted at the additional intersections of Bath Street and Chapala Street.

Dru van Hengel offered clarification on the process by which they reached the decision not to add signals to the two intersections, explaining that there was potential for conflict between the left-turning vehicles and the pedestrians seeking to cross if these were signalized T-Intersections.

Mr. Boyd suggested considering low-level lighting to the pedestrian crossings.

Mr. Bradley commented that although he would like to see more demand-activated signals, but understands why they aren't allowed at intersections, but suggested signs directing pedestrians to Ambassador Park.

Mr. Tabor voiced concern that a dominant pattern isn't being created at Sea Landing and Castillo Street to capture the eye and create a pattern of entry to indicate where crossings will be and to give people a strong sense of where to go.

Mr. Coffman-Grey reiterated that although he liked the project overall, that he was still uncomfortable giving his endorsement without adding signals to the remaining two crosswalks and suggested that the Committee address the concern by recommending that signals be added to the remaining crossings.

Mr. Boyd suggested looking at adding visual features so that pedestrians on the opposite side would identify the feature as a point of reference for crossing.

Mr. Bradley asked, for clarity, and it was confirmed that signals added at Bath and Chapala streets would be regular traffic signals. He then emphasized that there would be numerous traffic signals in a short distance if traffic signals were installed at the two additional locations.

Browning Allen pointed out that traffic signals across a four-lane road would need a mast arm and would introduce more street furniture. Mr. Allen also pointed out that putting in a signal that is unwarranted opens the City to liability exposure in the event of an accident.

Mr. Maas again voiced his approval of the project stating that the additional crossing, along with the added bulb-outs and refuge islands would be sufficient and he would not endorse a motion requiring more signalized lights to be added to this project.

Dru van Hengel highlighted the significance of the pedestrian refuge explaining that the refuge allows pedestrians that may not feel comfortable crossing four lanes of traffic at one time the option of crossing in two movements, first focusing on traffic in one direction, then completing the movement by focusing on traffic in the other direction.

Ms. Candau offered that the refuge islands planned for Bath Street and Chapala Street are six feet wide, giving pedestrians a significant place to wait for traffic to clear from the other direction.

**Mr. Maas moved and Mr. Coffman-Grey seconded the motion that the Committee find that the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project is still in compliance with the Circulation Element; if substantial changes are made to the plan, the Committee would like to see the project again.**

Discussion:

Mr. Coffman-Grey affirmed that he was convinced that refuge islands would be sufficient for pedestrian safety.

Mr. Pritchett asked the Committee to address his concern of future changes by adding to the current motion that if substantial changes are made to the plan, the Transportation & Circulation Committee would see the project again. Mr. Maas agreed to accept Mr. Pritchett's suggestion as part of the motion.

Mr. Boyd also asked that Staff consider the Committee's comments especially in regard to adding lighting at the crossings and adding visual features, similar to those that were removed from earlier plans.

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

#### **4. Downtown On-Street Parking Inventory**

John Rousseau, Traffic Technician for the City of Santa Barbara presented the results of Downtown On-Street Parking Inventory. Mr. Rousseau was given the task of conducting the inventory of downtown on-street parking as directed by Council. He presented the goals of the project, criteria used for parking spaces, reviewed a typical street and changes to on-street parking that might take place as a result of the inventory and concluded with a summary of added parking as a result of the project.

Dr. Cooper voiced concern that through this project, Staff would be making changes that would later be reversed as a result of another project in which bulb-outs were being installed as part of another project. Mr. Allen answered Dr. Cooper's concern by assuring him that there is good coordination in the department and explained that both projects are going through the Transportation Division and are supervised by him so communication would not be a problem.

Mr. Coffman-Grey asked for clarification on the total number of parking spaces added as a result of this project, to which Mr. Rousseau confirmed that 21 spaces were added. Mr. Coffman-Grey gave his approval of the project and thanked Staff for the work.

Mr. Boyd suggested highlighting the added spaces. Mr. Rousseau pointed out that the City striped on-street parking spaces in the past, but discontinued the striping because of maintenance cost.

Mr. Pritchett asked if the gain of 21 parking spaces would decrease due to the bulb-out project, to which Mr. Allen said that it was a possibility but he couldn't say with certainty because he would have to sit down and review the drawings that Engineering has put together.

#### **5. MTD Monthly Report for March 2008 Transit Assisted Services and Quarterly Traffic Mitigation Report for Crosstown Shuttle, Mesa Loop and Line 1 & 2 Enhancement.**

Mr. Allen invited questions about the MTD Monthly Report for March 2008 Transit Assisted Services and the Quarterly Traffic Mitigation Report for Crosstown Shuttle, Mesa Loop and Line 1 & 2 Enhancement. There were no questions.

Mr. Tabor noted an increase in Wharf-Woody ridership. Mr. Coffman-Grey pointed out that Easter was in March and Mr. Maas pointed out that there was an extra weekend in March.

#### **6. Plan Santa Barbara Update**

Mr. Allen announced an upcoming joint meeting with the Planning Commission covering Plan Santa Barbara. The meeting will be held at 6pm on May 8, 2008.

#### **7. Status of Ongoing Projects**

Mr. Allen gave the Committee an update on the status of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Project and the Jake Boysel Multipurpose Pathway Project.

#### **ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 PM**

**Committee Members:** David Tabor (Chair), David Pritchett (Vice Chair), Bill Boyd, Mark Bradley, Michael Cooper, Keith Coffman-Grey, and Steve Maas

**Liaisons:** Roger Horton (Council Liaison), Addison Thompson (Planning Commission Liaison)