

**CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 9, 2004**  
**Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue**  
**Community Meeting Room**

**Minutes**

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Al Ovrom, Art Osborne, Lou Smith and Steve Clarey

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

City Staff: Jim Benson, Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

Consultant: Brian Pearson, Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the November 4, 2004 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update

1. Project Report & Environmental Documents (PR/ED):

- Update Master Schedule: A new update of the entire schedule was distributed. The engineering work has been accelerated and links made between some engineering and environmental tasks.
- Purpose and Need: Still working on traffic forecast numbers because there are some problems getting valid numbers from SANDAG.
- Task 2.09 Tunnel and Portal Architectural Design Concepts Workshops/Schedule: Workshops were held on November 10 and December 1. The architect is Kathryn Lim out of PB's Los Angeles office. She has a lot of experience working with neighborhoods and what they want. There were about 30 people at the first workshop – the focus was looking at what people want in terms of design, materials, lighting, etc. From these ideas she came up with eight sketches. Some people wanted to retain the “wing” structure and some said the wing is not what Coronado is about. At the second workshop people commented on the sketches. The tree concept at the east portal was popular. Ms. Lim will take the comments and narrow the ideas down to about three. A draft report will be given to the CTC in February. Mr. Pearson said this could be viewed as two projects: the tunnel portal and the gateway to Coronado. He said that Caltrans does not view the wing as architecturally significant; it's just a part

of the toll plaza. From their point of view, it could come down when the toll plaza comes down.

- Draft Preliminary Geotechnical Report: This will be given to Caltrans in early January.
- Draft Preliminary Seismic Memorandum: This came out in November. It describes what the presence of faults will mean in the design of the tunnel and defines the propensity for earthquake motion in this area.
- Status of Environmental Technical Studies: All measurements have been completed for the Noise Impact Report. The Water Quality Study has not been started because PB is waiting for the results of the geotechnical report. The Air Quality Report is dependent on future traffic evaluation. The Visual Impact Study is waiting on the portal design report. The Community Impact Assessment is underway. The Cultural Resources effort is being done in conjunction with Caltrans and FHWA.
- Development of Construction Limits: For the east portal, PB thinks the contractor will have sufficient room to work within the Caltrans right-of-way and will not disturb the bike path. They are developing construction limits at the west portal.
- Refinement of Geometric Plans: PB is still debating with Caltrans about shoulder width. They originally said it needed to be 8' on both sides per Caltrans standards. Then Caltrans decided it could go to 10'4". Now they've had a second look and say the minimum standard is 5', so the City will be asking for a design standard exception. PB will get this tied down.
- Agency Coordination:
  - Caltrans – Work continues.
  - Navy Environmental – Ditto.
  - Resource Agencies – Ditto.
  - Fire Life Safety and Security Committee (FLS&SC): This committee is now meeting monthly.
    - Tunnel Safety and Security Conference – November 15-17, 2004 – Mr. Benson and Fire Chief Kim Raddatz attended this conference back east. It was the biggest gathering of recognized experts in the world. There was a lot of discussion about active fire suppression systems. There is also a lot of research going on about human nature; there is tendency for a significant number of people to stay in their cars when it's smoky. As far as modes of interaction, the best thing is for an operator to be able to communicate with people in cars (e.g., "Get out of your cars and head to the nearest exit" or, even more specifically, "Hey, you in the yellow car").
    - Vulnerability Assessment – FHWA Team – January 24-28, 2005 – The City is still waiting for FHWA to provide an actual agenda and is trying to get a Navy expert to participate – there is nobody like that at North Island.

## 2. Funding:

- \$500,000 Federal CBI Grant – Authorization/Finance Letter: Caltrans doesn't know anything more. The money is out there but it has not been released.

- Transportation Reauthorization Bill (2004-2009) – Request for \$20 Million: The continuing resolution runs until May. New people are potentially coming in to Congress and some agreements that are relatively close to being signed could be back on the table. SANDAG is hearing that a six-year bill (TEA) may be changed to six years from when it's approved. Ms. Brydges distributed copies of PMA's (the City's federal lobbyist) presentation to Council on Tuesday. Mr. Benson said that PMA is not only looking for money for the tunnel, but also for the Transbay sewer force main. \$10,000,000 is authorized for the Transbay project but it has not been appropriated yet. PMA also obtained money for the hospital.
- SANDAG Transnet Extension November Ballot Proposition A – \$25 Million – Construction Only: Proposition A passed and now some projects can start, for example, the expansion of the northern part of I-5.
- Discussion of Strategy for DOD Participation: There have been discussions on how to get the Navy more involved and whether it should be tied to BRAC. It's difficult to do until BRAC is decided.

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

1. Major Traffic Study (MTS): The final report is being worked on.
2. Semi-Diverter: The City Attorney will be filing a motion this week for relief from the court's previous direction. We should know relatively soon what the court's decision is – whether to finish the EIR or take the semi-diverter out without finishing the EIR.
3. Glorietta Initiative: This initiative lost.
4. Third Street Gate – Tunnel Compatibility in Bid Documents: This was discussed with the Navy on Monday and the City will continue to have ongoing discussions.
5. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: On Tuesday Council authorized using a task-based approach for the environmental portion of the project. Councilmember Monroe suggested breaking the components apart and prioritizing them to move elements forward. Staff is researching whether this would be a CEQA violation. The City will be working with a consulting engineering firm, RBF.
6. San Diego Regional Airport Authority Site Selection: Dual Use of North Island: The Airport Authority is developing Tier 2 criteria for site selection. They finally agreed to accept the Navy's request to add the dual use criterion. It is the last item that will be considered in the screening. The first criterion is how far it is from where the most people are located. A lot of sites (e.g., Borrego, Campo, March, etc.) will drop off the list at the start. Paul Speer and Mike Woiwoide were appointed to the Advisory Committee for the BRAC.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: Thursday, January 13, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. Steve Clarey will not be able to attend.

D. Other:

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:17 p.m.

Approved:

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Jackson S. Clark, Chairman