

**CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 9, 2005**

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

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Steve Clarey, Lou Smith, Al Ovrom and Bill Huck

Absent: Art Osborne and Casey Tanaka (City Council representative)

City Staff: Jim Benson, Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

Consultant: Brian Pearson, Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)

2. MINUTES: A correction was made to the May 12, 2005 minutes. Under Oral Communications, “resonance and drilling” was changed to “resonance sonic drilling.” With that change the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Status of Replacement for Tunnel Commissioner Al Hollingsworth: The City Council approved the appointment of Margaret Meadows on June 7.

B. Update

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

- Supplemental Geotechnical/Seismic Investigation: The good news is that the bucket auger work was finished in one day which was faster than expected. In addition, the water table is lower than expected. Caltrans may require that the City follow NEPA procedures for the trenching. The City filed for a CEQA exemption and Caltrans was aware of this. However, at today’s PDT meeting Caltrans’ cultural resource person said the City has to do NEPA. It was decided to have an archeologist on site during the trenching to address this. A meeting is set for Monday morning to get the official results from Kleinfelder on the bucket auger work and the length of the trench. The findings from this report may be of use for the hospital and the Hotel Del master plan.

- Caltrans Seismic Technical Review Panel: Caltrans has limited experience with tunnels so what they've done on other tunnels is to convene a panel of experts to give them feedback. They will convene three different panels with the best-known experts in California to review and concur with the geotechnical report, seismic design criteria and structural design. Funding of these panels will be covered by the City's cooperative agreement with Caltrans. The cost is approximately \$25,000 per meeting which includes reviewing the reports, meeting on them and reporting back.
- Refinement of Project Alternatives – City Council – July 5: This will go to the City Council on July 5 and two changes will be requested: (1) to drop the single bore alternative from further consideration. It has an eight to nine foot larger diameter than any tunnel constructed with an earth pressure balance machine to date. PB wrote a technical memorandum explaining the rationale for dropping this, but will need to go through the formal process of dropping it; and (2) a change to the two-lane reversible cut and cover tunnel is proposed that entails putting a wall down the middle to add bi-directional traffic. That way, this alternative can be compared apples to apples to the twin bore. Caltrans has agreed to a revised section for the cut and cover tunnel. As the lead CEQA agency, the City must formally accept these changes. Then they will go to Caltrans for concurrence. The grade separation at Orange will be the only non-tunnel alternative to be considered. Mr. Ovrom moved to acknowledge that the Tunnel Commission concurs with these changes; Mr. Huck seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Agency Coordination:
 - Caltrans – Major items include the Technical Review Panel and making the adjustments to the alternatives. The City received a letter from Caltrans stating that the tunnel will not be a “Lifeline” facility.
 - Navy – The Navy will defer any comments on construction limits at the west portal until they can come up with more of a policy decision. The Request for Proposals for the Third Street Gate went out this week. Contract award will be at the end of July. The City has asked the Navy what the procedure will be for the City to interact with the contractor.
 - Resource Agencies – Have not gotten heavily involved with resource agencies yet but down the line this will involve the Coastal Commission, etc.
 - Fire Life Safety and Security Committee (FLS&SC): This committee met on May 24 and will meet again on June 13. The Fire Department did the permit oversight for the trenching.
- Pubic Outreach – Newsletter – July: A newsletter is planned for the end of July so the next time the Tunnel Commission meets it can review a draft. To be included: information about the adjustments to the alternatives, the portal concept and the Third Street Gate.

2. Funding:

- Transportation Reauthorization Bill (TEA-LU) – \$5 Million in House Bill: The conference committee is now meeting. There are 93 conferees on the committee and still no agreement on the amount. We expect to see the TEA bill by the end of June. Mr. Pearson explained that in order to get a Record of Decision (ROD) signed by Caltrans a financing plan needs to be in place. The existing financial report will be refined and included in the environmental document. The City needs to define its resources and have a commitment for the next phase. The City has a finance committee that meets once or twice a year (Mr. Huck is a member) and will probably meet again in the fall.
- Annual Appropriation – Request for \$2.7 Million: No update.

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

1. Status of Third Street Gate Project: Covered above.

3. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: The City Council authorized using a phased approach. Staff will be working on bulbouts and landscaping on Third and Fourth Streets as Phase 1. The Engineering Department will be submitting an application for money from a pilot SANDAG Smart Growth program. SANDAG does not think ramp metering applies to this program, but the metering in Coronado would be meant to slow traffic entering a residential area, not to meter traffic onto a freeway; this would be Phase 2. Council's last priority was traffic signals; staff may or may not get direction from the Council to study this. Mr. Pearson said that Caltrans brought up involving Caltrans landscape personnel in the design of the portal. This raises the issue of whether they would be giving direction as to the type of landscaping they would like to see. Mr. Benson suggested getting through the technical discussion of how to do the metering and developing a landscaping plan consistent with the metering system. Caltrans has regulations which preclude putting in landscaping that would then be removed by a subsequent project.

4. San Diego Regional Airport Authority Site Selection: Dual Use of NASNI: Mr. Ovrom said this was talked about rather extensively at the most recent MAAC. On Monday morning a few people are going to Miramar to hear why dual use won't work there. The same type of thing is being worked on for NASNI. Mr. Benson said the Airport Authority has agreed to delay adopting the Air Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for NASNI until the Navy does a new AICUZ.

5. General Information Update: Mr. Benson reminded the commissioners that the Library grand opening is tomorrow morning.

D. Future Meeting Schedule: Thursday, July 14, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:09 p.m.

Approved:

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman