



MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMITTEE (TCC)

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA
Thursday, April 24, 5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Blackerby called the meeting to order at 5:31-PM

ROLL CALL:

TCC MEMBERS

Hillary Blackerby
Cynthia Boche
Bob Burnham
Keith Coffman-Grey
Edward France
Susan Horne
Kathleen Rodriguez

Attendance

Present
Present
Present
Present
Present
Present
Present

CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager
Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner
Derrick Bailey, Supervising Transportation Engineer
Sarah Grant, Mobility Coordinator
Kim Thaler-Strange, Administrative Specialist

LIAISONS PRESENT

Deborah Schwartz, PC Liaison

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Steve Maas, MTD

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. Approval of Minutes from the January 23, 2014 meeting where a TCC quorum was present.

Motion: Approve the Minutes from the January 23, 2014 Meeting.

Motion made by Blackerby seconded by Horne with the following change:

Item 5: Last sentence cropped. Add that the TCC requested a route through west side.

Ayes: 6

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent: 1 (Rodriguez) – Was late

3. Receipt of MTD Reports for: Quarter 3 Fiscal Year 2014, and Monthly Reports for January, February and March.

Mr. Coffman-Grey commented on the increase in ridership despite the fare increase. Ms. Boche added the cruise ship ridership helped contribute to the increase, but even without it, ridership is up 3 percent.

Mr. France noted that Sherrie Fisher is retiring, and expressed appreciation for her work. She will be retiring on July 18.

REPORTS

4. Active Transportation Program Grants

Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner, gave a presentation on a new grant opportunity. The State of California has combined and consolidated various grant fund programs (Bicycle Transportation Account, Safe Routes to School and the Transportation Alternatives Program) into one program. This program will be handled differently. All submitted projects will compete for half of the total monies available. Those not selected in the first round of submittals will go through a second round, which includes small urban and rural projects. The City would be competing for funds with communities like ours. We currently have four prospective projects: Cacique and Soledad Pedestrian and Bicycle bridges at Sycamore Creek; Montecito Bridge Replacement Project; La Cumbre Pedestrian Safety Enhancements, and the East Beach Sidewalk Infill and Lighting Project.

Mr. Burnham asked about the bicycle boulevard on Cacique Street, and how does preventing cars from going through that section affect residents. Mr. Dayton answered that the idea is to reduce traffic volumes. This part of Cacique has a naturally lower volume. Ms. Blackerby commented that traffic can't get across the bridge. Mr. Allen said that it would be a pedestrian only bridge.

Mr. Dayton discussed the progress of the La Cumbre Pedestrian Safety Enhancements Project. A sidewalk connection has been completed, and the City is ready to construct sidewalk for another section. Once the missing links are filled in, all the schools in the area would be connected. Ms. Horne asked about grading. Mr. Dayton said that there are multiple design solutions, and that there would be retaining walls since sidewalks can only have a grade of 2 percent maximum.

The East Beach Sidewalk Project would cover Puerto Vallarta and Milpas to the beach. This Project would connect via Puerto Vallarta and Ninos Drive through the neighborhood.

Katherine Rodriguez came in at 5:56.

Ms. Blackerby asked when we would know about the grants. Mr. Dayton indicated that we should hear by September about both programs. These are administered by the California Transportation Division. Mr. Burnham asked who we were up against, and how were our chances. Mr. Dayton replied that we should get something funded. There are three funding cycles, and we have had success with Safe Routes to School. He restated that in the first

round, we were competing with all other jurisdictions in the state. In the second round, we would be competing with similar jurisdictions.

Ms. Boche asked how much we are asking for. Mr. Dayton replied that these grants are for projects over \$250,000. The City's Engineering Division is doing exact estimates, and we will get better numbers as the cost estimate is narrowed.

Mr. France discussed previous attempts to fund the Bicycle Boulevard on Cacique with BTA money. This is a great Transportation Planning effort. He would like to see demarcations on the street indicating that this is a suggested route. Soledad and Cacique Streets, along with Alisos and Montecito streets help connect all community centers and schools.

Motion: That the Committee support the City's ATP grant projects.
Motion made by Blackerby, seconded by Burnham

Ayes: 7 Noes: Abstain: Absent:

Ms. Blackerby commented that the Commissioner Schwartz, our Planning Commission Liaison was present, as was Councilmember Hart. Councilmember Murillo sends her regrets.

5. Bicycle Master Plan – Status Report

Mr. Dayton shared a status report about the Bicycle Master Plan Engagement Process. The City has received a grant to do an update on the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP).

He discussed the history of the BMP, our accomplishments to date, and the next steps in the engagement process, which include a presentation to Council. If Council approves, we would put out a Request for Proposals, and go back to Council to award the contract. Mr. Dayton then went on to discuss our ranking with the League of American Bicyclist, the objectives of the BMP, and the approach that the City would like to take to get community engagement and a tentative timeline illustrating each phase.

Mr. Burnham asked questions about the timeline, and verified the timing of the first four phases of this process. He also asked if there would be other venues than online for people to take the survey. He suggested a phone survey and asked if the length of residency a criteria for the survey. Mr. Dayton said that there will be no barrier for people to participate and anyone who has an address in Santa Barbara is eligible. Mr. Allen added that once we have a team set up the details can be refined.

The Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition representative spoke about their "Connecting Community" campaign, which is aimed at improving cycling infrastructure in Santa Barbara, especially through public engagement. They expressed appreciation for the process and look forward to major improvements.

Ms. Horne's experience over the years is that it is important to have options to show people, not just solicit input. There should be a range of ideas available to help speed up the process. Also, she did not care for the work conundrum. It brings up division and opposition. Mr. Dayton replied that we can reconsider the word, and can change it if there is negative feedback.

Mr. France pointed out that since the 1998 update; our residents have not seen many of the improvements that other cities have. How can our infrastructure be part of the conundrum? Mr.

Dayton answered that it will be very important. There has been a lot of changes to cycling across the nation. It was pointed out that the chosen consultant must be professional in the conversation. Mr. Allen said that we want to be deliberate and we want to hear from the community. What does the community want?

Ms. Blackerby said that the process looks great and she is excited that there is a process. She likes the idea of a community conversation, but agrees that it should not be so neutral. She also asked about when the money discussion comes into play. Mr. Dayton replied that if it happens to be more than painting, we would have to prioritize at a higher level. The ATP grant would be a good funding source.

Ms. Rodriguez asked about Phase 5. She is not clear on the 5 year range. Mr. Dayton replied that we put 5 years to cover larger projects that we might have to raise money for. Some projects might take longer, but we wanted to put emphasis on as much as possible as quickly as possible.

Mr. Burnham echoed the comments of Ms. Horne and Ms. Blackerby, and understands Mr. Allen's comments about being deliberate. He hopes that a balance can be found between deliberate and urgent. Mr. Dayton said that we understand what caused the lag, and this time we will implement what the community decides quickly.

Mr. France is concerned that there may be a lack of understanding because 92.5 percent of the population does not bike regularly. The City is the third most dangerous for cyclists (among cities our size) in California. The League of American Bicyclists pointed out that we lack infrastructure. We need to give bikes a safe place to ride on the street, to get them off the sidewalks. Ms Blackerby added that this is such a positive process, but we need to find a better word than conundrum, that will translate. Ms. Boche agreed with everyone's comments and would like to see less open-ended questions.

Mr. Dayton replied that questions would be geared and framed for positive responses that indicate what we are asking. Safety is a priority and perceived lack of safety is what keeps people from bicycling. One of the objectives in the Circulation Element is to increase proportion of cyclists. The amount of people who commute by bicycle has increased from 3 to 6 percent.

Mr. France agreed that safety is essential. How safe does one feel cycling in their neighborhood, and how could one feel safer?

Mr. Coffman-Grey is happy to see the process started now, and that the plan we saw is a great framework. He would also like to see a different word than conundrum.

Mr. Burnham wanted to make a motion to change the word conundrum to a different word. Mr. Dayton replied that there is no need to make a motion for that and it would be preferable to have a more robust motion on the overview of the process.

Motion: That the Committee support the process and concept for the Bicycle Master Plan Update as presented.

Motion made by Blackerby, seconded by Boche

Ayes: 7 Noes: Abstain: Absent:

6. Announcements
Measuring Sprawl 2014

Mr. Dayton added this item to the agenda as an item of interest. We were ranked No. 4 in the nation on being connected in a study done by Smart Growth America to find out what communities are disconnected and which are most connected. We have a high connection and engagement with each other. Our amount of transit is equal to that of a city with one million people. The report is on our website as a web-based document.

Ms. Blackerby asked if the metric looked at people who live outside the area. Mr. Dayton replied that is not taken into account, and one of our struggles is that we have so many employees who live outside of Santa Barbara. We have the potential for connectivity if we can create affordable housing.

Ms. Horne indicated that our natural terrain limits sprawl. She also asked if this report is only for Santa Barbara. Mr. Dayton thought that it includes Goleta as well.

Mr. France thanked Mr. Dayton for sharing this report. Our rate of return on investment is higher than in a lot of communities.

Chair Coffman Grey adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.