

# CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, December 4, 2003  
Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue  
Community Meeting Room

## MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Steve Clarey, Betsy Gill, Al Ovrom, Al Hollingsworth and Art Osborne

Absent: Bill Huck and Casey Tanaka (City Council representative)

City Staff: Jim Benson, Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the November 6, 2003 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Osborne asked if the Tunnel Commission's contribution to the Glorietta Bay time capsule got in and Ms. Brydges said that it did. Mr. Clarey said there was an article in *The Washington Post* about the negative impacts commuting has on people's lives. Seventy-five percent of people would take a cut in salary to reduce their commute.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update

1. Project Study Report (PSR)

- Caltrans Action: Mr. Benson said the City hopefully got the last set of comments from Caltrans. He has signed the PSR, but John Rieger has not. Caltrans wants the City to change some things regarding safety and accidents. At today's PDT meeting it was agreed that it is not the appropriate place to do this in a "done" document. This came from Caltrans Environmental, not Engineering, staff. Ms. Brydges said the objective is really more political, having to do with funding the operation and maintenance of the tunnel. Staff will be meeting with Pedro Orso-Delgado about this. Hopefully, these will not be obstacles to signing the PSR.

2. Project Report and Environmental Documents (PR/ED): Today City staff and Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) met at the new Caltrans facility on Viewridge.

The environmental people were prepared and did not have that many comments. Five people were there and others who will be involved were identified.

- Scope of Work and Schedule: Good progress is being made. It's about 100 pages. All of the PB environmental people were at the PDT meeting. Mr. Clarey asked if the Tunnel Commission (CTC) would continue to be involved and Mr. Benson said that as long as the CTC is willing, it can review documents. Mr. Osborne felt it's good to get in on the draft stage, not the final stage.

3. \$750,000 Federal STP Grant FY 03 – Authorized: This is in place and is part of the money that will pay for PB.

4. 2004 Transportation Bill & Reauthorization Bill Pending: Mr. Benson said this has next to no chance of being passed by November 2004. They heard today that SAFETEA is now being called TEA-LU in the Senate version of the transportation bill.

5. SANDAG Transnet Extension - \$25 Million: Mr. Benson said this is big news and a major milestone. The project is a line item on the draft list of Transnet projects. There is a lot of work to do to make sure it stays there. As of January, Councilmember Phil Monroe will assume a voting role on the SANDAG Transportation Committee that has been held for years by Chula Vista. That absolutely helps. The final Transnet half-cent sales tax renewal will be presented to the Committee in April. Public agencies can only provide information, but cannot lobby for the ballot measure to extend Transnet. Private organizations have been and will be collecting money for the campaign. It needs a two-thirds vote to extend the tax. Ms. Brydges said that one thing different about the \$25 million is it's for construction only, so it is contingent upon getting all approvals.

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

1. Major Traffic Study (MTS): Mr. Benson said this is moving along; there was a little delay caused by Wilbur Smith (subconsultant to PB) closing two offices. Some of the data coming out of the traffic counts and modeling will feed into the semi-diverter focused EIR. Mr. Ovrom asked if the City is buying some traffic counters that are more data-collection friendly and Mr. Benson said it's part of the MTS to research the type of counters and their locations.

2. Semi-Diverters: The City is negotiating a contract with the consultant now. This will go to Council on December 16. Mr. Clarey asked when public hearings would start and Mr. Benson said there isn't a final product yet. The first thing the consultants said was it would take nine months to a year to complete.

3. Third Street Gate: Mr. Benson said this slid to '07 in the MILCON presented to Congress by the Department of Defense. It was #1 coming out of

this region. The City has discussed with PMA getting it back to '06 or '05. Mr. Ovrom said that Todd Gloria, aide to Susan Davis, says it was a House problem. The chairman of the MAAC is considering strongly asking the local delegation to consider support.

4. Airport Committee – Joint Use of North Island: Mr. Ovrom reported that Joe Craver said they were going to look hard at offshore and this and that. They have to produce a recommendation; the recommendation does not have to be bought, but must be produced. Admiral Betancourt was firm about not wanting any use of North Island, joint or otherwise. Mr. Clarey said the scenario is clear – the public strategy is to push for closure, but we'll get off the closure track if you'll allow joint use. The CNO was asked and he said he has some problems associated with security. One reason Miramar is not attractive is the number of voters in that area. Mr. Clark said he spoke to the Mayor and he and the City Council are on board with the Navy to oppose any use of North Island. Mr. Hollingsworth warned that the City does not want to get in the same position it was in with the bridge, saying “no, no, no,” so when it was too late, nobody listened.

Additional discussions took place regarding the implications of commercial airport use at NASNI.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: Since the first Thursday in January 2004 is New Year's Day, the next meeting will be held on January 8, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in the Police Facility Community Meeting Room. Mr. Osborne complimented staff for their “superb way of working on this.” He said “it's really remarkable.”

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved:

---

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman