

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 8, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 a.m. by Chairperson Silvia Fidanza at City Yard, 2nd floor, Training Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Silvia Fidanza Fortino Rivera
Dan Oregel Tom Morrissey
Desi Reyes - in 7:33 Don Cribb
Claudio Gallegos Brian Bist

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jim Ross T.C. Sutaria
Teri Cable Christy Kindig
George Alvarez Laura Sheedy
Mary Gonzales Greg Fernandez
Thom Coughran Michael Ortiz
Will Hayes Elaine Viescas
Danell Mercado

Guests Present: Gordon Robinson, OCTA
Brent Lesjak, Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.

Election of Officers

Motion: Nominate Silvia Fidanza to continue as Chairperson.

Motion: Brian Bist **Second:** Don Cribb

Vote: **Ayes:** Silvia Fidanza, Tom Morrissey, Claudio Gallegos,
Dan Oregel, Don Cribb, Fortino Rivera, Brian Bist (7)
 Noes: (0)
 Abstention: (0)
 Absent: Desi Reyes (1)

Motion: Nominate Brian Bist to continue as Vice Chair.

Motion: Claudio Gallegos

Second: Don Cribb

Vote: **Ayes:** Silvia Fidanza, Tom Morrissey, Claudio Gallegos,
Dan Oregel, Don Cribb, Fortino Rivera, Brian Bist (7)
 Noes: (0)
 Abstention: (0)
 Absent: Desi Reyes (1)

*****CONSENT CALENDAR*****

Items removed for separate action or modified are highlighted. Separate actions show the actual vote, items without votes are adopted as part of the consent motion.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Approve the minutes from the December 11, 2008 meeting.

Motion: Don Cribb

Second: Tom Morrissey

Vote: **Ayes:** Silvia Fidanza, Tom Morrissey, Claudio Gallegos,
Dan Oregel, Don Cribb, Fortino Rivera, Brian Bist (7)
 Noes: (0)
 Abstention: (0)
 Absent: Desi Reyes (1)

Motion: Approve staff's recommendations on the following Consent Calendar items.

Motion: Fortino Rivera

Second: Don Cribb

Vote: **Ayes:** Silvia Fidanza, Tom Morrissey, Claudio Gallegos,
Dan Oregel, Don Cribb, Fortino Rivera, Brian Bist (7)
 Noes: (0)
 Abstention: (0)
 Absent: Desi Reyes (1)

B. RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

Recommendation:

Instruct the Committee Secretary to enter posting into the minutes.

The January 8, 2009 agenda was posted at City Yard on Wednesday, December 31, 2008, at 10:45 a.m.

C. EXCUSE ABSENCES

Recommendation:

Excuse the absence of the following committee member(s): None

D. TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT AT 1401 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE

Recommendation:

Deny the request to remove four Camphor trees located at 401 East Washington Avenue.

Authorize the request to remove one Carob tree located at 401 East Washington Avenue.

E. TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT ALONG REDHILL AVENUE BETWEEN ALTON AVENUE AND DEERE AVENUE

Motion: Approve staff's recommendations to authorize the removal of five Eucalyptus trees along Redhill Avenue between Alton Avenue and Deere Avenue, and to add more trees if possible, depending on staff's findings.

Motion: Brian Bist

Second: Tom Morrissey

Vote: Ayes: Silvia Fidanza, Tom Morrissey, Claudio Gallegos, Dan Oregel, Don Cribb, Fortino Rivera, Brian Bist, Desi Reyes (8)

Noes: (0)

Abstention: (0)

Absent: (0)

*****END OF CONSENT CALENDAR*****

*****BUSINESS CALENDAR*****

F. BUS RAPID TRANSIT- PRESENTATION

George Alvarez introduced **Gordon Robinson**, the Project Manager with OCTA, for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). **Gordon** is managing BRAVO, the branded name for the BRT. BRAVO is to be implemented on the Harbor Blvd. Corridor, Westminster Avenue/Seventeenth Street Corridor, and Bristol Street/State College Corridor. **Gordon** gave an overview of the project; the schedule, and the key elements of the five-year program. **Gordon** introduced **Brent Lesjak**, Program Manager for the Project Management Consultant team, who walked through the technical elements and gave detailed information concerning the key points of the program and potential future enhancements. The program is designed to increase transit passenger ridership by providing faster service with limited stops.

G. COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF COMMENTS

Jim Ross

- Updated the group regarding the Fairhaven Closure. The ruling from the Public Utility Commission staff was that they would not support reopening Fairhaven. **George Alvarez** met with the Park Santiago Neighborhood Board and traffic representatives from Fairhaven, notified them of the ruling, and informed them that staff will provide more information on the design features on this issue in three months. The representatives wanted to know about the treatment on Lincoln Avenue between Fairhaven and Park Lane. Their concern is with the appearance of the cul-de-sac on Fairhaven. They also had questions regarding signal operations on Lincoln and Santa Clara along with other issues. Staff is waiting to receive information from OCTA before meeting with the neighborhood representatives.
- Staff will be receiving proposals for the Go Local project from the consultants on January 12. Interviews will be conducted on February 3, and the award will go to Council with the consultant team on the first meeting in March.
- Stated that a reduction of 27 PWA positions has been proposed. About 16 of those positions are previously unfunded, two are vacant,

and nine are anticipated retirements. There will be no PWA staff layoffs.

- Mentioned that on Monday staff went to Council to request a solid waste program surcharge fee increase. The increase was approved and will reflect on the refuse bills providing bin service to apartments and commercial customers. The franchise fee that is collected from Waste Management was increased by 5 percent. Within one and one-half years the fee will generate \$2.1 million for the City.
- The PWA stimulus packages have been submitted. The 1B funds package, which is state bond money, was suspended. The State Attorney General put a hold on many construction contracts including the State Appellate building, because the state budget has not been approved. In terms of PWA's Capital Improvement programs, there are two projects that were under construction with anticipated money that have been suspended; one is the Jerome Community Center and the other is the Anteatrer Exhibit. All other construction is unaffected.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Tom Morrissey

- Commented that this coming year, he would like to see a focus on sidewalk repair. He would like to find alternatives to asphalt repair on sidewalks, because it appears the asphalt sidewalk repairs are there for a considerable time. **Will Hayes** has been researching alternatives and has spoken with a company in Riverside that has a product on the market and they are sending him samples.
- Requested that PWA make a real effort to receive Santa Ana's fair share of the public goods money that is paid through the utility bills. He does not believe that Orange County is receiving their fair share of Low Energy Efficiency (LEE) grants. Teri Cable explained that the City is working toward that goal and will keep the committee updated on the progress.
- Expressed the desire that ETAC look at implementing green building standards concerning construction of civic structures and have design review in the planning phase and analyze those buildings for energy efficiency.

Claudio Gallegos

- Suggested that Lake Street, by the Old Galaxy Theatre, should be placed on the list of streets to be repaved. **Will Hayes** will go out and check the street.

Desi Reyes

- Commented that he received his curb numbering notice yesterday and asked if the job was being done by sections throughout the City. **Will Hayes** informed him that every curb is being painted at no cost to the City. The curbs are being painted by a non-profit organization called Canning Hunger. They provide food to underprivileged families with the donations they receive.

Fortino Rivera

- Inquired if Edison was taking care of the undergrounding on Bristol Street. **Jim** informed him that Edison is at a stand-still. However, the City is moving along on schedule between Pine and McFadden. The delay will be on the future phase north of Third Street. If Edison is unable to do the undergrounding, because of the unavailability of Rule 20A funds at the time when constructions needs to progress, Edison will have to relocate their poles. Street construction will not be delayed.
- Noticed that Broadway south of First Street has many pot holes, and asked if that street is scheduled for repairs. **Desi** added that northbound on Broadway north of Seventeenth Street also has many pot holes. **Will Hayes** will send someone out to check on those areas.

Brian Bist

- Congratulated **Fortino** who was named on the Orange County Latino One Hundred List this year.
- Noticed some empty tree wells he would like staff to check. The first one is on Second and Broadway in the Artists' Village. It was blown down by the winds. The second one is on west side of Sycamore north of Fifth Street.
- Inquired about material used around the trees. **Will Hayes** explained the material is a porous product and staff is monitoring the material and the trees to make certain the trees continue to remain healthy.
- Interested to know if the 1200 and 1400 blocks of Birch are going to be repaved. **Jim** explained the different phases of repaving and reconstruction, and will ask staff to check the condition of the areas mentioned.
- Would like to continue discussion on bicycles and bike trail systems, and have another bicycle sub-committee meeting.

Don Cribb

- Thinks Bristol Street is looking great and asked if more consideration could be given to lighting some of the trees in the median on Bristol south from Civic Center.
- Is concerned about a neighborhood with fairly large scale houses on small lots on Santa Clara between Grand and Old Grand, the street to the east of that (he did not know the name of the street). The street to the north of that street, one street is nicely landscaped, but the majority of the houses in that intersection right off of Santa Clara are under landscaped for the size of the houses. **Don** asked **Greg** to look at the area and offered to join him. **Desi** added that the street name signs in that area are faded. **Will Hayes** explained that the only thing that staff can do in that area is related to tree planting.
- Spoke with Greg and Mike Lopez regarding trees on a section on Memory Lane east of Flower. He asked **Greg** if it was he who called to notify him that trees would be planted. **Greg** said that he had called Don.
- Suggested that maybe the signage for City Yard should be larger. He was informed that staff is already working on the signage.
- Hinted to **Greg** that there is a large empty area near a sound wall by the SR-22 on-ramp eastbound heading north on Bristol waiting for a Pine tree. **Greg** believes the property belongs to Caltrans, but will check to make certain.
- Spoke highly about Jordan Segraves and would like everyone to meet him. **Teri Cable** stated that she had called Jordan previously, but was unable to connect with him. She will call again and invite him to attend the next ETAC meeting.
- Thanked everyone for their efforts and believes ETAC is making significant progress.

H. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** — February 12, 2009, 7:30 a.m., at City Yard.

I. **AGENDA ITEMS**

ADJOURNMENT — 8:54 a.m.