



## **NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE (NPPC)**

### **Public Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee**

**September 13, 2022 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

Register online at:

<https://bit.ly/publicfacilitiesreg>

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **I. Consent Agenda Items (6:00-6:05 p.m.)**

- a. Call to Order, Roll Call and Attendance Report

In attendance from the subcommittee: Steve Oechel (Chair), Lynn Elliot (NPPC Board Member), Basil Mournian (non-elected, voting member)

- b. Modifications & Adoption of the August 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes
- c. Modifications & Adoption of the September 13<sup>th</sup> Agenda

Steve Oechel: Proposed a friendly amendment to the September 13<sup>th</sup> Agenda to change Agenda Item III (a) from an Action Item to an Informational Item per guidance from City of San Diego Project Engineer, Ronak Rekani.

Lynn Elliot Motion: Update September 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda to change Action Item 1: North Park Mini Park Ped Improvement project from an Action Item to an Informational item.

Basil Mournian: Second Motion

Motion passed 3-0-0

#### **II. Non-Agenda Public Comment (6:05-6:10 p.m.)**

- a. Limited to Items not on Agenda; non-debatable. Two-minute maximum, Chair can award more time.

Rene Smith:

I am advocating that the community consider the item to close Jacaranda drive. There is a remarkable opportunity now to revitalize this much needed and tattered part of the park. The area is currently closed, I'm suggesting it remain closed. Think about the east side of Morley, the Jacaranda spur that bisects the only major picnic area in the park. This cuts off easy access to the restrooms, the bowling area at Bird Park. This is an unneeded spur that should be closed. It's been suggested that the City could put some parking there at both the east and west ends of this to allow for 20 cars. I've advocated that this item be included in discussions on the framework of the future which includes mobility and ADA activity. These items have not been included in the City's Budget so I think this really is something that this Committee should consider discussing in the future and making a recommendation to the Planning Committee and then ultimately have your representative on the Balboa Park committee advocate for it.

Pat Sexton:

I sold my house in North Park. I bought a house in Spring Valley, and I'm still going to be involved with 30 as Street. I'm not putting that down until that's over so I will not be voting. I will not be a community member to be voting on anything to do with North Park planning Committee.

Mark Spitzer:

I have a number of things, 1) I see a number of people who don't the right away rules for the roundabouts and as far as I know there has never been any kind of educational campaign. I do hear people complaining about the roundabouts but I suspect they don't actually know the rules so that is something that can be done. The signage is not very useful. 2) increasing traffic congestion on University Avenue because of recent so called improvements. I don't think traffic congestion is at all good. It frustrates people and certainly adds to emissions, Global warming is a concern even in this small way.

End of Non-agenda public comment.

### **III. Action and Informational Items (6:10-6:55 p.m.)**

- a. Information Item 1: North Park Mini Park Ped Improvement project
  - i. Presentation from City of San Diego on changes to North Park Mini park Ped Improvement Project
  - ii. Presentation from Nenad Damjanovic, Associate Engineer Civil, Matthew Kiehler, Assistant Engineer Civil, Ronak Rekani, Senior Civil Engineer

Nenad Damjanovic:

Project Manager for Mini Park. Focus of brief will be on design changes since October of last year. Project scope includes traffic calming features bi-directional solar flashing, continental crosswalks. What is new an ADA improvement to Jefferson Elementary School loading and unloading zone. New bike lanes. There will be some new trees and streetlights. University Ave median construction triggered changes in project plan. Due to new median, there is no opportunity for tour buses to make right hand turn on University onto 29<sup>th</sup>. We had to remove the project plan to install sidewalk extension and pop out on 29<sup>th</sup>. Changes to

Jefferson on Upas street added 2 additional ADA curb ramps. North Park ave at Grenada Ave, added continental cross walk. 29<sup>th</sup> street light to remain, two trees to be relocated and designated Tour Bus Zone to remain. Anticipated construction start Summer 2023, end Fall 2024. Total budget is \$2.9M.

29<sup>th</sup> and North Park way, added continental crosswalks at all four crossings

Public Questions/Comments:

Mark Spitzer:

Are you reducing or increasing the number of parking spaces? Are you doing anything to reduce traffic congestion? University ave is pretty congested already. How are you going to effect parking and congestion

Nenad Damjanovic:

There will added and some reductions, average one or two parking spots will be reduced because of the need to add accessible spaces. No significant reduce to parking spots. If there this change we are believe we are improving the safety of pedestrians and safer crossing. I don't believe congestion will increase.

Ronak:

Goal of project was always traffic calming and not reduce congestion. To reduce congestion requires widening the street and increasing the number of lanes which is the opposite of the streets master plan to focus on traffic calming and pedestrian safety.

Pat Sexton:

The additional widen sidewalks has narrowed the streets so now when you are traveling east west on North Park way and someone is parked at the head in parking spots, driving a long be pickup, it forces traffic into oncoming traffic lane in order to avoid the parked car. I think that was poor planning, tried to squeeze too much in a small area. Part of congestion problem, too narrow of street to accommodate longer pickups.

Nenad Damjanovic:

Parking spaces are the standard size parking spaces.

Ronak:

The rest of project will keep the parking the way it is currently constructed.

Steve Oechel:

Project starts in FY23, is there an opportunity to increase in the number of trees or some type of shade within the Mini Park? Some feedback from community that there is not a lot of shade at the park.

Nenad Damjanovic:

This project is limited to the right of way limits.

- b. Informational Item 2: University Avenue Mobility Project Update
  - i. San Diego City representative to provide an update on project status. Presentation by Isaac Vallejo and Deb Mathison from the City of San Diego

Isaac Vallejo:

Senior Engineer for the Project. Completing electrical work from now until the end of December. And then we'll take 5 to 6 six weeks to complete the concrete ped ramps. Plan on paving the street in March 2023. Leaving punch list items.

Deb Mathison:

On the CIP City of San Diego page, in the feature project section, you can click on the University project and it will give you an update on the project. The remaining work to be completed as follows: Conduit installation on University Ave and the completion of North Park way work, installation of electrical gears and standing signal poles on University Ave and North Park way, installation of remaining curb ramps, replacement of signs, asphalt overlay and stripe streets and then energize signals.

Bob Larose:

The roadway has been absolutely atrocious, and we would have more patients with everything else going on if we can some how address these pot holes.

if somehow an intermediate step could be made to take some of these potholes and things now I don't, I don't know if it was ortes construction that got away with not properly patching their work. And you know again we can understand that it takes time to do the things you're doing. But in the meantime you're always just being absolutely almost unusable. I call it the theater Roosevelt Rough Rider screens of your university avenues.

Isaac:

I know that some of the items that we do get we do get from the cities.

Get it done now? at least for the project itself we investigate whether the contractor has been in that area or not. and if it hasn't, we go ahead and add that but pothole or that street issue onto transportation streets maintenance list for that area, and my understanding is that they go out like once a month to different areas of the city to address someone. Unfortunately, they do take some time to address pot holes, but feel free definitely to send those pothole questions or street issues to the get it done. App, they eventually make it our way within 2 or 3 days of them being reported there. We investigate? and then we'll go ahead and either have the contract, or do the repair, or put it on the list for street division.

Mark Spitzer:

You need left turn signals at Utah and University traffic backs up there. Left turn signal at 30<sup>th</sup> and University are not long enough, they're pretty quick. Going north on villa terrace, the new island sticks out too far. Whatever you can do to reduce traffic congestion will make driving in North Park more pleasant and we'll have fewer CO2 emissions.

Isaac:

For these two left turn items, do you mind emailing them to me? I think we can look into the left turn timing options and then see about what stage we are at with installing the left turn on Utah.

Steve Oechel:

There are sections on University where you can't fit two cars. Is that being looked at, it seems dangerous on how narrow some of the sections are. Construction equipment is being stored along Mississippi and University, very dangerous. Can we move the equipment to a safer location?

Isaac:

11 ft lanes for vehicles and 12-14 for buses. Minimal width during construction is 11 ft. If that is not happening please let us know. For items on Mississippi and University, I'll have my inspection staff look into and ask the construction staff to reduce their footprint and be mindful of how they are loading their equipment.

- IV. **Unfinished, New Business & Future Agenda Items:** Next meeting is Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – **6:00 p.m. (6:55 p.m.)**
- a. Status update on University Ave Mobility project per community recommendations regarding improved lighting, use of historic lamps, improved crossings, and bike rack additions
  - b. Research potential option to increase Public Restrooms availability
  - c. Follow-Up on 30th St Bike Lane Conditions Voted May 2019
  - d. Updating Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) Assessment Engineers Report (AER)
  - e. Update status on Sewer-Storm Drain Group Job 828, Project No. 652296 per community recommendations for local mitigation & use of alternative energy dissipater designs
  - f. Closure of Jacaranda Spur due to Pershing Drive construction
  - g. Scooter corrals in North Park

Pat Sexton:

I can speak to b and c. Public restrooms, there was a hotel downtown who had public restrooms but have since closed it up. Now they have to go to public has to go find security to the hotel. It just seems like a cluster downtown. As long as it is mess downtown, there is not going to be a solution for North Park. For c, the counter is still not working. That is still not recording accurately.

- V. **Adjournment (7:00 p.m.)**

