



# MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMITTEE (TCC)

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA  
Thursday, October 13, 2011, 6:00 PM

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

### ROLL CALL:

#### TCC MEMBERS

Hillary Blackerby  
Mark Bradley  
Keith Coffman-Grey  
Edward France  
Susan Horne  
David Pritchett  
David Tabor

#### Attendance

Present  
Present  
Present  
Present  
Present  
Excused  
Present

#### CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager  
Robert J. Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner  
Kimberly Thaler-Strange, Administrative Specialist  
Sarah Grant, Assistant Transportation Planner  
Malinda Reese, Project Engineer  
Jessica Grant, Project Planner  
Derrick Bailey, Supervising Transportation Engineer  
Steve Foley, Supervising Transportation Planner  
Lorenzo Duarte, SBPD  
Adrien Gutierrez, SBPD  
Joe Poire, SBFD

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Greg Tyce, Community  
Bruce Raff, Community  
Sharon Byrne, Community  
Michelle Kirkley, Community  
Tim Kirkley, Community  
Steve Berkus, Community  
Eric Andersen, Community

#### LIAISONS PRESENT

Deborah Schwartz, Planning Commission Liaison

Bruce Raff, Comm Member  
Michelle Kirkley, Comm Member  
Steve Berkus, Comm Member  
Eric Andersen, Comm Member

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 12, 2011 and Jun 23, 2011 meetings where a TCC quorum was present.

**Motion:** Approve the Minutes from the May 12, 2011 and June 23, 2011 meetings.

Motion made to approve the minutes by Ms. Blackerby, seconded by Chair France

Ayes: 6      Noes:      Abstain:      Absent: 1

## REPORTS

### 2. Review of the April, May, June and July MTD Monthly Reports, the Fourth Quarter Traffic Mitigation Report, and the Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report.

Mr. Allen reminded the TCC that these reports were informational. The Committee expressed a desire to have MTD come and give a presentation about the annual report so that the public would know about how MTD is doing, and the ridership numbers. Mr. Allen said that he would arrange a presentation for the January meeting.

### 3. Safe Routes to School – Modoc and Portesuello Intersection Improvement Project

Sarah Grant, Mobility Coordinator gave a presentation on Safe Routes to School and the project.

The intersection of Modoc Road at Portesuello Avenue (intersection) was specifically identified as a concept project in the city's Pedestrian Master Plan – Safe Routes to School Chapter for intersection safety improvements for school children accessing La Cumbre Junior High School (LCJH). Currently listed in the City's Capital Improvement Program, this project will standardize the intersection to a 90 degree angle for better overall function and visibility, as well as reducing the crossing distance along Portesuello from 105 feet to 44 feet. The Project includes safety improvements such as relocating the access ramp and crosswalk on Modoc from the eastern side of Portesuello to the western side, reducing the curb radii, and installing new pedestrian lighting over the crosswalks. The design will meet access needs of pedestrians, as well as large vehicles (MTD buses, school buses, and emergency vehicles). The Project received a grant from the California Safe Routes to School Program and is going to City Council for award of contract in spring

The TCC supports this project, and commented about the difficulties in traversing the intersection. There were questions about the location of the new sidewalk, the cost increase of this Project, and the residence that is on the corner of the Project location. The Committee also commented that this project has been a long time in coming, and that the additional lighting around the school is most welcome. Ms. Grant discussed the project at length and indicated that the residents that live on the corner are fully supportive of this project.

**Motion:** Find that the Safe Routes to School Project is consistent with the Circulation Element

Motion made by Chair France, seconded by Mr. Coffman-Grey.

Ayes: 6      Noes:      Abstain:      Absent: 1

#### **4. Voluntario Street Trail Easement**

Steve Foley, Supervising Transportation Planner gave the presentation

The Voluntario Street Trail Easement is located between East De la Guerra Street and East Canon Perdido Street. It spans approximately 200 feet of the former Voluntario Street right of way.

In 2004, the City abandoned for street purposes, an approximate 200 foot long portion of the Voluntario Street right of way between East De la Guerra Street and East Canon Perdido Street, yet reserved a 15 foot wide easement for trail purposes. The trail access is relatively steep on the Voluntario Street side, leading down to a drainage gully, and then a gentler ascent to Canon Perdido Street. As part of an adjacent applicant's land development permit, an effort was made to make nominal improvements to the trail which would be maintained by the City. Though the trail is not a major circulation connector, it has been used by the surrounding neighborhood. The gully is off the street, somewhat sheltered from view, and lacks lighting which has allowed it to be an attractor to loitering by individuals involved in numerous nuisance activities.

In February of 2010, due to recurrent complaints and enforcement difficulties, the Police Department (PD.) contacted Public Works staff requesting that the adjacent neighbors be allowed to close the trail. Initially, Public Works did not support a closure, hoping that brush clearing and police attention would lesson undesirable activity. However, according to the PD, illegal and unsafe activities continued unabated. After numerous contacts with adjacent neighbors and the PD, and with no plan or capital funds to improve the trail, Public Works agreed that the best solution was to allow a temporary closure of the trail easement. The adjacent neighbors were asked to apply for an administrative Minor Encroachment Permit to allow the closure with fencing to be handled and paid at their expense. The neighbors moved forward and closed off the trail entrances in June of this year.

Soon after closure, some neighbors became concerned that the closure wasn't permitted and may be permanent. Public Works and PD staff met with members of the community at the site in July to review the history and the effect of the temporary closure. Some of the issues discussed by staff, applicants, and neighbors included the safety, fire hazards, recreation, drainage, police action, and historical value of the trail. This meeting will provide a forum for all interested parties to voice their concerns about the trail and its future potential. Due to safety concerns, staff continues to support the temporary closure of the trail. Staff will also continue to explore grant opportunities for permanent improvements to the trail that would address the nuisance issues that have occurred in the past.

Public Comments were made by: Greg Tyce, Bruce Raff, Sharon Byrne, Michelle Kirkley, Tim Kirkley, Steve Berkus and Eric Andersen. The main complaints were about the gang members that hang out in that walkway, the debris, and the illicit activity. Officer Gutierrez spoke to the fact that since the temporary closure, the amount of calls about activity in the area has dropped. Fire Inspector Joe Poire responded to the question of access for the public safety organizations. He suggested some sort of locked gate, or a knox box.

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The Committee had mixed reactions to this item. They were curious about the fence, and the Encroachment Permit that was obtained to complete the fence. The fence was supposed to be chain link, but staff agreed that it could be a board fence. They expressed concern about drainage issues, and denial of public access versus public safety and well-being, as well as the cost to make improvements. Some members of the Committee could not support this closure. However, it was agreed that public safety was a priority.

Staff indicated that the Encroachment Permit could be revoked at any time, and that if grant money became available for this project (which would have to be funded by grant money) the Public Works Director could revoke the permit. Staff also said that they would work with the property owners to make sure that the Police Department and Fire Department had access.

Chair France Adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM.