



# MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMITTEE (TCC)

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA  
Thursday, November 8, 2012, 6:00 PM

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

### ROLL CALL:

#### TCC MEMBERS

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

#### Attendance

Present  
Present  
Present  
Present  
Present  
Present  
Absent

#### CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager  
John Ewasiuk, Principal Engineer  
Ashleigh Shue, Project Engineer  
Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner  
Sarah Grant, Mobility Coordinator  
Jessica Grant, Project Planner  
Kim Thaler-Strange, Administrative Specialist

#### LIAISONS PRESENT

Grant House, Council Liaison

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Switched items 6 and 7

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. No Public Comment.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

2. **Approval of Minutes from the September 27, 2012 meeting where a TCC quorum was present.**

**Motion:** Approve the Minutes from the September 27, 2012, meeting.

Motion made to approve the minutes by, Mr. Coffman-Grey, seconded by Susan Horne

Ayes: 3 Noes: Abstain: 2 (France, Rodriguez) Absent: 1 (Tabor)

Mr. Bradley came in at 6:04

## REPORTS

### 3. MTD Monthly Report

Mr. Allen reminded the Committee that this was a general standing item. Ms. Blackerby noted the passing of David Damiano, a much respected MTD Employee. Mr. Coffman Grey noted that the decrease in ridership on the Downtown/Waterfront Shuttle between August and September was smaller than in previous months.

### 4. Eastside Neighborhood Transportation Management Plan

Jessica Grant presented the report for the Eastside Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) as an informational item. She went over the timeline, project objectives, areas of interest and measures for success. Council gave direction for the planning effort of this project at the September 18, 2012 meeting. This project's objective is to address traffic issues and engage the Eastside community regarding pedestrian and safety concern, as well as inform and educate the neighborhoods. Ultimately, short and long-term improvements will be recommended and covered at a later time. On November 14, 2012, Ms. Grant will be going to the Neighborhood Advisory Committee, and hopes to return to the TCC in spring 2013 for a final presentation and TCC Recommendation.

#### Public Comment

Caitlin Carlson (COAST) – Thanked Jessica for taking the lead on this project. She also urged that COAST would like to see specific projects be made a priority.

#### TCC Comments and questions

Mr. Allen advised the TCC that this was an informational item and no motion was necessary. He also said that this was the first public presentation about this project. Staff has been working on this since September, and Derrick Bailey is doing parallel work looking at crash history in these neighborhoods for any traffic concerns that can be addressed. Both efforts will be brought to the Committee concurrently.

The Committee overall expressed their pleasure and support for this effort. Mr. Coffman-Grey inquired as to where the funds for this project were going to come from. He was told that various funds, including a reprioritization of Streets Capital, Measure A, Safe Routes to School, and Measure A Pedestrian and Bicycle grants would be utilized. Additionally, staff will be asking for CDBG Funds. Mr. Allen indicated that by the time this effort goes to Council, there would be a better idea of where the funding was going to come from.

Ms. Horne received confirmation that the safety measures already agreed upon were in progress. Mr. Allen informed the Committee that short term solutions will be more in Mr. Bailey's area, and the long-term solutions will be more of a planning effort.

It was suggested to staff that the community outreach process include graphs of vehicle counts and ADTs, locations of stop signs, graphs to indicate speed, and outreach to the Independent Living Resource Center. There was also a request for improvements for the bike lanes throughout the Eastside. Ms. Grant told the Committee that there would be translators available for the various meetings, but staff was still looking into who would be providing such services. She asked for any

recommendations. Mr. Allen indicated that staff would be talking to the experts for the best approach.

## 5. Pilot On-Street Bicycle Parking Project

Mr. France excused himself from this item.

Sarah Grant, Mobility Coordinator presented the report. This is a pilot project, fully driven by the community. This project will place a bike corral at the corner of Canon Perdido and Santa Barbara Streets. The Bicycle Coalition and eight businesses have written letters of support for this project. At this time, parking for bicycles in this area is inadequate. Cyclists are parking on the sidewalk, which takes up pedestrian space as well as space for outdoor dining. The businesses in this area are on the cross town bicycle route. Staff looked at three locations, (in front of Julienne, Sojourner, and Handlebar Coffee Roasters). The preferred option is in front of Handlebar and an art gallery. This location is furthest from the intersection and has best visibility because of a natural break in sidewalk. The racks that will be used will be more secure.

Concerns include the loss of two 15-minute spaces for businesses that need those spaces for customer pick up and drop off. A proposed compromise is to convert a 75-minute space to a 15-minute space. Staff will work with the businesses these issues. \$3,000 is available to fund this project, and staff will install the racks. This is consistent with goals of the Bicycle Master Plan. Staff is recommending that the TCC support the request for Alternative 2 and review the project in a year.

### Public Comment

Business owners from the area were at the meeting to show their support for this project, and are glad to be part of the pilot program. They thanked Sarah for her time, and feel that the positive aspects of this project outweigh the negatives. One property owner came to the meeting to show support and suggested shortening the red zone on Canon Perdido Street because Santa Barbara Street is a one-way street. The only concern he has was that Handlebar is a mid-block business.

### TCC Comments

The Committee was supportive of this project. They are pleased that the business community is speaking up, and expressed hope that the HLC sees that bicycles are more historic. They also hoped that the HLC only weighs in on the aesthetics of the project. Mr. Bradley asked how abandoned bicycles would be dealt with. Ms. Grant indicated that the business owners would be encouraged to take initiative and call the Police Department to have them put a notice on the bike before removing it. Mr. Trey Penner told Ms. Horne that the new bike parking would be similar to a bike corral and there shouldn't be a problem with employees parking in front.

Committee members also pointed out that the parking should not look like a corral, especially in the historical district. He also asked about a barrier on the curb or in the alley, as well as expressing concern for the potential for cars to run into bicycles. He was also concerned about the lack of a 15-minute zone. Ms. Grant indicated that Staff would be exploring that, and working with owners to form a consensus. She also said that there would be reflective markers on the street and barriers in the form of wheel stops would be on both sides.

Mr. Allen told the Committee that it was Ms. Grant's last TCC meeting, and acknowledged her work. He also said that this item may not go to HLC in December; its timing is uncertain, and it may not be until after the first of the year. The Committee will be notified when it does go to HLC.

**Motion:** That the TCC support the request of businesses for on-street bicycle parking, and that it is consistent with the Circulation Element supporting Alternative. 3

Motion made by, Mr. Coffman-Grey, seconded by Mr. Bradley

Ayes: 5      Noes: 0      Abstain: 1 (France)      Absent: 1 (Tabor)

#### 6. Las Positas Road at Cliff Drive Intersection Improvement Project

Ashleigh Shue, Project Engineer, presented this report. Derek Rapp from Penfield & Smith, and John Ewasiuk, Principal Engineer were also in attendance to answer questions. This project was initiated by the City to construct intersection improvements at the Las Positas Road/Cliff Drive Intersection. Three alternatives were evaluated: 1) maintain the existing all-way stop and widen the southbound approach to accommodate a second left hand turn lane, 2) install a traffic signal, and 3) construct a roundabout.

The Committee overall expressed concerns about the funding issues. The funds will be available for Fiscal Year 2015/2016; however, the costs involved with this project will go up. Ms Shue indicated that a 20 percent contingency was included to cover any cost increase. It was agreed that the first alternative would not make any improvements to the intersection, and shouldn't be on the table. The question was also raised about when the City would be taking over this intersection, and staff was asked why decisions are being made now. The Committee, along with two members of the public, expressed support for the roundabout option. Committee Member Bradley pointed out that the project is subject to the Safe Streets guidelines. Mr. Coffman-Grey indicated that if the funds can't be found for a roundabout, a traffic signal would be the next viable option to maintain the current LOS. Ms. Blackerby suggested that the project would be pushed out further if the City was unable to find funding; although perhaps some funding could be found based on environmental benefit since there would be a reduction in impervious surface. Ms. Blackerby also inquired as to when the focus could move from the roundabout alternative to the traffic signal. Where is it in the CIP? Ms. Blackerby suggested that staff go after the funding and if we are unable to do the roundabout project, go to the traffic signal option.

Ms. Horne suggested that this project needs to be done sooner rather than later, and that as nice as the roundabout is, it is not worth waiting years. At least a traffic signal would reduce timing. Mr. France noted that there is a difference of \$745,000 between the roundabout option and the traffic signal option. Could that kind of funding be found? Ms. Rodriguez pointed out that the roundabout would be more aesthetically pleasing than a traffic signal, especially given the amount spent on creek restoration.

Ms. Shue indicated that if the project was put on hold there would be cost savings at least in the design phase, since the City would not have to go through Caltrans coordination and review. Staff will also be looking into the Safe Streets Guidelines, and looking for more funding options. Any STIP funds have already been allocated for the HOV/101 Project. Mr. Allen indicated that staff would like to have the final design before going out to bid, in tentatively a year to a year and a half; however, bid prices will increase as the economy gets better. Staff will have to sit down and discuss where the project falls in the CIP, and two possible options. One option is to push the STIP funding out. The delay in funding is due to the state's budget issues; there has not been funding available at the state level.

Mr. Allen told the Committee that if they vote for the roundabout, staff would sit down with SBCAG and discuss available funding. If the money is there, we can explore funding options. If this process will take a several years, staff will let the Committee know that.

Councilmember House indicated that the recommendation of the Committee would help Council move forward and asked the Committee to let them know their preference, money aside. Council is interested in what the Committee wants and why they want it.

**Motion:** That staff keep the roundabout as preferred alternative for another six months and look for further funding sources, and return to the Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Coffman-Grey

Ayes: 6      Noes: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 1 (Tabor)

#### 7. Review of the proposed 2014-2019 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program

John Ewasiuk presented this report discussing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). It is a new six-year cycle, and there are 88 projects identified. He reviewed the purpose of the CIP Program, and reminded the Committee that the budget is adopted annually. Input was received from the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force, the Access Advisory Committee, and other Boards and Commissions. The main purpose of the CIP projects is safety and maintenance of the City infrastructure. This will be presented to Council in June, 2013.

The majority of the projects listed were traffic safety and bridge projects. This year's budget is approximately \$3.7 million. This report will go to PC in December, and will come back to the TCC in spring, prior to going to Council.

(Ms. Horne left at 8:30).

#### TCC Comments:

Ms. Blackerby wondered how many bridges now need repair, and asked about the Bicycle Master Plan and where its priority is; indicating that the Committee would like to see the update of the Plan made a priority. She also noted that somewhere, the Bicycle Master Plan needs to be ranked as a high priority. She also asked how sidewalk infill gets prioritized. Mr. Ewasiuk said that the City was trying to get as many bridges replaced as possible. Many of them are 100 years old. Some funding for these bridges is coming from the FHWA, who is giving the City 88 percent funding for some bridges, leaving the City to come up with 11 percent of the cost. Bridges are anticipated to last for a lifetime. Mr. Allen said that funding for the Bicycle Master Plan is still there. Staff is submitting an application for Measure A funds for other projects, to free up money for other purposes. The decision of when to update the Bicycle Master Plan is Council's. The Eastside plan needs to be completed first. Mr. Allen discussed the process for sidewalk infill – there is a separate prioritization list. The Streets division will perform contract work; they have a list of locations where the sidewalk is uplifted (based on calls from the public and from staff). The worst areas are completed first. Infill is an annual program, adopted as a priority by Council, and is completed as funding is available.

Mr. Bradley noted four out of the top 5 priorities are pedestrian related; two of those are on the Eastside and asked about funding sources. Mr. Allen replied that the downtown sidewalk was funded with RDA funds. Staff is looking at what funds are available and the worst sidewalks will be repaired first. Once the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan is completed, funds will be

identified for the Bicycle Master Plan. There is a Safe Routes to School grant for Cleveland School; that money will be used on the Eastside this year. Staff is looking for additional funding.

Mr. France asked about the flexibility of budget funding. He pointed out that the LSTP has been steady for the past several years, but was programmed into pavement maintenance. He suggested that the City add their voice to the lobbying mechanism in Sacramento. Staff needs to be proactive and try to make things such as the Gas tax based on the facilities that are being used. Mr. Ewasiuk indicated that the revenue streams (UUT, Gas Tax, Measure A, non-101 corridor Measure A) have stayed the same. This could change if there is an increase in sales tax. Mr. Allen indicated that the only revenue source with that would get an increase is Measure A, and that money goes through SBCAG. Other potential funds for transportation infrastructure include General Fund money; however that is allocated by Council. Staff is not asking for that now. Staff can go to Council and make adjustments, however it is up to them to allocate block grant money, and reprioritize.

Ms. Rodriguez asked about how staff works within the agency. Mr. Ewasiuk said that our department works with Creeks staff and the Creeks Manger. There is a process for working on significant issues.

Mr. Coffman-Grey said that staff did a good job of narrowing the project list down. He hopes that Eastside projects are not jeopardized and that we can leverage the grants. He pointed out that pavement maintenance keeps up moving. There are cities that are in worse shape than Santa Barbara.

Mr. Allen announced that Interviews for TCC are in progress. Mr. Tabor and Mr. Bradley have not reapplied. He thanked them for their service, as did Ms. Blackerby.

Chair Blackerby adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m. out of respect for the departing TCC and City staff members, and in memory of David Damiano.