

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

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

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

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

City Staff: Jim Benson, Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

Consultant: Brian Pearson (Parsons Brinckerhoff)

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the May 13, 2004 meeting were approved unanimously. A quorum was not present at the June meeting and there were no minutes to approve.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Clark shared a brochure he received in the mail regarding the Transnet 1/2 cent sales tax extension. He felt it could have looked less like an advertisement and thought some people might have tossed it out, thinking it was junk mail. Mr. Benson said he had passed on the same observation to Richard Chavez.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Replacement Commissioner due to Resignation of Betsy Gill: RADM Lou Smith was appointed to the Commission by the City Council on Tuesday. Unfortunately, he had to miss today's meeting due to another commitment, but he is looking forward to serving.

B. Update

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

- Public Scoping Meetings – June 9, 2004: Mr. Pearson said that Caltrans was very satisfied with the meetings. There were 50 people in the afternoon and 25 in the evening. Everyone who showed up was interested and stayed a while and took a lot of information away with them. Mr. Benson said many people were interested in other traffic issues; in particular, he talked to several about the opening of Glorietta Boulevard issue and many had not realized this might attract short-cut drivers from I-5. About 50 comments were received after the meeting.

- Purpose and Need: Mr. Pearson has a draft P & N. It's considerably longer than the earlier version. He got Caltrans' comments today, will

incorporate them, turn it around back to Caltrans and they will send it to FHWA.

- Draft Study Outline and Methodology: All Caltrans comments have been received.
- 90-Day Schedule: Mr. Pearson said that each month the schedule is updated; there is a 90-day rolling window. They are meeting all scheduled targets and should have no problem holding to established milestone dates.
- Public Involvement Plan (PIP): A number of activities go beyond what CEQA and NEPA would demand. A website is being set up as well as Navy focus groups to get feedback from regular corridor users and determine what is the best way to communicate with them. This will be coordinated with the Navy Public Affairs Officer and Rideshare Coordinator. They will try to get a mix of people and find out what their experiences with the corridor are. This will happen sometime in August. Mr. Pearson said they would be communicating with the public on the geotechnical field investigation. There will be a news release to the *Coronado Eagle & Journal* and a fact sheet, area map and schedule will be developed. The website will be updated and a mailing will be sent directly to affected property owners roughly three weeks before the investigation takes place; they will follow up with door-to-door contact. Emails will be sent to all involved agencies. They're looking at roughly 21 borings of different types, going down 125-130 feet. They don't anticipate any problems. Mr. Osborne commented that a press release to the *Eagle & Journal* is good, but we should be hitting the *Union-Tribune* as well. Mr. Hollingsworth said the *Navy Compass* should be contacted too. Ms. Brydges will cover that. The borings will happen roughly around the August 10-31 time frame. No traffic lanes will be closed, so this won't create traffic congestion.
- Fire, Life, Safety Subcommittee: Mr. Pearson said the subcommittee has not yet been initiated, but a good response was received from Caltrans when it was introduced to them today. The State Fire Marshal and Highway Patrol will be invited to participate. The Navy will be involved too because they have already brought up incident management (who would handle incidents that occur near the Navy end of the tunnel, etc.).
- Base Mapping: Base mapping is being finalized using existing City maps. Caltrans is happy with this for preliminary engineering plans.
- Geotechnical Field Investigation: The Kleinfelder report has been submitted to Caltrans. (Also see above under Public Involvement Plan.)

2. Agreements:

- Lead Agency Agreement – City/FHWA/Navy Caltrans: The City spoke to Caltrans today about this. The agreement is with their legal people; from there it goes to Federal Highways. The Navy is also reviewing it and rather than being signed by the Navy Public Works Officer, it will go up the line.

- Local Match Credit for PR/ED Phase – Caltrans: This has been approved by FHWA but we don't have the letter yet.

3. Funding:

- 2004 Transportation Appropriation Bill - \$500,000 – Authorization/ Finance Letter: Discussed above.
- Transportation Reauthorization Bill (2004-2009) – Request for \$20 Million: This is in Congress. Congress and the administration are finally realizing that a lot of private people are employed through construction contracts with the transportation industry. There's another 30-day extension of the continuation of the Appropriations Act. Mr. Clarey commented that a lot of this will wait until after the election.
- SANDAG Transnet Extension - \$25 Million – Construction Only: SANDAG has moved forward with the approval of an ordinance to put this on the ballot. It went without approval of the County. Richard Chavez of SANDAG says the polls are holding pretty strong with 71-72% in favor, with a two-thirds vote needed to pass it.

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

1. Major Traffic Study (MTS): There will be a preliminary draft before City Council on August 2 (a Special Meeting of the Council). Questions will be: do we want to stick with the basic T-system, a modified T-system with signals at some intersections or throw all of the streets open?
2. Semi-Diverter: The first screen draft on traffic is very large. There is an incredible volume of numbers crunching and it will take a lot of work. Mr. Benson believes this will be a year-long process.
3. Third Street Gate: Mr. Benson says everything the City hears is that this will be in the 2005 MILCON. The City has an updated letter from Assistant Secretary of the Navy H.T. Johnson indicating they will work hard on compatibility.
4. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: Mr. Benson said the agreement is tied up in bows with Caltrans and SANDAG. Unfortunately, the City advertised and had a good showing at the presubmittal meeting, but had zero submittals. The City will go back and try to find out why no one submitted; the preliminary indications are that some firms, like Parsons Brinckerhoff, are too busy at this time. The City has the OK from joint partners SANDAG and Caltrans to go out and solicit individual firms.
5. Airport Committee – Dual Use of North Island: Mr. Ovrom hears there's a full-court press from downtown San Diego people to get the airport on North Island. They want it close to downtown and since they can't get a second runway downtown, they want North Island. Mr. Clarey advised that the City would have

to keep this on the radar and Mr. Benson said the Airport Authority is forming a new Advisory Committee.

- D. Future Meeting Schedule: Thursday, August 12, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.
- 5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:09 p.m.