

MINUTES
CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION

Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

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

1. ROLL CALL: Commissioners Sut Clark (Chairman), Margaret Meadows Pimpo, Darrell Sarich and Lou Smith. City Council Representative Al Ovrom was also present.

Absent: Bill Huck and Steve Clarey

City Staff: Jim Benson, Rhonda Cruz, and Recording Secretary Nancy Reynolds

Consultants: Brian Pearson, PB Americas; Blake Nelson, Southwest Strategies

2. MINUTES: The December 11, 2008 minutes were approved unanimously.
3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Cruz provided an outline of the February 4 City Council workshop. It will consist of: (1) History, beginning with the Blue Ribbon Committee on Traffic; (2) The case for a Major Project Study; (3) Alternatives being considered; (4) Financial information; (5) Project Development Team, Tunnel Commission, support; and (6) The next steps.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Update

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

- February Newsletter – This has moved to March 11 and will be distributed via the *Coronado Eagle & Journal*. Ms. Nelson distributed a draft overview of the content and will send an electronic copy to the CTC prior to the next meeting.
- Draft Project Report and Draft EIS/EIR Status – This will go to Caltrans in the third week of April for an approximate eight-month review and approval process.
- Status of Alternative 4B Option 2 Study – Caltrans is reviewing the design and will meet with the Navy on January 15 to see if it's workable for them.
- Status of Toll/PPP Feasibility Study – SANDAG has not delivered the traffic modeling; they are modifying their model to indicate the traffic impact with tolls. A draft of the study will be out in late March and will go to the Council on April 7. (Note: We may want to make the March CTC meeting later in the month in order to comment on the study prior to the Council meeting.) Today Caltrans said there are two choices: (1) Take out all mention

of tolls in the document; or (2) Incorporate the tolls into the document; this would require more detailed information in all of the reports. It was decided to use approach #1. Staff will work directly with the consultant on the development of a financial document. Nossaman, the toll study consultant, said that for tolls to be reinstated on the bridge, SANDAG must get legislation and prepare a separate environmental document. Without SANDAG's participation there will be no reinstatement of tolls.

2. Recommendation for New Tunnel Commission – Mr. Smith suggested a civil engineer who lives on Third Street as a possibility. Mr. Clark said Mr. Clarey wondered about asking Dick Scharff. Mrs. Pimpo proposed trying to find a candidate who lives in the southwest quadrant of the City. Mr. Clark appointed Mr. Smith and Mrs. Pimpo to be a subcommittee along with himself to speak to possible candidates.

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

1. Congestion Relief Working Group Recommendations – Bulb-outs: Staff recommended that bulb-outs be discontinued because Caltrans will only permit four- and three-foot bulb-outs, but the Council's direction was to continue with the design as approved by Caltrans. Metering: Caltrans does not feel that there's any reason for metering; they are concerned with commute times, but speeds go up at other times. The Council wants staff to pursue metering. Landscaping at Toll Plaza: The Council wants to pursue some landscaping at the toll plaza to make the entry to the community more attractive and "soften" the asphalt. Noise Mitigation: The Council wants staff to explore noise mitigation measures for Third and Fourth Streets.

2. Alameda Signals Update – The City got the license agreement with the Navy. Caltrans wants a traffic management plan before they'll approve the permit. We hope to have the project out to bid in a couple of months.

3. General Information Update – Nothing to report.

C. Future Meeting Schedule: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. (This meeting had been rescheduled to February 26 but it has been moved back to its original regular date.)

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Approved:

Jackson S. Clark, Chairman

Nancy Reynolds, Recording Secretary