CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 9, 2006

Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue
Community Meeting Room

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Mayor Tom Smisek, Sut Clark, Steve Clarey, Al Ovrom, Lou Smith, Art Osborne and Margaret Pimpo

Absent: 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 February 9, 2006 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update

1. Project Report & Environmental Documents (PR/ED):
   - Caltrans Technical Advisors Panels (TAP) – Geotechnical/Seismic/ Structures: PB is within a week of publishing the final geotechnical/ seismic report. The structural design TAP has been deferred until June due to the possibility of revising the current alternatives.
   - Status of Technical Reports – Engineering/Environmental: Not discussed.
   - Agency Coordination:
     - Caltrans – See elsewhere.
     - Navy – See elsewhere.
     - Utilities – Not discussed.
     - Fire/Life/Safety/Security Committee – Not discussed.

2. Funding:
   - Annual Appropriation – Request for $2.7 Million: The Mayor met with Congresswoman Susan Davis and staff for Senator Barbara Boxer. Both are

supportive and will carry the fund request. There's no guarantee as to what the City will receive.

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

1. Chairman's Report on Meeting with the Mayor: Chairman Clark did meet with the Mayor. The Mayor provided an update of issues under Item 4.B.2.

2. Status of Third Street Gate Project:

- Resolution Encouraging Compatibility – The CTC's resolution was received by the City Council at the March 7 Council meeting.
- 60% Plan Review/Alternative West Portal Design Concepts – Mayor Smisek said that when PB saw the alignment of the Third Street Gate they started playing around with designs. One has to do with looping the portal to meet the Third Street entrance and the other has to do with coming up near the surface at around I Avenue and Fourth Street. This is a good faith effort on the City's part to comply with what the Navy is doing. The Mayor and Acting City Manager met with Admiral Hering on Monday as a courtesy call prior to going to Washington, D.C. The tenor of the meeting shifted to security concerns and Adm. Hering requested that the City go back to the original design of having a tunnel straight under Fourth Street and the security gate at the bridge. At 9:00 a.m. or so the Navy would shut down the gate and turn the traffic around for the rest of the day and night. Two-way traffic would be lost, but to gain the facilitation of the Navy on this, the City Council will probably recommend putting this into the mix of what's already been explored. The Mayor spoke to Navy officials Buddy Penn and Dino Aviles in Washington, D.C. and they said the Navy does not object and will cooperate. Money is a problem, however; the Navy has $350 million next year for new starts installation for all of the Navy and it will be going down in subsequent years. This isn't a whole lot.

Discussion of a third nuclear aircraft carrier has been resurrected; one will be coming from the east coast in 2010. It gives the City a ray of hope for funding in the future for resolving traffic problems.

Mr. Smith noted that part of the Military Construction bill is for defense access roads, just this type of thing, and it was done at Norfolk. Defense access road fundss are to be spent on non-military roads. Mr. Clarey said there are also opportunities for Homeland Security monies. Mr. Benson said that Caltrans raised the issue that if access is Navy-only, almost all of the federal transportation money goes away; Caltrans and FHWA would be out of the picture. The Mayor felt confident that special legislation could take care of that. He wants to keep the project moving and encourage cooperation with the Navy.

Mr. Pearson suggested adding this as a new alternative with the security gate at the east portal and modifying the other two alternatives to meet Caltrans objectives and keep this moving. As long as there are alternatives that meet Caltrans/FHWA requirements, this will go a long way toward keeping them involved.

Mr. Benson said that staff, Caltrans, the Navy and the Navy's contractor, R.A. Burch met yesterday. Separate from the tunnel, there is the operational issue of what do you do with that intersection once the gate is opened? Burch will come back to address drainage and a signal at Third and Alameda. They need a Caltrans permit or they cannot put a new entrance on a state highway.

Mr. Pearson summarized where the project stands politically with Caltrans and FHWA:

- The Navy alternative being proposed by the Mayor has a high chance of eliminating Caltrans and FHWA's funding and participation. New private connections to controlled access facilities are not permitted by Caltrans. They are in the business of providing access to the public. The risk run by trying to solve this legislatively would be a delay of one to two years.

- The current alternatives don't meet the Navy's requirements because they don't have security before getting onto the base. They (the twin bore and the cut and cover) may be able to be modified to fit a security gate at the east portal to address the Navy's concerns about screening vehicles before getting onto the base. If there's no way to modify the current tunnel alternatives to meet the Navy's security requirements, this may make the project infeasible.

He asked if the Tunnel Commission's direction was to maintain the current two alternatives and add the new one. Staff wants to go to Council on April 4 to ask for direction on this.

Mr. Clarey suggested that PB research other bases with tunnel access. Alameda had the Posey Tunnel and there's one for Norfolk.

3. <u>Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project:</u> The City is making progress on the bulbouts and has an agreement with Caltrans for a categorical exclusion. The Fourth and Alameda signal and work at the toll plaza need more environmental work.

4. <u>San Diego Regional Airport Authority (SDRAA) Site Selection: Dual Use of NASNI:</u> Mayor Smisek said that Buddy Penn and Dino Aviles were of the strong opinion that there will be no joint use.

5. Five-Year Defense Plan: Not discussed. Will be removed from future agendas.

6. General Information Update: Not discussed.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: There will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, April 13, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:35 p.m.

Approved:

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Jackson S. Clark, Chairman