

**CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, July 13, 2006**

**Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue
Community Meeting Room**

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Steve Clarey, Art Osborne, Al Ovrom and Margaret Pimpo

Absent: Lou Smith, 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 June 8, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: The “Big Dig” accident in Boston was discussed and it was felt that there seemed to be a problem with the panel installation. The “Big Dig” is a cut and cover tunnel, not a bored tunnel.

Two Boy Scouts working on their citizenship badges were present because one badge requirement is to attend a community meeting. One scout asked if the tunnel would damage the environment or the bay and Mr. Clark replied that since the tunnel will be totally in Coronado it should have no impact on the maritime environment. Mr. Clarey pointed out that it will actually have a positive impact on the environment because it will potentially take up to 50,000 cars off the street with associated noise and pollution. Ms. Brydges noted that the City is spending five years studying just how the tunnel will affect the environment; there are 11 different elements to the environmental document. It will be very in-depth. Another scout asked how much the project would cost and where the money will come from. Mr. Benson replied that with inflation, the cost will be about \$470 million by the time construction starts. Mr. Ovrom explained that there are lots of pots of money and the City’s going after all of them; it will be primarily federal, then state, then local dollars. Mr. Clark said that every study to date has cost a considerable amount; some of the money came from tolls. Mr. Pearson noted that Caltrans tracks bridge costs and they’re paying 60% more in material costs than they were three years ago. This will be an issue for the tunnel cost estimate.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update

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

- Public Outreach – Recap of Public Meeting – June 28, 2006 – Ms. Brydges thanked the commissioners who were able to attend the meeting and said that about 50 members of the general public attended. They were well-prepared and had good questions. A Caltrans Environmental representative was present and he addressed how houses will be evaluated before, during and after the project phases to determine any impacts of construction. It was very successful. Mrs. Pimpo said that some people told her they did not know it was an open house; they thought they had to be there at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Clark suggested that maybe the concept of “open house” could be described better next time.
- Status of Technical Reports – Engineering/Environmental – All reports are being revised to include the new Alternative 5B. They will be resubmitted to Caltrans and go through the review and approval process again. By early August we expect to have all the advanced planning studies to turn over to Caltrans. Mr. Clarey asked if any fatal flaws had been found and Mr. Pearson responded no. The traffic consultant, Katz Okitsu & Associates, does not expect any problem with traffic backing up onto the bridge because of Alternative 5B.
- Project Scope and Schedule Update – The completion of the joint EIS/EIR has slipped from December 2008 to August 2009 because of Alternative 5B. Additional time has been incorporated for the Navy’s review of documents. The Navy now has to agree with the content of the documents before they are released to the public. The project scope and budget have been updated and are going to the City Council on July 18.
- Agency Coordination
 - Caltrans – The major coordination issue for Caltrans is to get the Technical Advisors Panel (TAP) II comments out. The panel provided major feedback on earthquake design criteria, so supplemental technical information was prepared on ground motion. The TAP II was very helpful.
 - Navy – Revised MOA – “Cooperating Agency” – Navy Review Process and Timeline – The big issue is the Memorandum of Agreement. It was delivered to the Navy yesterday and Ms. Brydges said she believes RADM (select) Alexander has signed it. The next step is to get the Navy’s response as to what this means to their review process and timeline.

2. Funding:

- 2007-2011 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and TransNet Program of Projects – SANDAG Board Approval, June 2006 – The SANDAG Board was scheduled to take this up in June, but it was delayed until August because four cities (not Coronado) have not adopted resolutions.
- Status of Annual Appropriation Request for \$2.7 Million – There are no earmarks in this year’s bills. The implication is that money has been

appropriated, but will go directly to the State and the State will divide it up among projects.

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

1. Status of Third Street Gate Project: The City met with the Navy and Caltrans yesterday. The Navy is still working on the logistics of some things, specifically the Third and Alameda intersection. There was a discussion about bus bays – MTS wants three. There was also discussion about who will pay for the modifications to the intersection; the way it is now, low-profile buses cannot get through. Another meeting is scheduled in August.

2. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: It is a challenge making the bulbouts work; the consultant is working on ensuring that drainage still work with bulbouts.

3. San Diego Regional Airport Authority (SDRAA) Site Selection: Dual Use Miramar: Mr. Ovrom said the San Diego Greater Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee voted against moving the airport to Miramar, but the Transportation Committee voted to move it there. It's still up in the air as to how the Greater Chamber will handle this. There is now a website called www.noonmiramar.org. The *Union-Tribune* is for the move to Miramar.

4. General Information Update: Mr. Benson provided a little information on the 2005 Annual Traffic Report. The 2005 traffic was down a little from 2004, but for the majority of 2005 there was only one carrier in port and Special Operations people were elsewhere. They will be coming back. Mrs. Pimpo asked about counting base traffic and Mr. Benson replied that the City is researching placing traffic counters on all NASNI and NAB gates as well as elsewhere in the City.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, August 10, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:03 p.m.

Approved:

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman