



City of Santa Barbara

Planning Division

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

March 5, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Addison Thompson, Vice-Chair John P. Campanella, Commissioners Jay D. Higgins, Mike Jordan, Sheila Lodge, and Deborah L. Schwartz.

Absent: Commissioner June Pujo

STAFF PRESENT:

Renee Brooke, Senior Planner
N. Scott Vincent, Assistant City Attorney
Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner
Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer
Dan Gullett, Project 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 February 12, 2015
2. Draft Minutes of February 19, 2015
3. PC Reso No. 004-15
1800 El Encanto Road and 1829 Mira Vista Road

MOTION: Jordan/Lodge

Approve the minutes and resolution as corrected.

This motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Pujo)

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 will hold a Special Meeting and Workshop on the New Zoning Ordinance on March 18, 2015 in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, at 630 Garden Street from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. This first meeting will focus on the Issues and Options report.
2. This will be Renee's last meeting as she has accepted the position of City Planner. Allison DeBusk will serve as acting Senior Planner until the position is filled.

Commissioner Schwartz acknowledged with appreciation Ms. Brooke's work with the Commission.

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

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

III. DISCUSSION ITEM

ACTUAL TIME: 1:05 P.M.

STATUS REPORT ON SOUTH COAST 101 HOV LANES PROJECT, UNION PACIFIC BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, AND OLIVE MILL ROUNDABOUT

The purpose of this hearing is to provide a status report to the Planning Commission on the South Coast 101 High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes Project (HOV Project), the preliminary engineering for replacement of the Union Pacific Bridge at Cabrillo Boulevard, and the intersection control evaluation of Olive Mill and Coast Village Roads.

Contact: Robert Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner
Email: RDayton@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Phone: (805) 564-5390

Contact: Daniel Gullett, Project Planner
Email: DGullett@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

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

Robert Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner, gave the Staff presentation. Also contributing to the presentation were Steve VanDenburgh, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Deputy Director, Programming & Project Delivery; Fred Luna, SBCAG Transportation Engineer; and Tony Harris, Executive Vice President, Point C.

Chair Thompson opened the public hearing at 2:46 P.M.

- Cindy Feinberg, Montecito Association President, asked the City Planning Commission for continued collaborative support for Olive Mill/Coast Village Road

improvement, replacement of the Union Pacific Bridge, and improvements to the San Ysidro interchange. Asked the Commission to keep the Montecito Association informed and included in the study group for Olive Mill and Cabrillo design projects.

- Tom Bollay, Montecito Association, Architect, was concerned with the size, bulk, and scale of the proposed Union Pacific Bridge. Suggested a different type of bridge design, such as a true girder bridge, as an alternative, that would not require lowering the pavement.

With no one else wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed at 2:52 P.M.

Commissioner Schwartz left the dais at 2:52 P.M. and returned at 2:55 P.M.

Commissioner's Comments:

- Commissioners asked that the paragraph titled "Caltrans Latest Plans" on Page 6 of the HDR Report be revised to clarify that the South Coast 101 HOV Lanes Project includes a southbound on-ramp at Cabrillo.
- Commissioner Thompson noted that the key decision maker on the bridge replacement is Union Pacific, who was not represented at the hearing.
- Commissioners Jordan and Schwartz asked that Tony Harris, return for a lunch meeting for an informal discussion with the Commission.
- Commissioners were encouraged to hear about the multi-agency cooperation, but concerned with the challenge of funding. Commissioner Jordan stated that the project is only 2/3 funded, with 1/3 being discretionary money that could conceivably be used for parallel projects and suggested that a larger percentage of funding be requested from the State so that more discretionary money can be used for the parallel projects.
- Commissioner Jordan was concerned that continued focus of Caltrans and SBCAG was only on the freeway capacity increase and not on the consequences of the capacity increase, including consequences at Olive Mill Road, which may not be acceptable for the Planning Commission's approval of the Coastal Development Permit. He also stated that the Union Pacific Bridge project is decades old and must be resolved.
- Commissioner Jordan stated that previous improvements made by Caltrans on the freeway have had adverse effects on coastal access and pedestrian and bicycle access and asked that any Caltrans project take these impacts into consideration. He noted his experience driving through the Carrillo underpass in the morning and waiting for ten signal changes, due to the signal timing priority of the freeway off ramps.
- Commissioner Campanella requested that the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) report be made available to the Commissioners. He asked that the construction impacts be considered including the disruption to the local community and commuters on Highway 101, including through-traffic, weekend visitors, and workers. He stated that Coast Village Road will be heavily impacted and must have traffic impacts addressed during construction.
- Commissioner Campanella stated that the roundabout at Olive Mill Road should be done now because it may alleviate the greatest construction impact. Commissioner Schwartz supports the concept roundabout design.

- Commissioner Campanella wants to see Union Pacific involved as part of the solution to addressing construction impacts, especially in consideration of interim route schedules that might transport business commuters.
- Commissioner Campanella asked that staff pay attention to actions at the State and Federal level regarding bridges and rails going in both directions, and possible funding available for bridge projects including the Union Pacific Bridge at Cabrillo.
- Commissioner Schwartz asked that staff work closer with State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, who is chair of the Senate Select Committee on Rail.
- Commissioner Schwartz asked that the Montecito Association be included in community engagement. She also asked that Staff communicate with Commissioners Schwartz and Thompson, who serve as Planning Commission Liaisons to the Highway 101 Improvements Design Subcommittee.
- Commissioner Schwartz referenced Exhibit C, Page 6, "Caltrans Latest Plans" and commented that the reopened south bound lane was missing and mischaracterized. Asked Staff to make a correction to the next reiteration of the document.
- Commissioner Schwartz held up a photo and pointed out the exacerbated congestion on Coast Village Road due to the south bound lane closure.
- Commissioner Schwartz referenced Exhibit A of the Staff Report (SBCAG's February 25, 2015, Project Memorandum) and asked that paragraph titled "Cabrillo Pedestrian Improvements" be re-titled and rewritten by SBCAG staff to be more accurate in terms of the full scope of the Union Pacific bridge replacement project and the City's Memorandum of Understanding with SBCAG.
- Commissioner Thompson stated that moving forward, when this project comes back for a formal review and a Coastal Development Permit, the Commission will recall the promise that the Union Pacific Bridge would be taken care of with the Operational Improvements Project, and how the Operational Improvements Project's elimination of the southbound on ramp exacerbated the traffic problems on Cabrillo Boulevard and Coast Village Road.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

ACTUAL TIME: 3:20 P.M.

E. Committee and Liaison Reports

1. Staff Hearing Officer Liaison Report

- a. Commissioner Jordan reported on the Staff Hearing Officer meeting of March 4, 2015.

2. Other Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. Commissioner Lodge reported on the Historic Landmarks Commission meeting of February 25, 2015.
- b. Commissioner Higgins reported on the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of February 25, 2015.
- c. Renee Brooke gave concluding comments and thanked the Commission, the Planning Commission Secretary and Assistant City Attorney.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 3:24 P.M.

Submitted by,



Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary

