

CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, November 15, 2007

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

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Art Osborne, Steve Clarey, Bill Huck, Margaret Pimpo and Darrell Sarich; Al Ovrom (City Council representative)

City Staff: Jim Benson, Ed Walton and Rhonda Cruz.

Consultant: Brian Pearson, PB Americas, Inc. (PB)

Absent: Lou Smith

2. MINUTES: The October 11, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Svante Hjertberg (audience) asked if he could review a hard copy of the geotechnical report and Mr. Walton said he could review it at City Hall.

Mr. Huck mentioned his concern that the Coronado tunnel is larger than Northern California and Italian tunnels and asked if this was a done deal. Mr. Benson said this is the kind of thing that will be discussed during value engineering and whether we can do design exceptions. Mr. Pearson said discretionary design features can be appealed, but not mandatory ones and shoulder width is a mandatory standard and generally excluded from design exceptions. In European tunnels there are no shoulders and there is no way to evacuate or get emergency vehicles in, in case of a fire or other emergencies. Europe is willing to “roll the dice.”

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update:

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

- Draft Project Report and Draft EIS/EIR Review Status – Mr. Pearson said this is under review by the Navy and Caltrans and seems to be progressing satisfactorily. The Navy requested an additional week for review and this was agreed to. They will bring their written comments to the next PDT meeting. PB hopes to have all the comments incorporated in early January. In February or March they expect

comments from Caltrans headquarters and will get the draft document to the public in July. Mr. Pearson distributed a revised schedule.

- Agency Coordination – Navy/Caltrans – Mr. Pearson said there is an issue as to whether the Navy would sign a confidentiality agreement. The attorneys on both sides have not come to an agreement as to what exactly the Navy's role is. Mr. Benson said Caltrans and Navy staffs along with the City will try to work this out and bring it to the attorneys. The Navy didn't understand how the delegation of authority from FHWA to Caltrans for the environmental review works.
- November Newsletter – This was an insert in the November 7 *Coronado Eagle & Journal*. An update will be done after the environmental comments are in.

B. Funding:

1. Discussion of Project Financing Alternatives and Steps to Implement: Ms. Cruz distributed a schedule and timeline to reinstate the tolls. SANDAG still has the authority to install or remove tolls in Coronado per legislation. Also, the legislation allows a maximum of \$1.50 to be collected per vehicle; the City would have to get legislation to increase the tolls. Mr. Ovrom asked about a joint powers authority and Mr. Benson responded that a JPA could have authority and there would be potential advantages with this option. Mr. Huck wondered about adding the toll reinstatement to the EIR in process and Mr. Benson said a toll reinstatement EIR would need to be more bulletproof because there will be people who don't like tolls. Mr. Clarey would like to add removing the restriction on car pools to the legislative process.

Mr. Huck said tolls are not just for the sake of tolls – they would be for the tunnel. He suggested using 2008 for an educational and support process for the tunnel. He's heard financing for this project won't happen at the state, regional or local levels, so we need to plan. Right now we have an inadequate plan.

Mr. Pearson noted that the timelines to design and construct toll booths are significantly inadequate for electronic tolls and it can't be done during construction because the contractor will need that space.

2. Consider CTC Attendance at a City Council Meeting: Mr. Benson said there will be a City Council meeting on December 4, but the meeting scheduled for December 18 may be canceled. There is only one meeting in January – January 15. Mr. Huck wondered if individual meetings with councilmembers beforehand might be the way to go; it would be useful to know how they're thinking. The City needs to figure out how to finance the project and what the elements of the strategy would be. He's concerned that people will begin to (and have already) begun asking if we're throwing good money after bad and Mrs. Pimpo agreed.

Mr. Clarey recalled that Mr. Clark had suggested forming a subcommittee to meet one-on-one with the Councilmembers. He thinks discussion could be more in depth this way. He referred to a newspaper article Mr. Huck had circulated entitled "States Should Look to Toll and P3s, DOT Officials Say." This would be a good thing to leave behind. Mr. Huck suggested starting discussions with individual councilmembers after the holidays.

Mr. Pearson said that when the EIR goes public in the summer it will be important for the City to have some kind of policy on how the project will be paid for. He said that June is a good target date to wrap up the councilmembers' consensus.

Mr. Ovrom said that Ben Clay asked if the Department of Transportation would consider the fact that some Navy activities have been transferred to San Diego and Mrs. Pimpo observed that the Navy is conglomerating three carriers here to save money, so there must be money available somewhere.

Mr. Benson distributed copies of a letter to the Secretary of the Navy regarding the Navy stepping forward with traffic mitigation in the corridor and the Navy's response stating that they have no fiscal responsibility.

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

1. Status of Third Street Gate Project: The City's consultant is working toward final design of the signals and has seven pages of comments from Caltrans.

2. Bulb-Outs/Signals Update: The City's consultant is looking at landscaping, so it's not just concrete. Mr. Clarey urged installation of traffic calming measures at the Third and B intersection and Mr. Benson said the City would review that.

3. General Information Update: Mr. Benson said that the police are on a special assignment and doing major enforcement on Third and Fourth Streets. Mr. Clark commented on seeing red-light running at Orange Avenue.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:20 p.m.

Approved:

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman