

City of Carpinteria
City Council and Planning Commission
Special Joint Meeting Agenda
Thursday, June 14, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 5775 Carpinteria Avenue, Carpinteria

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mayor Al Clark.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Gregg Carty
Kathleen Reddington (arrived at approximately 4:40 p.m.)
Joe Armendariz (absent)
Brad Stein, Vice Mayor
Al Clark, Mayor

Commissioners present: Jane Benefield
John Callendar
John Moyer (absent)
David Allen, Vice Chair (absent)
Glenn La Fevers, Chair (absent)

Staff members present: Dave Durlinger, City Manager
Fidela Garcia, City Clerk
Jackie Campbell, Community Development Director
Jonathan Leech, Contract Planner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present were led in the salute to the flag by Mayor Clark.

CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Submittal of Comments to Caltrans Concerning the South Coast 101 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

Recommendation: Consider public comments and submit a comment letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the proposed South Coast 101 Lanes Project proposed by Caltrans District 5.

Jackie Campbell, Community Development Director, provided introductory comments and introduced Greg Hart from the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments; Scott Eads, Caltrans Project Manager; and Jonathan Leech, Contract Planner from Dudek.

Greg Hart, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), presented a PowerPoint presentation of the US 101 2040 projected traffic volumes, the 101 In Motion Consensus Recommendations, South Coast Congestion Relief, and US 101 Corridor Projects.

Scott Eads, Caltrans Project Manager, continued the PowerPoint presentation of the South Coast 101 HOV Project, project purpose, project setting, Project Team guiding principles, project alternatives, Carpinteria area alternatives overview, Padaro/Toro Canyon alternatives overview, Summerland alternatives overview, Montecito alternatives overview, Sheffield and Cabrillo interchanges reconstruction, technical studies, draft environmental document availability (due July 9, 2012), environmental findings, noise abatement measures, right-of-way improvements, project phasing, project schedule, and opportunities for input. He responded to questions regarding plantings in medians to mitigate headlight glare, construction of soundwalls and replacement of homeowners' landscaping as part of the right-of-way process, and criteria for residents who may vote for soundwalls.

Mr. Hart responded to questions regarding the US 101 2040 projected traffic volumes which will be driven by differential in housing prices in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, demographics in Santa Barbara County, and an increase in the number of commuters from Ventura County to Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Eads responded to a question regarding the timing for residents to vote on the soundwalls, which will include ballot mailing and meetings where details of the soundwalls will be discussed, the use of attenuating pavement, and restoration of wetlands and trees.

Mr. Hart responded to a question regarding the Coastal Commission's role in reviewing and approving the amendment to the Local Coastal Plan.

Mr. Eads responded to a question regarding determination of peak hour traffic, which is based on traffic analysis and peak traffic and traffic conditions,

Mr. Hart responded to a question regarding the project completion date, which will be determined based on funding. He estimated that the project would be completed by 2027.

Ms. Campbell summarized the issues addressed in the draft comment letter attached to the staff report.

Jonathan Leech, Contract Planner, spoke regarding the methodology used for the noise study.

Councilmember Reddington expressed concern that most commuters are service people and this project was being based on commuters that are professionals that do not exist. Mr. Hart responded that the studies were not based on the income levels of the commuters. Councilmember Reddington commented that housing needed to be created rather than a highway for commuters who do not live in the community. Mr. Hart responded that SBCAG was in the process of going through the Regional Housing Needs Assessment with the local agencies to accommodate future housing needs.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONCERNING THE AGENDIZED ITEM FOR THIS SPECIAL MEETING

Gary Campopiano stated that the draft comment letter answered his major concern regarding noise impacts to residents on the south side of the freeway and noise reflecting off of soundwalls from the north side of the freeway. He inquired whether a noise study was done

between Bailard Avenue and Franklin Creek. Ms. Campbell responded that staff would verify the technical appendices because the noise studies were not attached to the draft environmental impact report. Mr. Campopiano indicated that he was impressed with the use of a sound absorbing pavement for the freeway. He inquired whether a study was done for materials for the soundwalls that may lessen the sound effects of the freeway.

Mary Pat O'Conner, local resident, noted that the beginning of the project would occur in 2016 and it was her understanding that construction of the Casitas Pass and Linden Bridges would also occur at that time. She expressed concern with impacts to citizens of Carpinteria and asked that this be taken into consideration. She also expressed concern with safety issues from the existing construction taking place at Mussel Shoals. She noted that k-rails were installed in the left southbound lane below the Casitas Pass Bridge and the transition on the freeway at this point included warning signs that the road narrows; however, it appeared the warning signs were not receiving enough needed attention and she had seen many skid marks on the road at this location. She asked for a safety inspection for the installation of the k-rails.

Motion by Vice Mayor Stein, seconded by Councilmember Carty, to authorize the Mayor to sign the comment letter to be transmitted to Caltrans District 5 and to include the additional comments and questions brought forth by staff and the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Reddington requested that additional bus and train routes be created before construction begins. She also requested moving forward with bicycle paths and that Caltrans provide more publicity. She further requested that this be included in the comment letter. Ms. Campbell responded that the comment letter would be focused on the draft environmental impact report for the HOV project. Mr. Hart added that a construction management program would be developed when construction begins and incentives and additional service would be provided for public transportation to lessen construction impacts.

Upon voice vote, motion carried with Councilmember Carty, Vice Mayor Stein, and Mayor Clark in favor. Councilmember Reddington dissented. Councilmember Armendariz was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Clark.

Al Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

Fidela Garcia, CMC
City Clerk