



MEETING MINUTES (REVISED)

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMITTEE (TCC)

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA
Thursday, February 24, 2005
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

ROLL CALL:

TCC MEMBERS

William C. Boyd (Chair)
Keith Coffman-Grey (Vice-Chair)
Michael Cooper
Isabelle Greene
Barry Siegel

Attendance

Present
Present
Present
Excused
Present

CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager
Bettie Weiss, City Planner
Robert J. Dayton, Supervising Transportation Planner
Tully Clifford, Supervising Transportation Engineer
Susan McLaughlin, Assistant Transportation Planner
Anne Van Belkom, Senior Office Specialist

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES :

The Revised Minutes of the Transportation & Circulation Committee meeting on December 9, 2004, were approved as written with a vote of 3-0-1 (Abstain: Cooper) (Absent: Greene).

The Minutes of the Transportation & Circulation Committee meeting on January 27, 2004, were approved as written with a vote of 4-0-0 (Absent: Greene).

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

As per current practice, Vice Chair Coffman-Grey was nominated for TCC Chair by Mr. Siegel. Dr. Cooper seconded this nomination which was approved by a unanimous vote.

With the absence of Ms. Greene, the selection of Vice-Chair was postponed until the next TCC meeting.

At this point, Mr. Coffman-Grey was asked to preside over the rest of the meeting as the new TCC Chair.

4. Update on the Implementation of the St. Francis Area Neighborhood Mobility Plan.

Tully Clifford, Supervising Transportation Engineer, presented the TCC with a summary of the traffic calming devices that were planned for selected intersections as determined through the St. Francis Mobility Plan. TCC members were presented with a map showing the conceptual traffic calming scheme and the distribution of demonstrated opposition or support from neighbors. Also included were pictures demonstrating temporary (**Stage 1**), semi-permanent (**Stage 2**), and permanent traffic calming installations (**Stage 3**). Mr. Clifford discussed the differences of the three types of installations and the reasoning behind the progression of the installations from temporary to semi-permanent to permanent. He also informed the TCC that the first installations would begin on March 14, 2005.

TCC members questioned whether traffic calming installations could simply skip Stage 1 and go directly to Stage 2. Staff replied that Stage 1 installations were an important step to allow for "tweaking" the installations. However, once staff has gathered more information about the results of installing specific traffic calming devices, they might in future be able to directly install identical traffic calming devices at a Stage 2 level if they would be going into similar intersections. Staff informed the TCC that they plan to do press releases and mailers to the neighborhood in order to keep the public informed. Mr. Clifford also stated that there is intense media interest in these installations, and thus these newly installed traffic calming devices are bound to be noted and commented on by the media.

TCC members asked questions about specific locations, especially the intersection at Garden Street and Micheltorena. Staff replied that this would be one of the last intersections to be worked on so as to be able to benefit from what has been learned from the earlier traffic calming installations. Since this is a critical intersection, staff wants to make sure that the traffic calming installation in this intersection will be successful.

Funding continues to be an issue. Currently, there is approximately \$750,000 available (\$300,000 from the St. Francis NTMP and \$450,000 from a Safe Routes to School grant). To get the most benefit from these limited funds, Mr. Clifford said these funds would allow him to install traffic calming devices at all of the selected intersections at a semi-permanent level.

5. Review of January 2005 Downtown Waterfront Shuttle Monthly Report.

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, informed the TCC members that a copy of this report was included in their TCC package. There were no further questions.

6. Abandonment of Castillo Street Between Junipero and Pueblo Streets.

Susan McLaughlin, Assistant Transportation Planner, briefly described the project and the requirements faced by Cottage Hospital regarding adherence to State Senate Bill 1953 that ultimately led to their request that the City abandon the Street Easement of the 2300 block of Castillo Street between Pueblo and Junipero Streets.

Ms. Mc Laughlin stated that her purpose for her presentation was to ask the TCC to make a final recommendation to Council to approve the abandonment of the 2300 block of Castillo Street, and to further recommend that Council also approve the staff's recommended intersection improvements as a condition of this abandonment.

Ms. McLaughlin informed the TCC about the effect of this abandonment on hospital access, intersections around the campus perimeter, and neighborhood circulation. To minimize these effects, Ms. McLaughlin discussed the specific mitigations that were being recommended as conditions of approval for the Cottage Hospital project, relative to the abandonment of the 2300 block of Castillo Street. This would include the provision of an adequate number of hospital access points, the improvement of the pedestrian circulation around the perimeter of the hospital, and the improvement of the pedestrian circulation patterns on roadway segments as a result of diverted trips created by this abandonment.

Chair Coffman-Grey asked for public comment following the presentation.

Elaine Dietsch – informed the TCC about her concerns regarding the traffic circulation in the intersection of Oak Park Lane and Los Olivos Streets, as well as regarding the problem with having parking on both sides of the street on Castillo Street.

Jodi Leipner – A copy of her letter was passed around and will be attached to these minutes.

TCC members had many comments and questions. There were concerns about the new parking garage being used by Schott Center users and neighbors instead of hospital employees. However, it was explained to the TCC that parking in the new parking structure would be limited to Cottage Hospital staff and employees only, and that this garage would be one of the first things built in order to minimize parking problems. The intersection improvements being requested were also discussed in terms of which improvements would be done by Cottage Hospital as a condition of approval to minimize any negative effects on the community, and which would be done as part of the Oak Park Neighborhood NTMP. Mr. Boyd commented that making a decision on whether this street abandonment met the goals of the Circulation Element was difficult to ascertain since there is no guidance in the Circulation Element regarding street abandonment.

After further discussion with TCC members, Mr. Boyd made the revised motion that the TCC would approve the abandonment on condition that the developer of the Cottage Hospital project would be required to fund the twelve intersection improvements.

MOTION 1: Made by Boyd and seconded by Siegel.

The Transportation & Circulation Committee recommends that Council:

1. Find that the Street Easement (for the 2300 Block of Castillo Street between Pueblo and Junipero Streets) is not necessary for present or prospective public street purposes but is needed for a temporary public service easement;
2. Find that this Street Easement is not necessary for a non-motorized transportation facility; and
3. Approve the abandonment of this Street Easement on condition that the developer of Cottage Hospital agrees to fund a series of twelve intersection recommendations set forth in the Staff Report (and listed below), in accordance with the City Transportation Division design specifications:

1. Castillo at Pueblo – Raised Intersections.
2. Oak Park Lane at Pueblo – Curb Extensions.
3. Oak Park Lane at Junipero – Curb Extensions.
4. Castillo at Junipero – Curb Extensions.
5. Bath at Junipero – Raised Sidewalk and Curb Extensions.
6. Bath at Pueblo-Curb Extensions.
7. Castillo at Los Olivos-Mini Traffic Circle.
8. De La Vina at Quinto-Curb Extensions.
9. Bath at Quinto-Curb Extensions.
10. Castillo at Quinto-Curb Extensions.
11. Quinto at Alamar-Modified Intersection.
12. Calle Real at Junipero-Curb Extensions.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 (Greene)

7. Staff Briefing on Current Topics.

101 In Motion:

Rob Dayton stated that the eight alternative packages were being narrowed down to three to four packages. Currently the focus is on adding six lanes, rail, bus lanes, and a high occupancy vehicle lane. Mr. Siegel requested that the TCC receive a copy of the written report SBCAG is required to write explaining how and why the various projects dropped out of consideration. Rob Dayton will check with SBCAG to have this report forwarded to the TCC when it becomes available.

Oak Park NTMP:

Staff had a successful meeting with neighbors on Stanley Drive about two to three weeks ago to review and demonstrate the improvements being planned.

Staffing:

Transportation Planning lost one Transportation Planner due to the resignation of Judy Johnduff. There is a possibility that she may come back part time in the summer in order to put together the Parking Design Guidelines.

Council Meetings:

On Tuesday, March 1, 2005, at 6:00 PM, Council will hear a staff presentation on issues affecting the Las Positas Valley, and provide direction as to the processes being undertaken to address project-related community planning issues. Members of the TCC were invited to the meeting.

On Thursday, March 10, 2005, from 9 AM – 11 AM, Council will have a semi-annual work session with the Planning Commission on work efforts. Staff will send the TCC copies of the Agenda and the Staff Report. Members of the TCC were invited to attend the meeting.

8. Review of Upcoming Agenda Items.

March 24:

Pedestrian Master Plan (depends on whether the consultant can get this document finalized).

Gregg Hart will give an update on the 101 In Motion.

April 28:

Continue Pedestrian Master Plan.

Joint TCC/PC meeting on General Plan Update.

9. Committee Member/Subcommittee Comments.

Mr. Boyd informed the TCC and staff that he and Chair Coffman-Grey had met with the Planning Commission and Councilmembers to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the TCC with the outcome that there may be a new direction to staff and new responsibilities for the TCC. Mr. Allen described some of the items that would go to the TCC such as Capital Improvement Projects prior to Engineering Design, like the Milpas Street Beautification that the TCC reviewed in December 2004. In addition, the TCC may be asked to weigh in on major land use projects, as well as changes in land use projects that are related to the Circulation Element.

Mr. Boyd requested to have the vacancies on the TCC filled more quickly than the normal recruitment process allows. Mr. Allen again reminded the TCC that the recruitment process at City Hall only occurs twice per year.

10. Recognition: Outgoing Chair.

Chair Coffman-Grey honored outgoing Chair Boyd with a plaque for his participation as TCC Chair in 2004.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:06 PM

Please Note: These Minutes were revised on Monday, March 28, 2005. Items in bold and italics have been added to the Minutes, while items that have been crossed out have been deleted.