



MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMITTEE (TCC)

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA
Thursday, December 11, 2014, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Coffman-Grey called the meeting to order at 6:00 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
Kim Thaler-Strange, Administrative Specialist
Peter Brown, Mobility Coordinator

LIAISONS PRESENT

PUBLIC PRESENT:

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

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

Motion made by Blackerby seconded by France

Ayes: 7 Noes: Abstain: Absent:

REPORTS

3. Monthly MTD Report for October 2014

Mr. Allen reminded the Committee that this is an informational item. Mr. Coffman-Grey pointed out that although there was a small drop in ridership, it remained stable.

4. Sidewalk infill

Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner, introduced Peter Brown as the new Mobility Coordinator.

Mr. Brown presented a report in response to a request from the Committee about the sidewalk infill program. The report included background and history of the program as well as the criteria used for the sidewalk infill. The sidewalk infill program lost its dedicated funding source several years ago.

Mr. Burnham asked if the funding for the infill projects is coming from grants. Mr. Brown said yes, but the City also has matching funds from streets. Mr. Burnham asked about the methodology or means that staff will use to pursue other grants. Mr. Brown pointed out that with grant funding the applicants have to move away from the strict criteria. The CDBG funding deals with lower income neighborhoods. Mr. Allen pointed out that the other source of funding is Measure A funding. The La Cumbre sidewalk is an example of a Measure A project. Staff tries to use criteria as much as possible to match the application.

TCC COMMENTS

Ms. Blackerby pointed out that Oak Park is hard to get into, especially from the State Street side. It is a well-used park and very hard to get to without walking in the street on rough terrain. This will be a huge benefit for those who frequent the park.

Mr. France thanked staff for the presentation and echoed Ms. Blackerby's comments. He is pleased to see the different projects and how much staff has leveraged money through various grants. He also noted that some projects have had infill as a part of them. This presentation shows that the City is really on top of it.

Mr. Burham asked about the remaining projects and how infill is integrated with real property, such as in areas where the street is narrower. How does this interface in an area with vegetation and overgrowth? How much is cut into vegetation and overgrowth to create a proper sidewalk? Mr. Brown replied that one of the reasons we reference real property is because there are neighborhoods where sidewalk is non-existent and most residents don't want to have sidewalk put in. Mr. Allen added that there are areas where people have encroachments in the public right of way, which creates a challenge when installing sidewalk. The City's Real Property Division works with the Transportation Division and the residents.

Ms. Horne asked about the location of sidewalk for the project on La Cumbre where there is a big bush and a large tree. Mr. Brown noted that the City has done a good job of saving the street trees. The Project Engineer, Eric Goodall, is working with the City Arborist regarding that tree, and every effort will be made to save it. Street trees are handled on a case by case basis. Ms. Horne also asked if there is green space next to the curb, and then sidewalk, or is sidewalk always next to the curb. Mr. Brown replied that is a parkway and the City has many places

where there is parkway. There are also many places where there is sidewalk next to the curb. It depends on how much right of way there is. Ms. Horne commented that the City trees were put in so close to the curb that she figured that the City was planning a parkway.

Mr. Coffman-Grey thanked Mr. Brown for putting together the report and noted that the City is doing a good job of leveraging grants. He inquired if this would be the wave of the future instead of putting money into the CIP? Mr. Allen replied that for the foreseeable future, the City will be pursuing active grants.

Ms. Horne asked what the difference is between the start of the program when there were 600 areas of infill to be done initially, and how it is now. Mr. Brown said that there is no answer yet. The map shows where the gaps are, and there are not many. The City has done a good job of closing the gaps, and reiterated that the CDBG funds target low-income neighborhoods. The Westside still has gaps, but the Riviera and San Roque areas won't want infill. There are not many linear feet left to fill.

5. Status Report on the Bicycle Master Plan Engagement Process

Peter Brown, Mobility Coordinator, gave a brief update. Staff awarded the contract for the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) Engagement Process to Melendrez, which is a landscape and urban design firm. They teamed up with Fehr and Peers, who specialize in traffic analysis. The focus of the BMP will remain on seeking community input from those interested in participating from business owners, transit riders, drivers, and cyclists. The kick-off meeting is next week, and the process will move forward in January. We will return to the Committee in February or March with an update.

TCC COMMENTS:

Mr. France said that it was great to hear that the process works. Melendrez is a good firm. The City process has gotten great input, and there is a need to go to subgroups and get feedback. He expressed that he hopes the engagement process is data oriented. Mr. Brown replied that staff and the consultant will look at hard numbers.

Announcement:

Mr. Allen announced that the Council has selected Ms. Blackerby, Ms. Rodriguez, and Ms. Horne to continue on the Committee. It is also the last meeting for Mr. Coffman-Grey who served on the Committee for 12 years. He thanked Mr. Coffman-Grey for his service. A plaque was presented to Mr. Coffman-Grey by Ms. Blackerby. Mr. Coffman-Grey thanked everyone in the City for their hard work, and encouraged people to join the committee.

Chair Coffman-Grey adjourned the meeting at 6:38.