



City of Santa Barbara Planning Division

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

January 21, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Campanella called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

SANTA BARBARA PLANNING COMMISSION:

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

MONTECITO PLANNING COMMISSION:

Chair Michael Phillips, 1st Vice-Chair Jack Overall, 2nd Vice Chair Joe Cole, Commissioners Susan Keller, and J' Amy Brown

Commissioner Keller arrived at 2:03 P.M.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Beatriz Gularte, Senior Planner
N. Scott Vincent, Assistant City Attorney
Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner
Dan Gullett, Supervising Transportation Planner
Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Sneddon, Transportation Deputy Director
Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager
Alex Tuttle, Planner
Rachel VanMullen, Chief Assistant County Counsel
David Villalobos, Recording Secretary

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

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

Chair Campanella opened the public hearing at 2:02 P.M. and, with no one wishing to speak, closed the hearing.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

ACTUAL TIME: 2:02 P.M.

STATUS REPORT ON SOUTH COAST 101 HOV LANES PROJECT AND OLIVE MILL INTERCHANGE ROUNDABOUT

The purpose of this hearing is to provide a status report to the Planning Commissions on the South Coast 101 High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes Project (HOV Project) and to review a preliminary design of a roundabout at the Olive Mill Interchange. There will not be a written staff report provided in advance of the meeting.

City Contact: Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner

Email: RDayton@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Phone: (805) 564-5390

County Contact: Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager

Email Matt@cosbpw.net

Phone: (805) 568-3576

Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner, gave introductory remarks and stated that presentations would be given by Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG); Caltrans; the County of Santa Barbara; and the City of Santa Barbara.

Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Executive Director, gave the SBCAG presentation on the 101 HOV Lanes Project. He was joined by Tony Harris, U.S. Highway 101 Coordinator.

Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner, gave the City of Santa Barbara presentation on the Olive Mill Interchange. He was joined by Dan Gullett, Supervising Transportation Planner.

Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager, gave the County of Santa Barbara update on the Olive Mill Interchange and the San Ysidro Interchange.

Scott Eades, Caltrans – District 5 Project Manager, addressed questions about the Hermosillo exit.

Chair Campanella opened the public hearing at 2:52 P.M.

The following people commented on the update:

1. Thorn Robertson, Montecito resident, 101 HOV project/Hermosillo exit.
2. Victoria Green, Montecito Association Executive Director, encouraged by the presentations given.
3. Shelley Badat, Montecito resident, concerned with congestion due to closure of Cabrillo on ramp that diverts traffic to Olive Mill Road. Does not support the Olive Mill interchange roundabout and the lights and signage it will bring.

4. Trey Pinner, Coast Village Business Association Vice President, appreciates update given. Concerned with roundabout at Olive Mill Road due to timing of roundabout. Need to consider installation before phase IV of HW101 due to impact it will have on Coast Village Road.

With no one else wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed at 2:59 P.M.

Chair Campanella called for a recess at 4:43 P.M and reconvened the meeting at 4:55 P.M. Montecito Planning Commissioners Keller and Cole did not return to the dais.

Commission's comments:

Commissioner Overall:

- Ideally, sees that the parallel projects are integral to the overall HOV 101 project and funded in its entirety. Would like to see a unified project.
- The better informed the public is, the better it can be served.

Commissioner Thompson:

- Agrees with points made by Commissioner Overall.
- Staff is doing a good job. Keep it moving.

Commissioner Schwartz:

- The main HOV project and the 3 parallel projects (interchanges) comprise the northern gateway to Montecito and Santa Barbara, with two of the projects in the City of Santa Barbara's jurisdiction. The aesthetics associated with the proposed roundabout at Olive Mill Road are essential in the need to be sensitive to the design detail. Look at lighting, signage, and landscape.
- Regarding whether or not there is a need for a roundabout at Olive Mill Road, this roundabout is not a new concept and improvement to the congestion at Olive Mill road was already being discussed in 2005 as a need for traffic circulation improvement. Regardless of what happens with the Cabrillo interchange, it is unknown whether we will get improvements actually constructed there. We should not tie ourselves to the hope that we will get the right agreements from Union Pacific and the funding needed even if we get Union Pacific's consent. Let's not rely on feasibility of Cabrillo interchange parallel project going through. Let's address traffic circulation and congestion relief at Coast Village Road and Olive Road. She is supportive of moving forward of a roundabout on Coast Village Road and Olive Road.
- In terms of Coastal Development Permits (CDP) and related timelines, she is interested in hearing more from staff with more frequent discussion (lunch) to understand when and where the Planning Commission needs to be poised in the CDP process.
- Expressed appreciation for organizing today's meeting in conjunction with the Montecito Planning Commission. Encourages more briefings for the public to keep apprized and engaged in the process.

Commissioner Pujo:

- Today's discussion has underscored the extreme level of complexity of a project like this. Appreciates the collaboration between SBCAG, Caltrans, the consultant, and the City and County.
- Appreciates the commitment to advance the work on the planning of the parallel projects concurrently with the Phase IV project.
- Today sent a clear message that at the completion of the project study report, the City and County will be cued to taking a look at developing the 35% drawings.

Chair Phillips:

- Appreciates that this complex issue was addressed. Appreciated the look at the parallel projects. Thinks that there is a direct relationship between the Carrillo ramp closure and the congestion on Coast Village Road, which happened almost overnight. Five points at the Coast Village Road intersection are too much, but people are good at it. If you take away the back up on Coast Village Road, Montecito would be happy and it would still keep that semi-rural feel that is fought to maintain.
- Roundabouts are efficient, but not comfy. Glad that they will be studied and hopes that we do not get to the roundabout issue.
- Appreciates the invitation today, especially since Montecito Planning Commission has less jurisdiction.

Commissioner Brown:

- Getting the 101 built is the priority over the parallel projects. Does not want to get involved in funding for the projects that will take away from completion of Highway 101.
- Recommends looking at Coast Village Road with a temporary 2016 solution, such as restriping the road, taking out the median, or taking away parking to get congestion moving. Coast Village Road needs to be corrected for commerce and residents.
- A roundabout might work down the road, but the impact on the hotel will be dramatic if the roundabout is constructed.
- Even though this does not fall into the jurisdiction of the Montecito Planning Commission, she would like to see this team return to the Montecito Planning Commission, even jointly with the County Planning Commission, for input.
- Also expressed appreciation for being a part of today's meeting.

Commissioner Higgins: Thanked staff for presentation and questions answered.

Commissioner Jordan: (03:02)

- Would like to see data put together that shows the roundabout once the southbound entry is added and what effect it will make.
- Puts more priority on the Cabrillo railroad underpass project than either of the two other projects. There are already problems up the corridor trying to get through intersections that will be worse with the Highway 101 expansion. Twenty years from

now this could become the entry to Santa Barbara. If there are resources that could be saved to address the railroad crossing, then use them there before using on the roundabout.

- Appreciates that all of the team was here today. Has been concerned with the level of engagement and trust factor. Appreciates the breakup of the Phase IV and the recognition that there is more work to be done with the northern part of the project. Appreciates the additional resources and consultant that have been added to the project.
- Two thirds of the funding is coming from this region, not one third. The one third of money that is associated with STIP is actually money that would have been used in this region for other uses, such as road repairs or projects that is now not going to be used. In actuality we are funding two thirds and the rest will come from other sources, Federal or State. He believes that out of the two thirds of funding, the City of Santa Barbara is a higher contributor than the rest of the county and is a larger stakeholder in the process. When he hears the response that delays will lead to higher costs, he responds that a quick completion will lead to much worse consequences sooner.
- The burden on him to look at this project as a regional benefit should be matched by the project's burden to look at the local consequences.

Commissioner Lodge:

- Agrees with Commissioner Jordan that the intersection at Hot Springs, the freeway, and the railroad track should be a priority.
- If it is correct that there may or may not be a real issue with stacking of cars coming off the northbound off ramp on Olive Mill Road, then it would be a major reason for the roundabout, but may not be necessary with traffic getting on the freeway southbound at Olive Mill, getting on at Cabrillo. It could provide some wiggle room.

Commissioner Campanella:

- Appreciates that everything will be reviewed from a practical standpoint, financial standpoint and, environmental standpoint.
- Appreciates that the Montecito Planning Commission was here today and sharing their thoughts.
- Looks forward to future updates and reviewing Coastal Development Permits. We are heading in a good direction.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Campanella adjourned the meeting at 5:25 P.M.

Submitted by,

Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary

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