

CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 12, 2007

Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue
Community Meeting Room

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Margaret Pimpo, Lou Smith, Art Osborne, Steve Clarey and Al Ovrom (City Council representative)

Absent: Bill Huck

City Staff: Jim Benson, Ed Walton and Danielle Spahn, City Hall intern.

Consultant: Brian Pearson, PB Americas, Inc. (PB)

2. MINUTES: Mr. Clarey moved to approve the March 8, 2007 minutes, Mrs. Pimpo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Clarey said there had been an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on the impact of congestion on communities. It points out that we should continue our efforts here.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update:

1. Project Report and Environmental Document (PR/ED):

- Status of Technical Reports – Engineering/Environmental – Most of the reports are on target to be delivered the first week in July.
 - Traffic Operations Plan and Traffic Impact Analysis – Today the PDT was presented a summary of the latest version of the Traffic Impact Analysis Report. The Navy agreed to get their comments to PB in a couple of weeks. The forecast indicates that by 2030, major improvements will be needed.
 - Agency Coordination – Navy: There is a new Navy engineer on the PDT, Kim Jacobsen. She pointed out that there are some significant differences between the Navy's [Third Street Gate] 40% plans and the current configuration; she will send the current plans to PB. She will be the designee for Cdr. Shepherd and will start reviewing the reports. Mr. Pearson told her he needs a response on the west portal design. There has been no response from the Navy to date.
- Caltrans: John Rieger, the Caltrans project manager assigned to our project has been designated the project manager for I-805, so he's gone. His replacement,

Mark Baza, has already been briefed. We also lost the lead Caltrans environmental person; the new person was not at today's meeting, but will be attending future meetings. He will need to be brought up to speed.

- July Newsletter – A mock-up of the layout with topics was distributed. We will want to finalize the topics, space allocation, graphics, etc. by the end of April. By mid June we should have a draft copy and the final version will be inserted in the July 18 *Coronado Eagle & Journal*. Mr. Clarey suggested putting the “sales pitch” on the first page and talking about financing later. Mrs. Pimpo suggested moving the article about the Carl Vinson to the front page.
2. Possible Relocation of USS Carl Vinson to NASNI: Mr. Benson said the announcement seems to have come earlier rather than the later-expected time frame. The Council is supporting a third carrier based on the letter from Assistant Secretary Penn with a much more explicit commitment from the Navy to cooperate and the identification of Adm. Hering as the designated local contact. The Navy will do a supplemental EIS, hopefully with more realistic traffic numbers. Mrs. Pimpo said word about the Mayor and Councilmember Ovrom's meeting with Penn was on the Internet before it was in the paper.
 3. Funding:
 - Tunnel Finance Team Meeting – April 4, 2007 – The Finance Strategy Team met on April 4, 2007. They were planning on generating an updated report, but there are enough things on the table to get another draft out. The City will have the draft report on May 18. This draft will go to the Council on June 19 for approval of an updated financing plan. Mr. Clark asked if the Commission could see the report in advance so if they have any concerns or comments they can address them to the Council. Mr. Benson suggested moving the June 14 CTC meeting up to June 7. The draft report can go to the Commission around May 21 which would give them two weeks to review it. Neither Mrs. Pimpo nor Mr. Clarey can make a June 7 meeting.

Mr. Benson said that one thing that is back in is the tolls; both the CNO and ASN Penn asked about reinstating tolls. Mrs. Pimpo asked if tolls could be reinstated as a precursor – to start building funds before the tunnel is built and Mr. Benson observed that it would be difficult to put toll booths in when construction is going on and there may be objections to paying tolls before the tunnel is built. Mr. Pearson suggested partnering with SANDAG to research bridge/tunnel tolls.

FHWA says the trend for projects is not 80% from Federal funds; that's not happening any more and they're expecting more local funding. It's part of the continuum of funding sources. A big issue will be how reasonable is the assumption of the federal share. Mr. Pearson feels that a 50% share is optimistic and in all financial scenarios the City's Washington, D.C. lobbyists felt the strategy is extremely optimistic for the federal share. Until the Environmental Document is done the finance strategy does not have to be locked down, so there is about a year that the report can be revised.

B. Reports and Discussion from Commission Members or Staff on Current Issues:

1. Status of Third Street Gate Project: The wall will come down next week and the gate is to open in mid June. There will be a formal dedication when the contractor is done with their work.
 2. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: The signal design is just about done. The City has agreements with the Navy and Caltrans to pay for a share of the signals. The design of the bulbouts will go to the CIP Subcommittee. To do bulbouts on any of the designated streets will require complete re-design of the drainage. Bulbouts won't slow traffic, but will make it safer for pedestrians to cross.
 3. Vacancy on Coronado Tunnel Commission: Mr. Clarey reported that Toni Gaylord suggested Darrell Sarich to fill the vacancy. He has lived in the Cays for 25 years and the Village prior to that (within the couplet). He made a motion to recommend his name to the City Council and Mr. Smith seconded it. It passed unanimously. This will be on the May 1 City Council agenda for approval.
 4. General Information Update: Mr. Ovrom reported on his and the Mayor's Washington, D.C. meetings. They met with Wayne Arny and agreed to disagree. They also met with Buddy Penn (as noted above) and Vice Admiral Conway. They later met with the CNO; Mr. Ovrom described him as a very to-the-point person. He asked for information and spent 45 minutes with them. Mr. Ovrom expressed appreciation to PMA and SDMAAC for arranging these meetings. He thinks the CNO is the route to go. Mr. Clarey observed that the budget stakeholders are not the civilians; they're the uniforms. They recognize the operational impact of having good relations here. PMA needs to generate an issue paper and get a POM 2010 submission line. Mr. Ovrom reported having good meetings with Senators Boxer and Feinstein's staffs. They also met with Congresswoman Davis and her staff. The Mayor and he are writing a letter back to ASN Penn.
- C. Future Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room.
5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:23 p.m.

Approved:

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman