



MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMITTEE (TCC)

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA
Thursday, June 22, 2006 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Coffman-Grey called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

ROLL CALL:

TCC MEMBERS

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

Attendance

Absent
Present
Present
Present
Present
Present

CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager
Robert J. Dayton, Supervising Transportation Planner
Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant
Alexandra Ho, Administrative Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, SBMTD.
Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance, SBMTD

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jim Westby felt that Santa Barbara's transportation data gathering process needs improvement and the City should move to a continuous data collection system. This system should be flexible so it can be moved from location to location and study accidents and other street information. All transportation data should be posted on the web in as real-time as possible.

Michael Self stated that Chapter 12 of the Circulation Element states that neighborhoods should be included in discussions relating to the effects of traffic and residential streets. She also feels that she is not receiving requested information such as grants given to the City since 2003. She asked where citizens can go to see how the dollars are being spent by the City of Santa Barbara.

Dale Francisco read two letters that were sent to the Santa Barbara News Press regarding Chapala Street. He feels the narrowing of Chapala was not necessary because during rush hour he counted 470 cars and only six bicyclists.

Sherrie Fisher (General Manager of SBMTD) handed out souvenir stress balls to the TCC. She was pleased to inform the TCC that there was support for the proposed MTD improvements by UCSB, County of Santa Barbara, and the City of Goleta. Ms. Fisher will be meeting with them shortly. She also announced that MTD was able to obtain new buses at an earlier date than expected.

Consent Calendar:

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Tabor and seconded by Bradley to approve the TCC minutes from April 27, 2006, as written.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1

The TCC minutes for May 22, 2006 were postponed until the following meeting in order for TCC members to review an audio recording of that meeting.

REPORTS:

3. MTD's Monthly Downtown/Waterfront Shuttle and Commuter Lot Shuttle Report

TCC members were concerned about the direction of ridership on the Downtown/Waterfront Shuttle. Dr. Cooper asked for reasons that current ridership is at the lowest it has been since 1995-1996. Steve Maas replied that it was much more rainy of a month compared to last year and Ms. Fisher added that because of slower traffic, State Street has also slowed down. SBMTD's Transit Development Department is in the process of completing a more detailed analysis of these changes.

4. Bike Lanes on Anapamu Street

Rob Dayton, Supervising Transportation Planner, presented a PowerPoint presentation that explained how temporary street parking was added during the construction of the Granada Garage. This changed full time bike lanes into temporary lanes during specified hours of the day on the north side of the 00 West block and the south side of the 100 East block of Anapamu. The City of Santa Barbara made a commitment to the bicycle community to restore these bike lanes to their original state once the Granada Garage was completed. However, following the completion of the Granada Garage, businesses in the surrounding area requested that the temporary parking in place during construction become permanent. The purpose for tonight's meeting on this topic was for the TCC to hear from these businesses and to receive public input. The staff recommendation is that the bike lanes be reinstated to a full time status on Anapamu Street on the 00 West and 100 East blocks. Mr. Dayton advised the TCC that the City assured the bicycle community that the bike lanes would be restored when the garage was completed

Public Comment:

Mary O'Gorman (Santa Barbara County Action at Work) supports the staff recommendation since she recognizes the need for balanced modes of transportation.

Ralph Fertig (Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition) read from the June 2002 Quick Release newsletter which stated that the affected streets during the construction of the Granada Garage would return to their original condition.

Larry Kreider (Elements Restaurant, 129 E. Anapamu St) stated that there is no private parking for his restaurant or staff and street parking is vital to his business. He would support the bike lanes during school hours.

Jason Womack (Coffee Cat, 1201 Anacapa St) also agreed that street level parking is vital to his business and asked for a compromise on Anapamu Street.

Eric Kelley (Book Den, 15 E. Anapamu St) is an advocate of alternative transportation but wants to preserve street level parking for visitors and customers. He questioned if it was worth losing the parking in order to restore bike lanes on two isolated blocks.

Michelle Thomas (Krispin Leather, 18 W. Anapamu St) would also like parking to remain in front of her store and would be willing to compromise with having bike lanes during scheduled hours.

Marshall Rose (Ex-Director of Downtown Organization) wants temporary parking spaces to become permanent. He reminded the TCC that Chapter Eight of the Circulation Element states that the City shall continue to manage the Downtown public parking supply to support the economic vitality of the Downtown business district while sustaining or enhancing its historical and livable qualities. This includes maintaining current on-street parking and adding additional parking when possible. He stated there is a high demand for parking due to such destination locations as the Granada Theatre, SoHo, Victoria Hall, etc.

Dale Francisco stated that while the Circulation Element encourages bike riding, he feels that current infrastructures should not be taken away until a demand exists for alternative transportation such as bicycling.

Michael Self encouraged the Transportation Division to make a general plan instead of doing it piecemeal. She asked that parking and bike lanes be shared with each being allowed during set times. Ms. Self also handed in a petition with signatures from business owners and managers regarding the continuation of street parking on Anapamu Street.

Gary Lynd (State and A Restaurant, 1201 State St) feels that West Anapamu Street is very narrow and asked that the bike lanes be moved to Victoria Street or another street instead of remaining on Anapamu.

TCC Comment:

TCC members had difficulty in coming up with a recommendation since both sides presented compelling arguments, and the City originally stated they would return the bike lanes to full time status. While the TCC members recognized the strong need for bicycle lanes, they also realized the need for street level parking for downtown businesses. Questions were raised as to whether Anapamu Street was the most appropriate East-West thoroughfare for bike lanes. Chair Coffman-Grey suggested a compromise on the recommendation that would support the staff recommendation but allow the bike lanes to become temporary parking in the evenings. TCC members asked staff if they could return to the next TCC meeting with a recommendation of optimal time frames for bike and parking hours during the summer and winter. Following additional discussion, Chair Coffman-Grey withdrew his original motion and presented this revised motion.

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

The Transportation & Circulation Committee recommends that Council reinstate the full-time bike lanes on Anapamu Street on the 00 West block and 100 East block with the caveat to allow bike lanes during daylight hours with parking outside of those hours. Staff is to come back to the next TCC meeting to determine timelines for bike lanes and parking during summer and winter hours.

Ayes: 4 (Bradley, Green, Coffman-Grey, and Tabor)
Abstains: 0

Absent: 1 (Boyd)

Noes: 1 (Cooper)

5. Upper State Street Traffic Study

Rob Dayton gave a PowerPoint presentation as an informational item regarding the Proposed Upper State Street and Improvement Plan. He presented the history of what led to this study and identified key issues to be addressed by the study. Mr. Dayton identified the proposed area of study and also provided a projected timeline. This schedule would include a walking tour and various workshops, preparation of a draft plan, public review, City Council action, and finally implementation. This study will require a huge staffing commitment from Community Development, Public Works, City Attorney's Office, Parks and Recreation, Finance, Fire and Police, and SBMTD. Unfortunately this study is being implemented at the same time as the SB 2030, which is a General Plan Update.

Mr. Dayton reviewed an additional timeline showing the process of the Upper State Street Study in conjunction with that of SB 2030. TCC members were asked for their initial thoughts and were requested to participate in both the walking tour and workshops. The walking tour has been rescheduled from August to October. Mr. Dayton informed the TCC that once the draft plan has been developed, he will return to the TCC for review and comment of the draft plan.

TCC members expressed interest that other areas of the City such as the Mesa and Milpas Street would benefit from this type of study. Staff clarified for Dr. Cooper that the focus of this particular study is on commercial areas and the traffic effects of new development while the focus of the St. Francis and Oak Park NTMPs was on decreasing speeding in the neighborhoods. That was specifically requested by the neighbors in the St. Francis and Oak Park areas. Mr. Dayton informed the TCC that Ms. Greene had written a vision statement of Upper State Street which would be distributed at a later time. Chair Coffman-Grey also requested copies of the PowerPoint presentation to be given to TCC members.

6. Update on Measure D

Rob Dayton informed TCC members that Measure D had been submitted to the cities for a vote from each city council and each city voted in favor of the plan. The plan will now go to Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Board and if approved will then go to the Board of Supervisors for a recommendation that it be put on the November 2006 ballot. The Board of Supervisors will address this issue sometime in July.

7. Staff Briefings on Current Topics

St. Francis Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan – The permanent installations of the traffic calming devices have been designed and will go out to bid this summer. Construction is planned for the fall.

8. Review of Upcoming Agenda Items

July 2006 – Update on Board of Supervisors action regarding Measure D
Parking Design Guidelines

August 2006 – To Be Determined

Chair Coffman-Grey inquired when the presentation of traffic circulation during disasters would come before the TCC. Dr. Cooper suggested that Joan Kent be contacted since she already gave a presentation to the Downtown Organization on this topic. Mark Bradley inquired about the Cliff Drive Relinquishment and was told that the timeline for this has yet to be determined.

9. Committee Member/Subcommittee Comments

None.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:07 PM