





NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 9, 2013, 6:00 p.m., North Park Recreation Center/Adult Center
2719 Howard Avenue, San Diego, CA 92104

Attendance:

Seated Board Members: Dionné Carlson (Chair), René Vidales (Vice-Chair), Vicki Granowitz, Peter Hill, Omar Passons (arrived 6:11)

Community Voting Members: Ernie Bonn, Rob Steppke, Kitty Callen (arrived 6:26)

Board member not seated: Roger Lewis

Also present: Gehan Tadros (City) Maryam Liaghad (City), Andrew Rice (Caltrans), Ellen Jenne (Caltrans), Connery Cepeda (Caltrans/Resident), Hans Wangbichler (BikeSD), Bruce Shank (BikeSD)

Parliamentary Items:

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm

Approve January 9, 2013 Agenda. Motion: Approve Agenda. Granowitz/Steppke. 6-0-0

Chair's Comments. None

Approval of Previous Minutes, November 14, 2012.

Motion: Approve November 14, 2012 Meeting Minutes with the following revision: New Business A, last paragraph, revise percentage to 50%. Granowiz/Hill. 5-0-1 (Steppke abstained)

Announcements & Non-Agenda Public Comment:

- A. Chair Carlson announced the placement of a Sri Chinmoy sculpture and creation of a pocket park on private land located at Adams Avenue & Arizona Street, facilitated by the Adams Avenue Business Association.
- B. Ernie Bonn's term has expired on the Parking Advisory Board, but Ernie will continue on the board until they find a suitable replacement for her seat. Looking for possible candidates to be submitted to Council District 3. Contact Meredith Dibden-Brown and the Mayor's office.

Information Items:

- A. **Water Group 944.** Open trench Water Pipe Main replacement on Madison Avenue, Oregon Street, Hamilton Street, El Cajon Boulevard, and University Avenue.

Gehan Tadros, Project Manager with the City's Capital Improvement Program presented the project

The project replaces old cast iron and asbestos-cement pipes with PVC pipe for approximately 1.24 miles of existing main. Current stage of design is 35%. City will send a letter to NPPC when project reaches the stage of design at 100%.

Construction will start fall 2015 and will take approx. 1 year. All residents and businesses will receive a letter before construction with the construction schedule. Door hangers will also be placed. A 2" water above-ground "high-line" will be used during construction to avoid shut-off and service interruptions. A traffic control plan will be created, keeping 1 lane in each direction open during construction. The project will require open trenches. Trenches will be covered with metal plates outside of working hours (8:30 to 3:30). Engineer from the field division will present the project at the site. Project will be accomplished incrementally, with only one small area at a time being impacted and not the entire project area at once.

The following were responses to questions:

- Ms. Tadros will note on the project file that there is a concern about flushing freshly installed pipes for a long time and wasting a lot of potable water when recycled water can be used instead. Note: This concern is consistent with North Park's efforts to move towards sustainability in all areas.
- In case of partial removal of any landscaped median it will be replaced in kind, including landscaping.
- The City is responsible to replace only water services up to the meter box, making sure it has the same pressure. Anything beyond the meter box would be the owner's responsibility.

B. State Route 94 Express Lanes project update

Andrew Rice, Project Manager from Caltrans presented the project

This project was previously presented to this sub-committee in August 2011. The project has not changed substantially since the previous presentation, with still the same 2 alternatives being considered.

The proposed Transit Lanes are for Bus Rapid Transit, with buses having free flow movement. HOV vehicles can use these lanes if there is free flow. If there is extra capacity, FasTrak transponder vehicles can also use the system.

The environmental process takes time, and includes studying cultural, noise, visual, air quality and other impacts. Technical studies should be wrapping this summer and the draft EIR should be out for public review a year from now, approximately March or April 2014

Alternative 1:

- Eastbound connectors from SR 94 to I 15
- Replace bridges 22nd St.
- Replace bridges at 25th St.
- Replace bridges at 30th St.
- Widen under crossings at 28th St. and 32nd St.
- Installation of auxiliary lanes from 23rd to 32nd
- This alternative impacts adjacent collector streets
- Eastbound SR 94 to southbound I 15 will exit at Ocean View Blvd. instead at Market
- Eastbound onramp from 32nd St. would be eliminated
- Northbound I 15 to westbound SR 94 would be eliminated
- Westbound SR 94 at 49th St. would be eliminated

Alternative 2:

- Eliminates all previous conflicts
- 32nd St. eastbound onramp gets eliminated
- Westbound SR 94 stays elevated west of I 805 all the way west of 28th St.

Workshops will be scheduled within a 3 to 6 month period through SANDAG to explore possibilities of linear parks, over crossing plaza, Chollas Creek restoration project, bike path connecting City Heights from Home Ave to Market St., open space park development in the South Park/Golden Hill area.

The following were responses to questions:

- Workshops may be scheduled thorough SANDAG, city staff, or it could be a different type of format at different communities
- Members from BikdSD favored the elevated alternative instead of impacting the existing areas and requested that spaces for safe transitions for bike lanes be integrated into the project

The Caltrans team will come back to provide additional information prior to the release of the Draft EIR for public review.

New Business

A. University & Alabama Project #S00968. Update/Discussion of problem and possible solutions

Three weeks ago construction started on University Ave. between Florida St. & Mississippi St. No noticing to property owners, bus riders, North Park Planning Committee (NPPC), or North Park Main Street (NPMS) was made. Green Zone (short-term) parking for businesses within that segment was removed. 24 hours thereafter Vicki Granowitz, René Vidales, Angela Landsberg (NPMS), and Kevin Clark (NPMS) were at the site looking at the situation and met with businesses and property owners. The following day the Mayor held a press conference at the northwest corner of University Ave. & Alabama St.

NPMS acted as intermediary between businesses and the City. Businesses signed agreements with the City for the relocation of parking spaces along the side streets in order to allow for the project to move forward. Due to these actions the money from the grant that was intended to be used for this project will not be lost.

Mobility Plan compliance:

The project scope is University Ave. between Alabama St. & Mississippi St. The project features are in compliance with the University Avenue Mobility Plan (UAMP) which covers the stretch of University Ave. between Florida St. and I 805. The small segment from Florida St. to Mississippi St. was pulled in 2006 for earlier implementation because of serious accidents involving pedestrians.

Median:

The median will include decorative hardscape instead of the landscaping originally proposed due to the location of a sewer main in the impacted area. The contractor will drill holes to do testing in the soil and locate other utilities. At this point vegetation cannot be installed but the removable hardscape will allow for landscaping in the future

Handicap ramp issue:

The handicap curb ramp at the southwest corner of University and Alabama will be completely redesigned. Previous installation was extremely dangerous to wheelchairs.

Schedule:

The schedule is to restart in 10 days and the project will be completed in February of this year.

At the press conference, Mayor Filner said he was glad that this mishap happened in the beginning of his term, and expressed the sentiment that communities should be noticed in advance prior to construction of these types of projects.

B. Mobility Element NP Community Plan Update. Discussion, planning, drafting of Vision, Topics, Goals, Policies and Actions per the standard template presented last meeting

Vice-Chair Vidales presented the following:

- A comparison of Topics from Mobility Elements from General Plan, Barrio Logan, and Otay Mesa
- An overview of North Park's Mobility Element draft Vision, Topics, Goals, and Policies
- A Spreadsheet with North Park's Topics and Goals
- A North Park map of Road System functional Class (from current GIS information)
- A North Park map of future street classifications (from the 1986 community plan)
- Various maps from Barrio Logan's Draft Mobility Element

There is currently no update on the existing (outdated) Traffic Study for North Park streets (a new study should be made to include current and future road classifications for the area), therefore no recommendations can be made *yet* on upgrading or downgrading road segments.

A more complete draft document of North Park's Mobility Element draft Vision, Topics, Goals, and Policies, incorporating community & Board member input and will be presented at the next subcommittee meeting.

C. MTS Streetcar Feasibility Study

This item was tabled due to time constraints

D. Angle Parking Policy

This item was tabled due to time constraints.

Old Business

A. North Park Entry/Gateway Monuments. Ongoing discussion of potential improvements to entryways to North Park, including landscaping, signage and entry monuments/gateways/Cell Towers.
No update

B. Utility Box Task Force. Update and next steps.
No update

Future Agenda items: None

Next Meeting date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013.

Adjournment. Motion: To adjourn meeting Hill/Bonn. 8-0-0. Meeting adjourned 7:57 p.m.