

CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 6, 2003
Police Facility, Community Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Bill Huck, Steve Clarey, Betsy Gill, Al Ovrom and Art Osborne

Absent: Al Hollingsworth and Casey Tanaka (City Council representative)

City Staff: Jim Benson, Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

Consultant: Brian Pearson, Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the September 4, 2003 meeting were approved unanimously. There were no minutes for the October 2, 2003 meeting because a quorum was not present.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Osborne reported that he had gone to the Glorietta Bay Master Plan groundbreaking ceremony. There were 20-30 items put in time capsules and he thinks an official document from the Tunnel Commission's efforts should go in. Mr. Pearson suggested the *Task 5 – Summary Report* and Ms. Brydges said she would take care of it.

Tom Lockett, owner of 1519 Fourth Street, property that runs behind Escondido Lane, said he is looking for information about tunnel approaches to see if it might affect his property. Ms. Brydges said this information is in the PSR and she will share it with him.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update

1. Major Investment Study (MIS) – Review and Discuss: Mr. Pearson said the three remaining tasks have been completed.

- Task 7 – Project Study Report: This has been submitted to Caltrans.
- Task 8 Final Report on Financial Strategies: This went to the City Council on October 21. Mr. Benson said the most important change from the draft is an addendum that describes the JPA concept and gives background in the ways it has been used. Ms. Brydges said the City may not need a JPA if it has a cooperative agreement with Caltrans. Mr.

Pearson said a JPA may give additional authority to, for instance, build a tunnel using design/ build.

Council directed staff to come up with prioritized policy guidelines. Now staff has direction to seek contributions from various agencies (a copy of the guidelines was distributed to the Commissioners). Mr. Benson said item “F” on the guidelines (an increase in the TOT) could or could not be earmarked for the tunnel. Mr. Ovrom pointed out that the problem with that is if we stumble later on, we may not be able to use it. Mr. Huck wondered if consideration had been given to the City’s contribution being on the bottom of the list. Someone might look at it and say “you, as primary beneficiaries, what are you doing for this?” Strategically, is there a weakness in going to other people saying we want a tunnel and if we have to, we’ll help pay for it? Mr. Clarey noted that this is only a plan, a political process. Mr. Osborne felt that the wording “if available” regarding use of general fund monies weakens it. Mr. Clarey suggested that the guidelines not appear in their present form in the newspaper or other means, but Mr. Ovrom pointed out that it was discussed at the last Council meeting and is in the minutes.

Ms. Brydges noted that what’s extraordinary about this project is that almost all of the funding to date has been City dollars. This is a very large contribution. Mr. Osborne said it would be nice to have a preamble to the guidelines showing that the City has already kicked in a lot of money.

- Task 9 Public Outreach – Newsletter: Mr. Pearson said that the newsletter was distributed with the October 29 *Coronado Eagle*. It was observed that this can be a tool to be used by Nancy Burt in Sacramento, the MAAC and PMA for congressional lobbying. Mr. Pearson said this was the concluding task of the MIS and, on behalf of the Parsons Brinckerhoff team, wanted to thank the Tunnel Commission for its guidance and constructive input. It has been a huge help to the process.
2. Project Report and Environmental Documents (PR/ED): Mr. Benson said that Caltrans has had a 1,300 person cut. Mr. Osborne asked about the backlog of projects and noted that there was money for projects four or five years ago. Mr. Benson responded that the State did a pretty good job over the past few years in getting projects into the system. He said that on November 4, Council awarded the PR/ED contract to PB. There is a pre-award audit that is required by Caltrans. The last time PB went through a pre-award process, they passed with flying colors. He said that the Caltrans people who were at today’s PDT meeting have agreed to turn the draft scope of work around before the next meeting. Mr. Pearson said he’d walk the Commission through the work envisioned for the four years at the next meeting. Mr. Benson said there is a new San Diego area manager for PB; his name is Ken Jong. Mr. Jong is a former Caltrans District

Manager in northern California. He's done some very large projects, including the East Bay bridge replacement and some tunnels.

3. \$750,000 Federal STP Grant FY 03 – Authorized: Mr. Benson said this is part of how the City will pay for PB in the next part of the project. We have an additional \$500,000 being sought by Susan Davis in the FY 04 Transportation bill, but it is caught up in the delay to the new six-year Transportation program. Transportation programs are currently operating on a five-month continuing resolution.

4. 2004 Transportation Bill & Reauthorization Bill Pending: Mr. Benson said the City is looking for \$20 million for design.

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

1. Major Traffic Study (MTS): Mr. Benson said the traffic counts are done and the modeling is still underway. A significant hiccup is that PB's subconsultant closed their San Diego and Orange offices. They're working out of LA now. Mr. Osborne asked if it would be beneficial to have the project manager for the traffic study give the Commission a briefing and Mr. Benson responded that the MTS would be briefed at a future meeting.

2. Semi-Diverter: An Initial Study to determine the appropriate level of environmental review will go to Council on November 18. There was a public notice about the meeting in yesterday's paper.

3. Third Street Gate: Mr. Benson said the City has seen updated drawings and has some concerns that have been taken to PB. The Navy's contractor will work directly with PB. This will be a design/build project. Mr. Pearson said the contractor will be obligated to have the design compatible with the tunnel. Mr. Benson said funding is supposed to go in '05-'06, but Susan Davis is working on '04-'05.

4. Airport Committee – Joint Use of North Island: Mr. Ovrom said that on Tuesday the Council took the position of supporting the Navy in its objection to any use associated with North Island (NI). However, the Mayor said that you can't close the door completely. Mr. Ovrom is hearing at the MAAC that there is a sizable contingent of politicians and businesses in San Diego who are trying to get the airport on NI. As he understands it, the airlines have to pay for it and they don't want to, so there won't be a people mover from Lindberg Field to NI and they'll come over the bridge. Mr. Huck noted that it's possible to hold projects up – are we thinking defensively? Mr. Ovrom said he had spoken to the City Manager and thinks the process has begun. Mr. Clarey said Coronado has a representative, Mike Woiwode, on the airport working group. A preferred airport location will be presented to the voters in '06. It will have some impact on the region. A compromise at the national level might be to not close NI, but to opt

for joint use. He thinks the City ought to be cognizant of this impending impact on traffic. Mr. Benson asked if the Commission wanted to leave this an agenda item and Mr. Ovrom said we have a project and if the use of the base is altered or expanded in any way, what happens to the project?

Mr. Clarey wondered if those present had heard that people planning to go to the new ballpark are being recommended to park in Coronado and take the water taxi over. PB should be aware of this.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: December 4, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. in the Police Facility Community Meeting Room.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Approved:

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman