



MINUTES
ATHERTON TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011 AT 6:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 94 ASHFIELD ROAD

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL:

Present Councilmembers: Mayor Jim Dobbie, Councilmember Kathy McKeithen

Present Committee Members: JohnRuggeiro, Erv Ericksen, Larry Sweeney,
Joan Solari, Jean Schaaf

Mayor Dobbie introduced new committee member Jean Schaaf.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: M/S Ruggeiro/Sweeney to approve the minutes of March 8, 2011 as corrected. Motion carried.

3.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE: Open discussion items not on agenda
Davena Gentry with Acterra gave an update on Acterra's High Energy Homes program which is designed to analyze and reduce energy usage in larger homes. The program is funded by a grant from the California Energy Commission and is offered at no cost to residents of Atherton.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS: None

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS:

Joan Solari had to reclude herself for this agenda item

6.1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RE-CONSIDER CLOSURE OF HOLBROOK LANE AT THE COUNTY BORDER AT 17TH AVENUE

City Attorney William Connors explained that it was illegal to close a street to a bordering community without going through a rigorous process, including an EIR. There was a previous court case in 1998 with the City of Hawaiian Gardens in Long Beach that ruled if a street ends on one side of the boundary and starts on another then it becomes a regional matter. All streets, not publicly owned in the State of California, are subject to California Vehicle Code Section 21.101.

If Town wants to consider a closure it must have it in the General Plan Circulation Element or it must find it necessary after the EIR Study. Closures require CEQA findings and finding that the road closure will not affect the health and safety of the other area residents.

In conclusion, the Town cannot temporarily close the road on a trail basis and must meet all these requirements for future closure consideration.

Mayor Dobbie opened the item for discussion for other alternatives to closing Holbrook:
Larry Sweeney – status of working with the County on the No Right Turn off Marsh
Kathy McKeithen – consideration of narrowing Marsh Road past the car wash
Mike Kashiwagi PW – talked with County and they are looking into eliminating far right lane on Marsh Road. Also, looking into a second phase of putting up the No Right Turn sign at Fair Oaks.

Public Comments:

Neal Abbott – 17th Avenue – why can't Town put up No Right Turn sign off Fair Oaks onto Holbrook? 17th Avenue is County property
Wynn Signa – 15th Avenue – suggested new concrete bumps like on 15th are great
Zolik – Holbrook Lane – stated Town's duty to protect its residents and was not sure if the closure was illegal. He handed out a memo with the residents' concerns and possible solutions. 300 signatures were collected and suggestions submitted to the North Fair Oaks Council, who in turn said they had to be referred to the County. Holbrook has been an on-going problem since 7/11/06.
Rich Abrason – Placitas – consider no left-turns off Middlefield and Fair Oaks
Dave Cunia – Holbrook – stressed safety issues and speeders
Mrs. Kutlu - 52 Holbrook – speeders all day. Willing to close off Holbrook @ Middlefield
Bill Connors – Attorney – only Caltrans approved humps can be installed – Cost \$10,000
Anita Childs – San Benito – survey results given to committee
Laura Caplan – chicanes OK but humps better
James Wu – Marsh – need to solve Marsh Road problem
Jim Porter – Director San Mateo County – working with Town staff. Not opposed to No Right Turn at Fair Oaks, but could extend to 15th Avenue. Wants to understand how cars will flow first. Could impact Redwood City. Needs traffic analysis. Probably 6-9 months before any process is implemented
Jennifer Achison – 73 Palmer – consider closures effects on other streets. If Holbrook is closed, then wants Palmer and rest of Atherton streets closed. Suggested that she meet with Town Attorney to discuss legality of the street closures
Shirley – Encina – Cambridge Avenue in Menlo Park has speed bumps
Ray Solari – problem for one hour in AM...more tickets
Terry Terrain – Palmer – do not divert to Palmer
Mike Templeton – Palmer – against right turn. Divert traffic to Spring
Duncan Jones – former PW Director – stated that speed humps could be put in and that Holbrook is not an emergency response route. Cost approx \$10k.

Committee Comments/Summary:

Jim Dobbie - urged county residents to write to Supervisors to encourage County to install a No Right Turn at Marsh and Fair Oaks. Town staff to prepare a plan for chicanes and speed bumps, with cost and effectiveness. Transportation Committee to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors. Jennifer Achison and Town Attorney Connors to meet to discuss the legality of closure and report back to next Transportation meeting

Kathy McKeithen - asked Interim PW Director to cc a draft of the letter to the Board to committee members for comments. Final copy of the letter should be sent to the North Fair Oaks District to attach to their letter to the Board. Afraid every neighborhood will want closures. Need to have a global look at the area for solutions.

Larry Sweeney agrees to take a broader view. Know most traffic is thru traffic, not Atherton destinations
Jean Schaaf – agrees with taking a broader view. Likes the idea of bumps
John Ruggeiro – speed humps in Redwood City work well
Erv Erickson – need to speed up the process and get something in place

Committee Consensus and Direction to Staff:

- 1) Urge all residents to write to their individual Supervisors to put pressure on the County to expedite the installation of a No Right Turn at Marsh/Fair Oaks or consider other alternatives
- 2) Town staff to prepare a plan for chicanes and/or speed bumps on Holbrook, including consideration of other streets, along with cost and effectiveness
- 3) Transportation Committee to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors to take urgent action to control the traffic for both County and Atherton residents
- 4) Jennifer Achison and Town Attorney Connors to meet to discuss the legality of closure
- 5) If the closure is legal, bring back to next Transportation meeting on September 13th

6.2 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADD TWO SPEED LIMIT SIGNS IN EACH DIRECTION ON GLENWOOD AVENUE BETWEEN LAUREL AND MIDDLEFIELD OR AN AUTOMATIC RADAR SIGN - Geoff Ralston

M/S by **Ericksen/Dobbie** to direct staff to install two speed limit signs in each direction on Glenwood Avenue between Laurel and Middlefield Road. Motion carried.

7.0 STAFF REPORTS:

7.1 Police Traffic Unit

A. Monthly Reports for May and June 2011

Officer Wade was asked why the less tickets were issued the June compared to last June and he replied that there was limited staff available now

Jean Schaaf noted that tickets issued on Glenwood and only x on Holbrook. Maybe shift more time to Holbrook

7.2 Public Works Department - Updates

A. Valparaiso/Hoover XWalk–pending Caltrans E76 Authorization for Construction

Hope to go out to bid and to August City Council for approval. Completion date in October

8.0 SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 13, 2011

9.0 ADJOURNMENT: M/S **Dobbie/Ruggeiro to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.
Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Bellmont
Recording Secretary