

CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 13, 2004
Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue
Community Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Art Osborne, Bill Huck, Al Hollingsworth, Al Ovrom and Casey Tanaka (City Council representative)

Absent: Steve Clarey

City Staff: Jim Benson, Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

Consultant: Brian Pearson (Parsons Brinckerhoff)

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the March 11, 2004 meeting were approved unanimously. There are no minutes from the April 8, 2004 meeting as a quorum was not present.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Benson made note that Svante Hjertberg, a long-time regular attendee of Tunnel Commission meetings, is in Sweden for six weeks.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Resignation of Betsy Gill – Suggestions for Replacement Commissioner: Ms. Brydges said that retired Admiral Lou Smith will be approached. Mr. Huck felt it would be an asset to have a younger person, perhaps a woman, on the Commission. Demographically, the Commission is supposed to consider someone who might have a different perspective. Mr. Clark noted that the Commission can recommend, but it will be the City Council that makes the actual appointment; however, he felt it is not a bad idea to have all parts of Coronado represented – it would be nice to have someone from the Cays or Shores. Mr. Walton said that John Pizzato, former El Cajon city engineer, lives in the Cays or the Shores. Mr. Clark asked that those people mentioned be contacted to see if interest is there. He would like to move forward with all deliberate speed.

B. Update

1. Project Report & Environmental Documents (PR/ED): Mr. Benson reported a positive reaction from Caltrans in terms of support and getting involved proactively.

- Notice of Intent (NOI)/Notice of Preparation (NOP): The NOI will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 24 to meet federal

environmental regulations. The NOP will be published locally to meet Caltrans CEQA regulations. The intent is to advise all agencies that we are now involved in the EIR process. The NOP will be mailed to all public agencies on May 17 and to the public on May 24.

- Notice of Scoping Meetings and Introductory Letter: On June 9 there will be two scoping meetings, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Notices will be placed about these meetings. One thing that has changed is that Caltrans has serious concerns about presentations – if people come late or leave early they may not get all the information and could challenge the process. Therefore, there will be different stations with technical people who can answer questions, but there will be no formal presentation. This way there will be objectivity and equal access. This will be one more opportunity for the public to provide comments on the alternatives being considered for study. They can comment on forms or a stenographer will take their statements. Caltrans wants to limit comments to written. Ms. Brydges asked the Commissioners if they would be available on June 9 to act as docents to direct people to locations, etc. The results of the scoping meetings will be presented to the City Council.

- Advertisements: Covered above.

- Initial Study: Copies of the Initial Study were distributed.

- Draft Study Outline and Methodology: This explains how impacts and mitigation will be evaluated.

- 90-Day Schedule: A five-year schedule is available, but it is very detailed and there are some extraneous details not related to work going on at present, so every month a schedule looking at what's happening in the next 90 days will be prepared.

- Public Involvement Plan (PIP): This is a summary of all programs proposed to be developed as part of the environmental process, such as outreach programs, a hot line, site tours, guest editorials and visits to schools. This is budgeted at approximately \$400,000 and is a very comprehensive attempt to make sure the public is involved. Mr. Benson reminded those present that the title is no longer “SR 75/282 Transportation Tunnel”; it's now “SR 75/282 Transportation Corridor Project.” This was kicked off at the last Council meeting where the City Manager gave a presentation. The PowerPoint presentation has a new look with the new title.

- Public Scoping Meetings – June 9, 2004: Covered under second bullet.

- Fire, Life, Safety Subcommittee: A separate subcommittee will be convening to address fire, life and safety issues. The City Fire Chief will chair it and the Navy will be heavily involved. In addition to this there will be a security assessment for terrorism for the bridge and tunnel. This will be on a separate track. The Navy will be involved in this too. It is not a legal requirement at this time.

- Base Mapping: This includes topographical and aerial mapping to identify all the major features in the area.

- Geotechnical Field Investigation: A plan is being put together to lay out all boring and testing areas – soil samples, water levels, seismic testing, whether there's any contaminated soil and suitability of sand for beach replenishment. PB will also try to pin down the location of the Coronado fault. PB will go to Caltrans in a couple of weeks to make sure it's consistent with all of their requirements. The public will also be advised of this activity.

2. Agreements:

- Lead Agency Agreement – City/FHWA/Navy Caltrans: The final draft is being circulated to legal people. The Navy is OK with it, but it's still in Caltrans and FHWA's hands.
- Local Match Credit for PR/ED Phase – Caltrans: Caltrans is still working on this.

3. Funding:

- 2004 Transportation Appropriation Bill - \$500,000 – RTIP Amendment: We have \$500,000. The RTIP amendment is done.
- Transportation Reauthorization Bill (2004-2009) – Request for \$20 Million: Mr. Benson said the latest information is pretty pessimistic; it doesn't look like they'll be able to hammer anything out in an election year.
- SANDAG Transnet Extension - \$25 Million – Construction Only: By a 3-2 vote the County Board of Supervisors voted against the proposed Transnet extension and said they want more money for highway and local roads and less for transit.

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

1. Major Traffic Study (MTS): Mr. Benson said the model is working better and has been passed to RBF, the firm doing the environmental on the semi-diverter study.
2. Semi-Diverter: See above.
3. Third Street Gate: Ms. Brydges and the Mayor went to Washington, D.C. and talked to Senator Feinstein and others. It's now a Congressional add in the House bill for military construction. It should make it through the process to get it in FY '05. Sen. Feinstein has made written communication to the Navy that it must be compatible with the tunnel. Susan Davis made it one of her highest priorities and went to the Feinstein meeting with the Mayor and Ms. Brydges.
4. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: The final wording has been worked out with Caltrans. The City will be putting an RFP on the street to do the environmental to evaluate bulbouts, signals, etc. It's moving forward.

5. Airport Committee – Joint Use of North Island: Mr. Ovrom and Mr. Hollingsworth went to a meeting at the Hotel Del about this. Mr. Ovrom thought the Mayor's comments were right on. Joe Craver said (1) they're looking at Campo; (2) everything could potentially go on Lindberg Field; and (3) Miramar will be taken off the table because the population in the area will fight it. Ms. Brydges pointed out that Undersecretary of the Navy H.T. Johnson said "you cannot overcome the security issues related to North Island and dual use."

D. Future Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. This meeting will be an exception to the usually scheduled second Thursday of the month and will occur on the first Thursday of the month. The first public scoping meeting is scheduled for June 9, so this will give the Commission an opportunity to review the materials to be presented at the scoping meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:15 p.m.