



Transportation and Public Works Commission
MINUTES
7:00 p.m. – Monday – January 23, 2012
City Council Chambers
809 Center Street

Approved March 19, 2012 4/0/2.

- Call to Order** Chair Schlenger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Roll Call** Chair: Schlenger, Vice-Chair: Pomerantz, Commissioners: McKee, Noroyan, Searle, Elston. Commissioner Garza arrived at 7:05 p.m.
- Staff** Mark Dettle, Chris Schneiter, Mary Arman, Robert Solick, Josh Spangrud, Chris Chang, Laura Waldren, Lois Meyer, Ross Clark

Public 10

Statements of Disqualification

Oral Communications

Announcements

Robert Solick: Laura Waldren is replacing Anne Lynch who retired. Lois Meyer is in training.

Mark Dettle: The Roundabout Project received the Monterey Bay Region American Public Works Association Project of the Year Award.

Approval of Minutes

1. [Transportation and Public Works Commission Minutes of November 21, 2011*](#)
Recommendation: Motion to approve as submitted.
Commissioner Noroyan moved, seconded by Commissioner Elston to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed 7/0.

It was noted by the Chair that the TPWC prefers Action Minutes.

Consent

2. [Chestnut Street Extension Slope Stabilization and Repair Project \(m400811\) – Request for Proposals and Award of Contract for Phase 1*](#)
That the Transportation and Public Works Commission recommend to City Council: 1) approval of the Chestnut Street Extension Slope Stabilization and Repair Project Request for Proposals for Phase 1 and authorize staff to advertise for the design/build proposals; 2) authorize staff to negotiate an easement or encroachment permit between the city and adjacent property owners for the private use and maintenance of the public rights-of-way between the top of the slope and the private property, in a form acceptable to the City Attorney; and 3) if feasible and at no cost, that Council protect the long-term City ownership of the property.

Commissioner Searle asked that the item be removed from the Consent Agenda and expressed concern regarding the proposed abandonment of a public access easement. Enquired as to whether or not slope slippage would require moving the wall further up hill. Felt this property should be kept in the public right of way.

Chris Schneider, Assistant Director/City Engineer and Chris Chang, Associate Civil Engineer, answered questions regarding the project. They used project diagrams to explain the proposed transfer to private responsibility of the flat space behind the existing fence in order to remove the "attractive nuisance" aspect which draws campers. If within the private fence, the City won't have to maintain the area and police won't have to respond to campers, making this a win/win situation. Staff is dealing with the "angle of repose" of the base rock and the wall is meant to stop slippage. If the property is transferred the City would not have a right to access the property, if another easement or right of way is established the City would have some control. This narrow strip is left over from original Chestnut Extension cut.

Shawn Wilson, property owner adjacent to site: Wants to see the new wall installed and the camping ended.

Donna Hagler, property owner adjacent to site: The site isn't safe and it encourages camping and secretive activities including drug use.

Commissioner Searle moved that the property not be transferred. Seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz. The motion failed 1/6.

Yeas: Commissioner Searle

Noes: Commissioners Garza, McKee, Noroyan, Schlenger, Pomerantz, Elston

Commissioner Garza moved the staff recommendation with the addition that, if feasible and at no cost, Council protect the longterm City ownership of the property. Seconded by Commissioner Noroyan.

The motion passed 6/1 with Commissioner Searle dissenting.

General Business

3. [Election of New Officers](#)

Nominations and elections of a Chair and Vice-Chair.

Robert Solick, Principal Analyst, explained the bylaw basics and that elections are by nominations and vote, not by tenure for commissions officers are elected by nominations and vote, not by tenure.

- Commissioner Elston nominated Commissioner Noroyan as Chair.
- Commissioner Garza nominated Commissioner Pomerantz as Chair.
- Commissioner McKee moved to close the nominations, seconded by Commissioner Elston.
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Chair Schlenger called the vote.

- Commissioner Noroyan received 3 votes (Elston, Noroyan, McKee).
- Commissioner Pomerantz received 4 votes (Garza, Schlenger, Pomerantz, Searle).

Commissioner Pomerantz assumed the duties of Chair for 2012.

- Commissioner Garza nominated Commissioner Noroyan as Vice-Chair.
- Commissioner Searle, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz moved closing the nominations.

Chair Pomerantz called the vote.

Commissioner Noroyan was elected vice-chair, 7/0.

4. [Branciforte Creek Bicycle-Pedestrian Path](#)

Recommendation: That the Commission recommend to City Council approval of proposed alignment#2 in order to proceed with project development, environmental review and design for Branciforte Creek Bike/Pedestrian Bridge and Multi-Purpose Trail Project.

Chris Schneiter presented a staff report. He noted that Mark Imbriani of TRC would present the concept plans and that in addition to TRC the City has hired Strelow Environmental Consulting and ESA PWA to create environmental models. There may be regulatory issues in the different proposals but not many design issues.

Mark Imbriani of TRC presented a detailed report, explaining the goals of the project and the three alternatives. He noted that Alternative 2 is the staff and TPWC sub-committee preference. Although one of the alternatives originally showed removal of a palm tree, none of the alternatives currently being considered will remove the tree. In fact, the palm trees will be a gateway feature. The parking lot adjacent to the project will be minimally impacted.

Chair Pomerantz opened the item for public comment.

Micha Posner, director of People Power: Excited about the project and appreciates staff diligence. This project doesn't just increase bike use here, it increases overall use because it will complete the City's river bike/pedestrian path network. Noted that First Alarm shouldn't be driving on the levee.

Jack Nelson: Supports this project which helps solve many transportation problems by getting people out of cars and onto bikes.

Unidentified resident: Inquired as to add-ons for access to the Soquel Avenue bridge. Noted that there are no cost estimates yet.

Chair Pomerantz closed public comment on the item.

Commissioner Searle, seconded by Commissioner Noroyan moved the staff recommendation.

Chair Pomerantz called for the vote.

The motion passed 7/0.

Commissioners Elston and Garza volunteered to continue on the ad-hoc committee even after they are no longer on the TPWC.

Chair Pomerantz requested that staff provide him with information as to whether a former Commissioner may continue on the ad-hoc committee for this project.

5. [Climate Action Plan](#)*

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Revised Draft Climate Action Plan.

Ross Clark, Climate Action Coordinator, presented the staff report. A copy of his PowerPoint presentation is available on the City website. He noted that transportation is the most difficult aspect of the plan to reduce greenhouse gases as there is a long turn-around time for implementation and acceptance. The Metro bus system reductions have deeply affected the possibilities for alternative transportation. Although the recommended 10% auto transportation reduction is lower than the proposed 30%, the change was necessary in order to get public buy-in is considered a feasible goal and would still allow the City to reach GHG reduction targets..

Chair Pomerantz opened the item to public comment.

Micha Posner, People Power: The plan has gotten better but still needs work. Agrees with the trolley, rail trail, and CIP assessments. Suggested that mitigating impacts can be included in all City projects without taking away the 15% TIF funds currently allocated for alternative transportation projects. Feels that the proposed new Climate Action staff positions are critical and suggested that the TPWC request that the City Manager prepare a proposal on how positions will be filled including financing. Wants the public involved on the Sustainable Transportation Team. Asked that staff be required to engage in automobile and transportation planning consistent with the CAP in all projects and implementations. Tomorrow (1-24-12) there will be a "Tour of Santa Cruz 2112 Without a Climate Action Plan" including what Santa Cruz might be like in 2112 if a CAP isn't adopted.

Batya Kagen, organic farmer: Read a poem reflecting what it might be like 100 years in the future if the CAP isn't adopted.

Jack Nelson: Noted that 3 of 4 gas dollars are lost to the local economy. Portland, OR residents drive 4 miles less per day than drivers in other metro areas. This is a savings of thousands of miles per year. The CAP can help sustain vitality within the community. Wants staff to plan for fewer car trips rather than more. Asked that the TPWC communicate to staff and the Council that the City should plan for fewer car trips rather than more.

Chair Pomerantz returned the item to commission.

The Commissioners made comments and asked questions.

Commissioner Searle moved to continue to monitor development in alternate transportation methodologies and to investigate and respond as appropriate to any proposals regarding them.

Seconded by Commissioner Noroyan.

The motion failed 3 to 4.

Ayes: Commissioners Noroyan, Searle and Pomerantz.

Noes: Commissioners Garza, Elston, Schlenger, McKee

Commissioner Searle moved, seconded by Commissioner Schlenger to continue the meeting to 10:30 p.m.

The motion passed 7/0.

Commissioner Garza moved that the language related to the TIF in the Draft CAP and final CAP be amended to include mitigation measures for development in the 2030 General Plan prioritizing non-auto measures and that future allocation [for non-auto measures] should not be less than the currently in effect [15%] allocation. Commissioner Noroyan seconded the motion.

Chair Pomerantz called for the vote.

The motion passed 4 to 3.

Ayes: Garza, Pomerantz, Noroyan, McKee

Noes: Searle, Elston, Schlenger

Commissioner Searle moved, seconded by Commissioner Garza to add members of the public to the Sustainable Land Use and Transportation Team as recommended by Council and that participants be chosen from relevant commissions or other members of the public as recommended by Council.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Searle moved, seconded by Commissioner Noroyan that the remaining key TPWC comments and suggestions be considered at the next TPWC meeting.

The motion passed 6/1 with Commissioner Garza dissenting.

Commissioner Garza moved that all relevant City departments include in their planning the intended 10% transportation mode shift for trip projections. Commissioner Searle seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7/0.

Information Items

6. [Graywater Ordinance](#)

By consensus, this item was held over to the March meeting.

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports

- Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force, Alan Schlenger

Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas**

- Highway 1/9 Improvements and Harvey West Emergency Exit (*Mark Dettle*)
- Highway 1 Bridge Widening Project Update (*Chris Schneider*)
- Refuse Rate Sub-committee (*Mary Arman*)
- Traffic Enforcement around Senior Centers and Schools – March 2012 (*Steve Clark*)
- Draft CIP FY13/15 – March 2012 (*Chris Schneider*)
- Sunnyside Avenue Sewer Project – March 2012 (*Anne Hogan*)
- Consideration of establishing a Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee – March 2012 (*Reed Searle*)
- Branciforte Creek Bicycle Pedestrian Path ad hoc committee membership – March 2012 (*Ron Pomerantz*)
- Graywater Ordinance Update
- TPWC Climate Action Plan Comments Review (*Reed Searle*)

***Items are scheduled for the next regular meeting of the TPWC unless noted.*

Adjournment

Commissioner Noroyan moved, seconded by Commissioner Searle, that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion passed 7/0.

At 10:25 p.m. Chair Pomerantz adjourned the Transportation and Public Works Commission from the January 23, 2012 meeting to the next scheduled meeting March 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers.