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## **MINUTES CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION**

Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Police Department Community Meeting Room, 700 Orange Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

1. ROLL CALL: Commissioners Sut Clark (Chair), Bill Huck, Margaret Meadows Pimpo, Art Osborne, Darrell Sarich and Lou Smith.

Absent: Steve Clarey

City Council Representative: Al Ovrom

City Staff: James Benson, Rhonda Cruz, Ed Walton and Recording Secretary Nancy Reynolds

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

2. MINUTES: Mr. Osborne moved to approve the March 13, 2008 meeting minutes. This was seconded by Mr. Smith and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Each person wishing to speak before the Coronado Tunnel Commission (CTC) shall give name and address and limit the presentation to three (3) minutes. State law generally precludes the Commission from discussing or acting upon any topic initially presented during oral communications. – None.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update

1. Project Report & Environmental Document (PR/ED)

- Draft Project Report and Draft EIS/EIR Review Status – Response to Comments – PB has completed all their responses to Caltrans' comments on the PR and EIS/EIR. There were 186 Navy comments and PB is fine-tuning their responses. Most of the comments were traffic-related. By Monday they will

email all of their responses to Caltrans and look for concurrence. Then they will forward them to the Navy.

PB put together a design concept and study scope for a stacked cut-and-cover tunnel that will surface on Alameda (Alternative 4B, Option 2) to address some Navy concerns. This will require several reports to be revised and add another \$450,000 to the budget. They asked the Navy to look at the design and the Navy's response at today's PDT meeting is that they don't want a tunnel that daylight on Navy property. Mr. Benson said that at today's PDT meeting the Navy provided a copy of a letter sent to the Mayor by BJ Penn that sought to clarify the earlier letter from Admiral Hering. Secretary Penn's letter stated the the Navy could not support any tunnel alternatives. Mr. Clark noted that this contradicts the Pirie, Penn and Hering letters that said the Navy would do everything they could do to address this problem.

Mr. Pearson said that the Navy wants a Vulnerability Study done as soon as possible to address their concerns with anti-terrorist/force protection issues with their forces in a tunnel. A previous study was done by FHWA and nothing has changed to require a new study.

- Navy Comment Cover Letter (2/07/08) and Attached Technical Comments – Proposed Responses – See A.1., first bullet.
- Scope/Budget/Schedule Proposal for Alternative 4B, Option 2 (4B2) – After the news received at today's PDT meeting, the PDT was wondering if it was feasible to go forward with 4B2 and spend \$450,000 to study this option. Mr. Smith observed that written comments are what we go by; there is no need to stop marching. Mr. Osborne moved to not study this alternative, but it failed for lack of a second. Mr. Benson said that the Navy does not make the final decision on this; it's the federal government that does. A significant percentage of the traffic in Coronado goes to the two Navy bases and the Navy should have a role in dealing with that traffic.

Mr. Benson asked what if someone raises the question of why this alternative wasn't studied? This could be critical of the environmental process. Mr. Smith said the only way to challenge an environmental decision is to say "You didn't follow the process."

Mr. Smith moved to support the inclusion of the study of Alternative 4B Option 2 and Mr. Huck seconded the motion. It passed with Mr. Osborne voting nay. Mr. Huck wanted the minutes to include that the Tunnel Commission is skeptical of this option, but wants to study it for the thoroughness of the EIS.

- Scope/Budget/Schedule Proposal for Toll/PPP Feasibility Study – Tolling is a large funding component for all of the tunnel options. Caltrans won't allow this in the environmental document unless it's fully explored. Therefore, PB put together a proposal to study this and incorporate it into the EIS. Mr. Pearson distributed a proposal to "Develop a Tolling/Public Private Partnership Feasibility Study." The points covered by the proposal are:

- Prepare schematic layout of tolling equipment.
- Prepare initial toll traffic and revenue projections.
- Prepare capital cost estimates for toll equipment.

- Prepare operations and maintenance cost estimate and net toll revenues.
- Evaluate institutional issues.
- Evaluate public/private partnership opportunities.
- Financial capacity analysis.
- Provide input on tolling issues and impacts for the draft EIS.
- Prepare toll feasibility report.

Mr. Huck suggested that it might be a good idea to give this document to the Port, SANDAG and other agencies. Mr. Benson said that once it goes to the City Council it will be in the public domain. He noted that since the tolls came off, two-thirds of the SANDAG Board has changed and there's a different mindset related to tolls as demonstrated by the SANDAG initiative for a third border crossing paid for by user fees.

Mr. Huck then moved to accept the proposal to study tolling; Mrs. Pimpo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Pearson requested that comments/questions on the scope of work be sent to him within one week.

- Agency Coordination – Navy/Caltrans – The Navy wants the City to rewrite the MOU with Caltrans because their attorneys can't agree and the City has not even been involved in any decisions. Mark Baza (Caltrans) said the disagreements do not even involve the issue at hand.

## B. Funding

1. Discussion of Project Financing Alternatives and Steps to Implement – See A.1., fourth bullet.
2. Subcommittee Report on Council Contacts – Mr. Clark and Mrs. Pimpo met informally with Councilmember Ovrom on March 28 and got some good constructive criticism. He suggested keeping the federal and state funding issues separate from the local (such as tolling, PPP, parcel tax) and at the top of the list. They also met with Councilmember Carrie Downey. She suggested if it gets to the point of going to the voters that we don't go with three proposals; we should go with whatever has the best chance of providing sufficient funding and receiving voter approval. She also suggested calculating what proportion of the money would come from what arenas.

Mr. Clark said he'd like to see closure on this issue even if a tunnel isn't built; the City will be asked in future "Why didn't you fix the traffic problems?" and it will be able to be shown that there wasn't voter support if a proposal for local funding has been rejected.

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

1. Status of Third Street Gate Project – Close to being finished.
2. Bulbouts/Signals Update – The bulbout design started out being eight feet into the parking lane, but Caltrans said some trucks' mirrors would pick off pedestrians, so it went down to six feet. Caltrans also requires a bike lane to be maintained, meaning a four-foot shoulder. This reduces the bulb-out to three or four feet. Staff will go to the City Council and ask for guidance.

The City has a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the signals on Third and Fourth Streets at their intersections with Alameda Boulevard. It went from seven pages to 14 after having gone to headquarters in Sacramento.

3. General Information Update – None.

D. Future Meeting Schedule

1. Next Meeting – Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Approved:

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Jackson S. Clark, Chairman

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Nancy Reynolds, Recording Secretary