

CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 8, 2004
Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue
Community Meeting Room

NOTES*

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark and Art Osborne

Absent: Steve Clarey, Bill Huck, Al Hollingsworth, Al Ovrom and Casey Tanaka (City Council representative)

City Staff: Jim Benson, Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

Consultants: Brian Pearson (Parsons Brinckerhoff) and Richard Ledford (Ledford Enterprises)

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the March 11, 2004 meeting were not reviewed as a quorum was not present.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Resignation of Betsy Gill: Commissioner Gill submitted her resignation due to the fact that she will be out of town for a good deal of time following her husband's retirement. Mr. Benson submitted the name of Lou Smith, a retired admiral and Coronado resident with a good reputation. He doesn't know, however, if he is interested. Mr. Walton suggested John Pizzato, former El Cajon City Engineer and current Retired Senior Volunteer. He believes he lives in the Shores. Some research will be done to see if there is any interest.

B. Update

1. Project Report & Environmental Documents (PR/ED): Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) received the Notice to Proceed.

- Project Kick-Off Meeting Results: There was a very successful kickoff meeting on March 25 where Caltrans and FHWA guidelines and procedures were discussed. Every month PB will prepare a 90-day look-ahead schedule. There is a weekly staff meeting every Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

- Cooperative Agreement – Caltrans: This is done and will be removed from future agendas.

- Lead Agency Agreement – City/FHWA/Navy/Caltrans: The City found out today at the PDT meeting that Caltrans may need to be a co-lead agency. The agreement is ready to turn over to the attorneys.
2. 2004 Transportation Appropriation Bill – \$500,000 – RTIP Amendment: The City got \$500,000 and is moving through the RTIP process with SANDAG.
 3. Transportation Reauthorization Bill (2004-2009) – Request for \$20 Million: The Senate is still at \$318 billion and the House passed the bill at \$275 billion. Per the City’s Washington, D.C. lobbyist, it should end up around \$300 billion. The current TEA expires at the end of April, so it may be extended.
 4. SANDAG Transnet Extension – \$25 Million – Construction Only: The tunnel is still there as a line item for \$25 million. Now it’s out to 40 years.
 5. Public Education Program (Separate from PR/ED): Mr. Benson said that Ledford Enterprises is the lead for this. The contract is not paid for with federal funds, so it’s being kept separate from PR/ED efforts. Richard Ledford reminded those present how far the project has come – who would have thought we’d have \$25 million in Transnet? His focus will be on trying to shift regional public opinion. The process started with fighting the toll removal and looking at how we can roll this into something beneficial. Many local and state decision makers were introduced to the project in order to help Coronado. Juan Vargas and Denise Ducheny wrote letters of support to the SANDAG board. Perception is shifting across the bridge. The focus is external – to convince as many people in as many ways as possible to help us. Third party advocates have been developed to help in the City’s behalf. They include the North Island Association, Associated General Contractors and the San Diego and Imperial Labor Council.

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

1. Major Traffic Study (MTS): Mr. Benson reported sitting through three hours of traffic modeling. It’s a challenge to make it look like what really happens on Third and Fourth Streets. The model indicates that extending the left-turn pocket going south would help; it can hold 12 more cars. The model will allow us to do some selling on this.
2. Semi-Diverter: The consultant is moving on the environmental.
3. Third Street Gate: The Navy, City and PMA have ratcheted up lobbying with Senator Feinstein to bring the project back from ’07 to ’05. Capt. Landon and Lt. Williams are leaving. Landon has been proactive about this. The new C.O. will have to get up to speed fast. The gate is not currently compatible with the west portal of the tunnel. Mr. Clark said this is where the Tunnel Commission can help. Landon should be pushed to sign a piece of paper acknowledging incompatibilities. Mr. Benson said that the City has a letter from him saying that the Navy will make every effort to make the gate compatible with the tunnel. Mr.

Osborne expressed concern about moving trucks from First Street to Third and Fourth Streets. Ms. Brydges said that the eventual expectation is that any trucks that come over the bridge will use the tunnel.

4. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: The agreement with Caltrans is still being worked on.

5. Airport Committee – Joint Use of North Island: The Coronado Chamber of Commerce is having an “Eggs and Issues” breakfast on April 23. Joe Craver, Capt. Landon and the Mayor will be there to discuss this issue.

D. Future Meeting Schedule: Thursday, May 13, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. The June meeting will be an exception and will occur on the first Thursday of the month (June 3) because the first public scoping meeting is scheduled for June 9. This will give the Commission an opportunity to review the materials to be presented at the scoping meeting. Mr. Benson said that in June and July drilling machines will be on Fourth Street for the geotechnical investigation.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:14 p.m.