

CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 9, 2004
Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue
Community Meeting Room

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Al Ovrom, Art Osborne and Lou Smith and Casey Tanaka (City Council representative)

Absent: Al Hollingsworth, Steve Clarey and Bill Huck

City Staff: Jim Benson and Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

Consultant: Brian Pearson (Parsons Brinckerhoff)

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the August 12, 2004 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Osborne wanted to congratulate whoever was responsible for getting the tunnel project in the recent Transnet flyer. He felt it was really a coup.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update

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

- Purpose and Need: Mr. Pearson gave a brief definition for new Commissioner Smith.
- Scoping Report (concur on alternative): This will be going to the City Council for concurrence on September 21. Mr. Clark suggested that the Council might want to know if there is support for this from the Tunnel Commission and he made a motion to support accepting the Scoping Report and concurring with the recommendation in the staff report. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. A copy of the draft minutes of today's Tunnel Commission meeting will be attached to the staff report that goes to Council.
- Public Involvement Plan (PIP):
 - Navy Focus Groups – Two Navy focus groups (one in the afternoon and one in the evening) will be held on September 22 where both civilian and Navy personnel and contractors can offer their concerns and what their commute issues are. Steve Alexander's task is to ensure there is a representative sample.

- Geotechnical Field Investigation: This was completed ahead of schedule with no community issues raised. Kleinfelder is preparing the draft geotechnical report which will provide input for the Environmental Document. They did sonic testing for the Coronado Fault.
- Historic Properties Survey: Section 106 of the NEPA document involves several steps from now until around April 2005. The consultant must survey all properties over 50 years old; along the corridor there are about 200 properties. This mainly relates to the grade separation alternative. Only a few relate to the tunnel. Caltrans has agreed with FHWA that we can do a phased approach so that a full survey won't be done until the preferred alternative is known. Caltrans has expressed that the extent of the survey is dependent on the amount of predicted settlement.
- Fire Life Safety and Security Committee (FLS&SC): The State and Federal requirements are extensive for smoke detection, ventilation, etc. Something that surfaced recently is a concern for potential terrorist acts; therefore, FHWA has said a vulnerability assessment should be performed. This will be done under the auspices of the committee which will be chaired by Fire Chief Kim Raddatz. Mr. Benson and Chief Raddatz will be attending a conference in Maryland in November that is strictly about tunnel safety. For fire, life and safety the tunnel might stand alone, but for security we see addressing the bridge and the tunnel together and are coming up with various scenarios and mitigations for both. Mr. Tanaka said he felt this will be a natural extension of linking the tunnel and the bridge which he thinks is a goal. Mr. Pearson said PB's New York staff is going to do an analysis of how the tunnel would withstand the impact of a blast and this will be incorporated in the design.
- SANDAG Series 10 Traffic Forecast: SANDAG has projected socioeconomic data to 2030 and will be doing 2015 and 2030 traffic forecasts with and without the tunnel.
- Development of Construction Limits: PB is looking at what ground area will be required, not just for the tunnel, but for staging, storing, temporary traffic lanes, etc. at both portals. The ED will have to address impacts of these construction limits.
- Agency Coordination: Mr. Pearson is trying to set up a meeting with the Navy environmental group, both at NASNI and SWDIV and also trying to set up a meeting with all involved agencies – Army Corps, Fish & Game, etc. There was a poor response from these groups at the scoping meetings, so they will have to be met with individually. Mr. Smith offered his assistance with the scheduling; he knows many people at the involved agencies.
- 90-Day Schedule: This is updated every month and is a look at the next three months. Mr. Smith requested a copy of the master schedule and Mr. Pearson will get that for him. One of the most important elements on the schedule is the east portal and what it looks like. Mr. Pearson envisions that project stakeholders having some interest in the visual impact of this will be the City's Design Review Commission, Public Arts Subcommittee and the Navy. PB will have their architect put together

some preliminary graphic design sketches and then have public workshops. Hopefully, some design concepts will come out of this. Mr. Smith advised doing this carefully; this is not about designing the portal – it's about building a tunnel and Mr. Tanaka concurred. Mr. Pearson said that as part of the CEQA/NEPA process they have to develop a visual impact study. They will identify the concepts as themes and seek public input in workshops where they will discuss concepts, but not show designs. Then they will come up with two or three design concepts and take them to the Tunnel Commission (CTC) and City Council. He said that at the next CTC meeting he would come back with a better definition and eliminate some of the risks the CTC has identified. Mr. Tanaka offered that the public could suggest ideas to the architect and these could be taken to the CTC and Council.

2. Agreements:

- Lead Agency Agreement – City/FHWA/Navy Caltrans: At today's PDT meeting Caltrans handed the copies signed by Caltrans and FHWA to Ms. Brydges and she in turn handed them to Lt. Marisa Barrie for Capt. Alexander's signature. Mr. Benson said Caltrans and FHWA have been most cooperative.

3. Funding:

- \$500,000 Federal CBI Grant – Authorization/Finance Letter: This is held up by FHWA and will go to FY 04/05.
- Transportation Reauthorization Bill (2004-2009) – Request for \$20 Million: It looks like there won't be anything until after the election.
- SANDAG Transnet Extension November Ballot Proposition A – \$25 Million – Construction Only: The San Diego Taxpayers' Association has sued the anti-Proposition A proponents for inaccurate language in their rebuttals.

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

1. Major Traffic Study (MTS): At their August 3, 2004 meeting, Coronado City Council provided direction to staff on areas to be further explored. These included analysis of the signal proposed for Glorietta Boulevard and Fourth Street, allowing southbound turns off the bridge, and extension of the left-turn pocket on Orange Avenue at Fourth Street. It was recognized that the traffic model would also be used in the CRWG analysis of possible signals at Third and Fourth at B, Third and Fourth at F and Third and Fourth at Alameda.

2. Semi-Diverter: This is in the hands of the voters, but staff continues to work on the environmental.

3. Glorietta Initiative: As noted above, staff is working to come up with what the impact of the Glorietta initiative would be and is shooting for the second meeting in October to get back to Council. Staff needs to determine how many cars can physically get through a new signal without jamming up Fourth. Then

all kinds of assumptions have to be made on where cars can go – it looks like many would turn on San Luis Rey because it's a straight shot. Mr. Ovrom questioned whether there is any way to determine traffic cut-through to South Bay and Mr. Benson said he is not sure if the SANDAG traffic model can give an accurate representation of this. The model will look at extending the left-turn pocket on Orange Avenue.

4. Third Street Gate: At the PDT meeting Lt. Barrie reported putting together some last-minute information for Congress. This was viewed as positive in that the project is still being considered.

5. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: Mr. Benson reported that the City put out an RFP and got 19 firms at the pre-proposal meeting, but no firms submitted. This legally allows the City to go out and solicit proposals. Several firms were contacted and one submitted a proposal with an exceedingly high fee. Another firm has been solicited and we hope to get something we can award. Mr. Walton said another factor is there may be federal money and the project will have to be put through the CEQA/NEPA process.

5. San Diego Regional Airport Authority Site Selection: Dual Use of North Island: Mr. Benson said the Mayor made a recommendation for the Authority to appoint Paul Speer to the Advisory Committee. We hope he becomes an appointee. Mr. Ovrom said at Tuesday's Greater MAAC, Joe Craver said they're looking at three or four locations at Campo, Indian land and forest land.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: Thursday, October 14, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:10 p.m.

Approved:

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman