



MINUTES
ATHERTON TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 AT 6:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 94 ASHFIELD ROAD

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers: Vice Mayor Kathy McKeithen, Councilmember Elizabeth Lewis

Committee Members: Lou Paponis, John Ruggeiro, Erv Ericksen
Larry Sweeney, Joan Solari

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of May 12, 2009

McKeithen made edits to the minutes. Staff took note and the changes were made.

MOTION by Ericksen, second by McKeithen to approve the minutes of May 12, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

3.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Virginia Ruggeiro, Atherton resident, stated her concerns that a more visible 25 miles per hour speed sign be placed at the corner of El Camino and Stockbridge Avenue.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS: None

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS:

6.1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF COMMENT LETTER FOR TRAFFIC IMPACTS AND MITIGATION FOR THE MENLO GATEWAY PROJECT EIR

Chip Taylor, Menlo Park Transportation Manager gave the Committee a presentation on the Menlo Gateway Project EIR.

Taylor said the study area includes Bay front Expressway and Marsh Road to Interstate 101. The intersections analyzed were on Marsh Road down to Middlefield and on Willow Road to Bay Road on the East side of US 101. Taylor added that there were less than significant impacts associated with transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and parking. Taylor reviewed seven intersections that have near and future significant impacts.

Taylor informed the Committee that comments can be submitted to the Planning Division and individual comments can be made at the September 14th Menlo Park Council meeting and the responses will be included in the EIR. Taylor concluded that the comment deadline is September 21st.

McKeithen voiced her concerns on the impacts this would have of bikers on Middlefield Road.

Ruggeiro said that Atherton took years to reduce the construction hours from to 6pm rather 5pm and would like that issue taken up as Menlo Park propose a construction window from 8am to

6pm. Rugeiro was concerned that there is no statement on whether construction will take place on weekends.

McKeithen said that constructing a Southbound left turn from Middlefield to Marsh and widening Marsh to provide 2 receiving lanes would require an additional right-of-way which would have phenomenal costs. McKeithen said Menlo Park and Atherton need to work together on this and take into consideration the volumes of traffic on Middlefield Road during peak hours and that the Atherton General Plan should be taken into consideration.

McKeithen would like to know what the combined affect of development on El Camino Real and on the Bayfront since it will affect the intersection at Middlefield and Marsh.

Paponis wanted to know the height limitations for development in Menlo Park. Paponis added that the main corridors are at Middlefield which is line with eucalyptus trees and Marsh Road which has a canal on the north side, both of which to remove would be a multi-million dollar project that Atherton could not afford.

Solari said the Holbrook Lane already has horrendous traffic issues and will fight to make sure it doesn't get worse.

Lewis felt that the Committee should collect their thoughts and send them to staff to include in a letter to Menlo Park Planning Division.

McKeithen concluded that the North Fair Oaks comments by Mr. Zolof are included, and to consider the fact that the development of El Camino that were previously dealerships will have a dramatic affect on Middlefield Road traffic. Any additional comments should be sent to staff.

6.2 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONSIDER THE RED FLEX CAMERA SYSTEM AND TO REVIEW DRAFT CONTRACT

The Committee reviewed the draft redflex contract for Atherton. There were many concerns with the provisions.

Item 6.2 was tabled until further information could be collected.

6.3 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A "NO RIGHT TURN" SIGN ON MARSH RD AT FAIR OAKS AVE

Public Works Director Duncan Jones stated that in March 2009 the Committee approved a "no through traffic" sign at Holbrook Lane at Fair Oaks Lane. The request went to the North Fair Oaks Council (NFOC), the agency that reviews requests in the North Fair Oaks area for the County, on July 16, 2009. The NFOC, after much deliberation, recommended a "No Right Turn" sign on Marsh Road at Fair Oaks Avenue. The NFOC determined that their recommendation was best for the entire neighborhood. The NFOC felt that the other two streets off Marsh Road would not be used by cut-through traffic but would remain available for resident access.

MOTION by McKeithen, second by Rugeiro to recommend to City Council to approve a "No Right Turn" sign on Marsh Road at Fair Oaks and for City Council to request approval from the County. The motion passed unanimously.

6.4 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A “NO STOPPING 7:30 – 8:30 A.M., 1:30 – 3:30 P.M. DURING SCHOOL DAYS” ZONE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF ENCINAL AVENUE, FROM MIDDLEFIELD ROAD TO LAUREL STREET – Marcia Bever

Public Works Director Duncan Jones asked that this item be continued to the next meeting so staff can conduct resident surveys.

Item 6.4 was continued.

7.0 STAFF REPORTS:

7.1 Police Traffic Division - Monthly Reports for May, June, July 2009

A short discussion ensued on the number of citations versus written warning given to speeding vehicles.

McKeithen requested that Police Chief Nielsen conduct a study on the number of citations versus written warnings for one month during a certain period of time in Portola Valley. Nielsen said he will run the numbers and report back to the Committee.

Lewis suggested that the Transportation Committee should strategize on safe biking routes throughout the Town. Lewis requested that this be discussed at a Transportation meeting.

7.2 Public Works Department

A. Update Valparaiso Crosswalk at Valparaiso and Hoover Street

Jones said the Menlo Park Transportation Committee will take this up at a meeting later in this week. Jones said it will have to go to the Menlo Park City Council after that.

B. Update Safety improvements on Watkins Avenue

Jones said curbs and gates for pedestrians at Watkins Avenue are planned to begin in the Spring of 2010, so the Station Lane intersection will be evaluated after those installations are complete. Jones added that staff is looking at improving the left turn from Station Lane onto Watkins Avenue, possibly by adding stop signs, and the fact that it is a long stretch without a stop sign which could solve more speeding problems.

C. Update Encinal/Middlefield Traffic Signal M.O.U.

Jones said the target to install a traffic signal is the summer of 2010 when school is out. He concluded that staff is waiting for the finalized MOU to bring to City Council.

8.0 SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2009

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

McKeithen adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa DellaSanta
Deputy City Clerk