

MINUTES
TORREY PINES COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD
Thursday, Sept 9, 2010
Del Mar Heights School

Board Members Present: Dennis E. Ridz, Chair, dennisridz@hotmail.com,
Cathy Kenton, Vice-Chair, Patti Ashton, Richard Caterina Chris Cooper, Michael
Foster, Roy Davis, Nancy Moon, Bob Shopes
Late arrival: Michael Yanicelli

Board Members Absent: Kenneth Jenkins, Treasurer; Greg Heinzinger, Cliff
Hanna, Norman Ratner,

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

A. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None

B. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMENTS

Cathy Kenton moved to appoint Bob Shopes as TPCPB Secretary. Seconded
by Dennis Ridz and the motion was unanimously approved.

C. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Amendment to agenda: Jill Monroe will not be present

**D. REVIEW AND ACTION TO APPROVE PAST MEETING MINUTES-
August 2010**

Postponed until following meeting.

E. REPORT BY TREASURER-Kenneth Jenkins

None

F. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS- None

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS- San Diego Police Dept-

None

H. LISTING AND ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR August 2010

Item 1. Councilmember Lightner to discuss North County Corridor (NCC) expansion plans for I-5.

San Diego City Councilmember Sherri Lightner gave a report on her view, at this point in time, of the proposed NCC I-5 expansion. The response is limited to the areas in the City of San Diego that may be affected. It is on the docket of the San Diego Land Use Committee for 2PM 9/15/10 for an informational item. It is possible that there will be a 45 day delay in the deadline to respond to the NCC-DEIR (Cal-Trans Draft Environmental Impact Report). Councilmember Lightner has put in a request to have an alternative involving mass transit solutions. She believes there is still time to have new ideas and alternative evaluated.

Dennis Ridz commented that most of the technical studies with at the San Diego City Libraries.

Question by Michael Foster: How can the City of San Diego examine the DEIR in part without looking at the whole?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: She is interested in hearing questions about the DEIR especially in regard to methods of gathering information which pertain to the whole DEIR.

Question by Noel Spaid: What is your position on the NCC expansion?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: It is sometimes best to hold opinions until the climate for full discussion is appropriate.

Question from a member of the San Diegito School Board: Particulates in the air from the NCC expansion may greatly affect children at schools. How do school districts get more involved?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: Schools are welcome to put forth opinions and that would be helpful. School districts may want to work with local planning boards, like the TPCPB.

Question by member of the public: SANDAG voted on this project and funding when the plan had no taking of public property. Now that it is apparent that property will likely be taken how can this be justified?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: This is still an open question. She is not sure what the case may be. SANDAG does control the money

Follow-up Question by member of the public: What is your position?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: I prefer not to state at this time.

Question by member of the public: This is a major priority. Why should this be?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: I encourage you to put forth concerns and questions. Do not wait for formal presentations if you have information or questions. Pass it on, even if informally. This was evaluated in 1999 and things have changed. We may need community support to get things through council but no idea yet.

Question by member of the public: What is your email address?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: sherrilightner@sandiego.gov

Question by member of the public: Is it possible to ban 18-wheelers on I-5 during certain hours?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: There is no true bypass option in this case other than side streets.

Comment by member of the public: There is a sign on Del Mar Heights that bans large trucks from going over the hill but it is rusted. Can it be replaced?

Comment by member of the public: It is not clear that this is a legal sign but it should be looked into.

Question by Cathy Kenton: Any idea on when we will hear on the 45-day extension to DEIR comments?

Answer by Councilmember Lightner: Next week probably at the latest.

Item 2. Cal-Trans Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the I-5 Expansion / NCC proposed plan.

Michael Foster reported on the Noise Study referred to in the DEIR. It used "legacy software" that may have not be appropriate. The data was from 2004 but the analysis was not released until 2007. In 2005 new standards were applicable but do not seem to have been applied. The methodology assumed no change in attenuation when clearly the shape and composition of the material will change and will impact attenuation patterns.

Bob Shopes reported on the specific problems with the Noise Study at schools. In particular the data at Del Mar Hills Elementary seems to be particularly flawed.

Dennis Ridz reported that there was a very small sampling of sites that might be sensitive to changes in noise with the NCC expansion.

Michael Foster reported on the Visual Impact referred to in the DEIR. Mitigation is not possible in almost all circumstances. This is acknowledged in the DEIR and there is a problem with the selectivity and methodology of their visual studies. Only a “representative” selection of visual impacts was addressed. The locations with the highest values, and likely negative impacts, were purposefully ignored. What is the value of a view shed? No analysis of the major visual damage proposed was done. It may be possible to initiate a “scenic highway” designation to protect the views.

Michael Yancelli commented on the view studies in the DEIR. Even with moderate view shed changes, extraordinary resources will be required to mitigate problems. Thus no direct mitigation will happen with landscape design for any high impact areas. The DEIR cites potential positive view impacts (for example on-ramps near Carlsbad, and state that those counter the negative impacts in other locations. In the DEIR “key viewpoints” are defined as those that are least impacted by the proposed NCC expansion. The most valued views have “mythical” or “best in nation” qualities but no quantification was done to determine the extent of visual impact damage. There is also not enough information given to determine what the view problems are and therefore raises an issue on the value of the DEIR.

Michael Yancelli spoke to the California Coastal Commission regarding the Trestles Toll Road disapproval and asked for a comparison to the NCC expansion proposal. The problem is that the NCC DEIR is so incomplete it is impossible to determine what the impacts might be and what mitigations could be used. CCA ACT 30251, as read, protects views as a public resource. The CCA may be considering a “public works plan” that will link the NCC I-5 area and the general San Diego–LA corridor transit linkage to the health of the coastal biological habitats and the public access to the coastline.

Michael Yancelli commented that in the DEIR light pollution was not addressed adequately. Indirect effects, like spillover, of lighting for nighttime construction was not addressed and nor was effects of permanent lighting that might be needed for areas with new higher retaining walls or low visual access areas.

Dennis Ridz discussed the possible need for revised a Del Mar Heights traffic study. An increase in general traffic independent any I-5 change could yield a 80-100% increase by 2030. The DEIR does not address potential impacts to traffic on surface streets with traffic flows changed by any I-5 expansion.

Cathy Kenton addressed the problem that the construction may take place over a 30+ year time. How much disruption will that cause? Is this addressed in the DEIR in detail?

Dennis Ridz replied that it is a 15-year proposed construction phase.

Michael Yancelli asked if there was a “breakeven date” for environmental issues balanced against possible future gains.

Councilmember Lightner gave her opinion that a 1-2 page cover letter addressing all the issues raised by the TPCPB be written and backed with appropriate appendices.

ITEM 3 DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM-Location of next meeting
Not yet determined.

I. INFORMATION UPDATES

Scott Tillson Carmel Valley Planning Board

Proposition C seems to be well received so far. Ten planning groups have endorsed it and there is no statement of opposition as yet.

J. INFORMATION TPCPB Reports

None

Motion was made by Michael Foster to adjourn, seconded by Cathy Kenton and passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 PM 9/9/10