

**CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 11, 2007**

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

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Art Osborne, Lou Smith and Steve Clarey; Al Ovrom (City Council representative)

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

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

Absent: Bill Huck, Margaret Pimpo, and Darrell Sarich

2. MINUTES: The September 13, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Clarey shared a letter he received asking Coronado Hospital Foundation members to sign a petition to increase the transient occupancy tax to benefit the hospital. Mr. Ovrom said the City Council has asked staff to look into ways to use public funds to benefit the hospital.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update:

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

- Draft Project Report and Draft EIS/EIR Review Process/Schedule – The drafts were distributed to the Commission last month, but comments are welcome now or in November. Mr. Pearson reminded the attendees that this is an administrative draft and not for public review at this time.
- CTC Attendance at November 20, 2007 City Council Meeting – There is nothing on the November 20 Council agenda now, unless the CTC wants to attend. The City Manager will not be there nor will Councilmember Al Ovrom. Mr. Clark said the intention had been to discuss Bill Huck's email regarding funding options. He said the gist of the discussion would be that the CTC is concerned that not considering tolls and taxes as funding sources will make it difficult to fund the project. He's not sure the CTC is ready to do this at a formal Council meeting. Mr. Benson said that Mr. Ovrom is crucial to this; if he's not there, another date should be considered.

- October Newsletter – This is done. It will be in the *Coronado Eagle & Journal* in the third or fourth week of October.
- Agency Coordination – Navy/Caltrans – Mr. Pearson said that Caltrans has advised the City that the documents cannot be released to the Navy. They are internal confidential documents and are only to be reviewed by cooperating agencies. The Navy was originally a cooperating agency but there are questions being raised now that FHWA has delegated NEPA review to Caltrans. Today there was a meeting between the Caltrans and Navy lawyers and there has been discussion that there might need to be a confidentiality agreement between the Navy and Caltrans. FHWA delegated their authority for NEPA to Caltrans because FHWA was an obstacle in timing for large projects. Caltrans is very conversant with NEPA. Navy staff is continuing to work as if they have authority.

Mr. Benson said that the Navy is working at about half staff right now and Mr. Ovrom said he'd had a conversation with Capt. Mike Allen this morning and Capt. Allen said that SWDIV is going to hire a full-time urban planner to be their project manager for this project. This person will work for NAVFAC under Capt. Wirsching. Thus, there will be a single point of contact. The Navy is trying very hard to crank up their review of this project.

Mr. Ovrom reported that he went to Washington, D.C. with the San Diego Greater Chamber of Commerce and met with the Secretary of the Navy to say that the people of San Diego want the military here, but despite the good things, there are some negatives, including traffic. Mayor Smisek wrote a letter to Admiral Hering which was passed along to the Secretary of the Navy and there is some effort to answer that letter. Mr. Pearson said that it is critical to get Navy review of the documents before they go public. The Navy could raise significant issues and confuse the public if they haven't reviewed the reports before they go public.

B. Funding:

1. Discussion of Project Financing Alternatives and Steps to Implement: Mr. Benson said some research has been done on tolls and there are many steps to implementing them. There is existing legislation which says tolls will be no more than \$1.50. To generate the money needed for all of the alternatives except the underpasses, the charge needs to be at least double at the minimum. Also, major work needs to be done on the bridge piles and the state can take toll money and use it for that.

Mr. Pearson said the Environmental Document has a modest section regarding funding requirements. The Tunnel Commission may want to suggest that it be beefed up and include the financing strategies in the Financial Report. This would get it out to the public and he believes the community will want to pay attention to how the project could be funded. A detailed financial plan is due in spring 2009 for the preferred alternative, so questions about toll revenue will have to be answered by then.

Mr. Clarey said he'd like to see a schedule of the City's steps required to support the Record of Decision; for example, when formal submission for all funding sources like Defense Access Roads funding is needed. The steps need to be defined – maybe we need a brainstorming session. Mr. Ovrom agreed and said he'd like to see a timeline and milestones for each source of funds. Mr. Smith would like to see an action plan with

if/then statements – what do we do if one funding source should have been started two years ago, for example, those requiring legislation? How would this get started? Mr. Benson said that he could speak to the City Manager and get direction for staff. Mr. Pearson pointed out that this is item #11 on Bill Huck’s September 19 email (attached to these minutes).

Mr. Clarey moved to request that staff develop a plan of action and milestones for each potential source of funding for the Transportation Corridor Project. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Clark observed that the pursuit of any of the funding sources would need Council’s approval and Mr. Clarey said that if any actions need to go to the voters the process for that would need to be included.

Dick Scharff (in audience) noted that there are formidable opponents to tolls.

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

1. Status of Third Street Gate Project: The City is moving forward with both signals and is getting detailed comments from Caltrans.
2. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: The City held a public meeting regarding bulb-outs. On a two to one basis, more people supported the project. Mr. Clarey asked if staff could look at some traffic calming and Third and B.
3. General Information Update: None.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: Mr. Clark and Mr. Clarey will be unable to attend the next regularly scheduled meeting and it was suggested that the meeting be moved to November 15. The CTC recording secretary will poll today’s absent members about the possible date change.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:08 p.m.

Approved:

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman