



MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMITTEE (TCC)

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA
Thursday, July 28, 2005
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Coffman-Grey called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

TCC MEMBERS

William C. Boyd
Mark Bradley
Keith Coffman-Grey
Michael Cooper
Isabelle Greene
Barry Siegel
David Tabor

Attendance

Excused
Present
Present
Present
Present
Present
Present

CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager
Robert J. Dayton, Supervising Transportation Planner
Anne Van Belkom, Senior Office Specialist
Tully Clifford, Supervising Transportation Engineer
Louis Lazarine, Redevelopment Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Roger Horton, Councilmember
Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance, SBMTD
Steve Yates, Conceptual Motion

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Agenda Item #5 (Removal of Crosswalk) will be presented prior to Agenda Item #4 (West Downtown Improvement Project).

On behalf of the TCC, Chair Coffman-Grey welcomed the two new TCC members, Mark Bradley and David Tabor.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ralph Fertig, President of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, invited the TCC and members of the audience to the Walk-Bike California Conference in Ventura from September 14-17. For information, their e-mail address is walkbikecalifornia.org. On Saturday, September 17th, there will be a free bike ride tour led by Mr. Fertig, as well as a Downtown walking tour led by Eva Inbar, Councilmember.

Mr. Fertig also informed the TCC about a new bicycle shop that is opening in September at 615 Gutierrez Street.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Joint TCC/PC meeting on April 28, 2005, were approved as written with a vote of:

Ayes: 4 (Coffman-Grey, Cooper, Greene, Siegel) Noes: 0 Abstain: 2 (Bradley, Tabor)
Absent: 1 (Boyd)

Following the April 28th Joint TCC/PC meeting, Dr. Cooper completed his remarks regarding the PMP. He asked that these remarks be added to the commentary section being prepared as a supplement to the minutes. Staff will include them.

The Minutes of the TCC meeting on June 9, 2005, were approved as written with a vote of:

Ayes: 4 (Coffman-Grey, Cooper, Greene, Siegel) Noes: 0 Abstain: 2 (Bradley, Tabor)
Absent: 1 (Boyd)

Since the minutes reflect that the 101 In Motion would be returned to the TCC later this summer, but this is not indicated on the Future Agenda list, Dr. Cooper asked when this item would be brought back to the TCC. Staff replied that they would get back to the TCC with this information.

The Minutes of the TCC meeting on June 23, 2005, were approved as written with a vote of:

Ayes: 4 (Coffman-Grey, Cooper, Greene, Siegel) Noes: 0 Abstain: 2 (Bradley, Tabor)
Absent: 1 (Boyd)

3. MTD's May and June 2005 Monthly Reports – Downtown/Waterfront Shuttle and Commuter Lot Shuttle – Browning Allen.

TCC members were advised that Steve Maas from SBMTD was in the audience and would be able to answer any questions. Mr. Maas was able to confirm that the Wharf Woody hours were changed to run only on weekends as of July 2005. MTD was not able to determine specific reasons for the decrease in overall ridership in 2005 but was in the process of developing new marketing plans which are expected to attract new riders. Mr. Damiano from MTD would be able to attend a future TCC meeting to discuss those plans.

4. Removal of Crosswalk – Tully Clifford.

Mr. Clifford explained that this item was back before the TCC due to inadequate posting for the public to comment. Mr. Clifford quickly reviewed the scenarios of the two crosswalks scheduled to be removed and gave his reasons for their removal.

Portesuello at Gillespie Street Sidewalk

It will not be possible to move the westerly crosswalk that is slated for removal more towards the west due to the drainage issue. With the removal of the westerly crosswalk, there still is a reasonable alternative available since easterly crosswalk will give access to the playing field and to La Cumbre Middle School. There is also another school crossing that is currently not marked with a ladder, and this crosswalk will be marked with a ladder.

As an alternative to the westerly crosswalk that is to be removed, Ms. Greene suggested adding another crosswalk at the next western street that would also give access to the ball field and give a first opportunity to cross to the school. Mr. Clifford is currently looking into this to determine costs and funding opportunities. TCC members still have concerns about the removal of the westerly crosswalk.

Hollister at La Patera Sidewalk

The easterly crosswalk slated for removal ends in an area that has no sidewalk. The westerly crosswalk will actually guide people to the bus parking area and thus is the preferred location for crossing the street. This crosswalk is currently being reconstructed to include ADA accessible ramps.

Following questions and further discussion, the TCC asked Anne Van Belkom to read the three motions made at the last meeting in order to make the following motion that would include votes from the two new TCC members.

MOTION 1 : Made by Coffman-Grey and seconded by Cooper.

The Transportation & Circulation Committee is confirming the previous three motions made at the June 23rd TCC meeting.

Ayes: 6 (Bradley, Coffman-Grey, Cooper, Greene, Siegel, Tabor) Noes: 0 Abstain: 0
Absent: 1 (Boyd).

Following additional discussion, it was clarified that the Public Highway Code mandates a public hearing regarding any removal of crosswalk to allow the public to both hear why the crosswalk is being removed and to voice their opinions. While the final decision regarding any removal of crosswalk is under the purview of the Traffic Engineer, public opinion is helpful in that it may point to the need for further investigations regarding other alternatives or modifications.

MOTION 2 : Made by Greene and seconded by Bradley.

The Transportation & Circulation Committee recommends that the westerly crosswalk at Portesuello Avenue at Gillespie Street be left in place for the present due to the current funding scenario but that the lamp post be moved to the new easterly crosswalk, and that an additional crosswalk be added (at the westerly cross street from the present westerly crosswalk) before the present crosswalk is scheduled for removal.

Ayes: 3 (Greene, Coffman-Grey, Siegel), Noes: 3 (Bradley, Tabor, Cooper), Abstains: 0,
Absent 1 (Boyd)

5. West Downtown Improvement Project – Conceptual Motion.

Mr. Yates from Conceptual Motion presented this informational item. The TCC and the public were invited to a Community Workshop on Saturday, July 30, 2005, at 10 AM at the Louise Lowry Davis Center for a first look at a conceptual design and an opportunity to comment.

Mr. Yates reviewed the project goals and the proposed budget for the planned improvements on Anapamu and Ortega Streets (beginning on each street from the 101 pedestrian overcrossing bridges up to but not including Chapala Street intersection). Construction is scheduled for Spring 2006.

TCC members were in favor of the project but were concerned about the lack of funding for canopy trees and parkway planting. They also questioned the need for pavers in the intersections and would prefer concrete in order to extend the funding to include canopy trees, parkway planting, and other amenities. Of major concern were the safety issues for bicyclists and the maneuverability of MTD busses and commercial/emergency vehicles around the proposed bulbouts, as well as the need to locate traffic poles/lights to maximize visibility around intersection corners. Mr. Yates was advised of the parking situation on Anapamu Street to allow for morning and afternoon bike lanes to and from school.

Public Comment:

Ralph Fertig stated that as a regular bicyclist, he rides in the travel lane instead of in the bike path so bulbouts are not an issue for him. He is not familiar with the situation on Anapamu Street.

The conceptual plan was also reviewed with Victor Shur and Bonnie Elliot from AACS who were 100% in favor of this project.

MOTION 3: Made by Siegel and seconded by Greene.

The Transportation & Circulation Committee finds that the West Downtown Improvement Project is consistent with the goals of the Circulation Element.

Ayes: 5 (Bradley, Tabor, Greene, Coffman-Grey, Siegel) Noes: 1 (Cooper)
Abstains: 0, Absent: 1 (Boyd)

6. Draft Report on LOSSAN: North Corridor Strategic Plan – Rob Dayton.

This draft rail plan covers a 351 mile rail corridor from San Diego to San Luis Obispo and is being compiled by LOSSAN, a strategic agency that involves representatives from six counties and multiple rail line owners on this rail corridor to coordinate current and future rail issues regarding passenger and freight rail. Of special concern is the fact that 80% of the northern section of the corridor (Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo) is single track which makes it strategically important to determine how rail will move on this portion of the corridor. The draft plan went to the SBCAG last week for their review and comments and will be presented to Council on August 23, 2005. It is an informational item for the TCC.

As part of the 101 Operational Improvements, a rail study was included to determine how the rail corridor can be improved, especially the section from Ventura to Santa Barbara and Goleta as a way to alleviate present and future congestion.

TCC members were concerned about the lack of funding available even if agreements could be reached on what rail improvements to make. Also of concern was the lack of a connection from the Metrolink (which currently ends in Ventura) to Santa Barbara and Goleta, and the coordination at the train station with bus service to employer locations.

7. Staff Briefing on Current Topics.

St. Francis Improvements:

The temporary traffic calming devices are still in place and are being evaluated by staff. There are still problems with the illegal removal of cones from these temporary installations.

Oak Park NTMP:

The newsletter with the ballot has gone out and ballots are being counted. Another Core Group Meeting will be called since the response is slow. This item will come before the TCC before the end of the year if community consensus can be reached on the Oak Park Neighborhood NTMP.

Transit Meeting:

The Enhanced Transit Subcommittee (ETS) meets every other Wednesday at 5:30 PM at MTD. Cooper and Coffman-Grey represent the TCC on this subcommittee with Mark Bradley acting as the alternate.

General Plan Update:

Chair Coffman-Grey asked when this item would get on the agenda. Staff will review and get back to the TCC with further information.

101 In Motion: Mr. Siegel asked when the TCC could expect the City's position on the 101 In Motion as an agenda item since it may take several meetings to discuss this item for development of a recommendation to Council. Staff replied that this was slated for a future agenda.

8. Review of Upcoming Agenda Items.

August 25, 2005 – the TCC will hold a public meeting in Council Chambers instead of in the Gebhard Room which will be used by the Ordinance Committee on that date.

September 22, 2005 – the TCC meeting will again be held in the Gebhard Room. The Agenda Item for review and for recommendation to Council will be revised roles of the TCC.

9. Committee Member/Subcommittee Comments.

Chair Coffman-Grey informed the TCC that he is a member of the newly formed Street Light Advisory Committee which is looking at standards for lighting in specific areas of the City.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:40 PM