



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
STREETS, TRAILS AND UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2820 CLARK AVENUE
JULY 9, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Showalter called meeting to order at 7:00 pm
2. ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present: Mauro, Walker, Hoffman, Showalter, Gregory, Turpin,

Commissioners Absent: Burt (arrived late)
3. STAFF PRESENT: Lori J. Askew, Deputy Director of Public Works/
Senior Engineer
William R. Thompson, Director of Public Works
Rose Matthews, Executive Secretary

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Walker

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

None.

6. TO BE READ BY THE CHAIR: “All discretionary actions before the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission are advisory in nature and final actions will be confirmed, modified, or deleted by the City Council.”

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. June 4, 2012

Director Thompson noted corrections on Page 7 – first paragraph – change “two” meters to “one” and delete “to almost half” at the end of sentence.

M/S Mauro/Turpin to approve the minutes for June 4, 2012 with the noted corrections.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Mauro, Hoffman, Showalter, Gregory, Turpin, Burt
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Walker

8. NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Striping of Certain Streets for Bike Lanes as Part of the Santa Ana River Trail

Deputy Director Askew noted the history of the Santa Ana River Trail Parkway project and the need for striping of certain streets for bikeways as part of the Project using a PowerPoint map exhibit presentation.

DD Askew noted the differences between Class II/III bikeways using the map exhibits and slides denoting various markings along certain streets. Also noted was the bike lane addition on both sides of Corydon Av while still accommodating parking along the street.

The Class III bikeway is basically more of a route and bicycle and vehicular traffic share the road versus a dedicated Class II bike lane with additional signage.

Director Thompson noted that Class III bikeways are an interim solution until the bike lanes are built along the river; however, Class II bikeways are permanent bike lanes with signage. He also noted the County is willing to upgrade the trail and pave a portion of the parking area in the vicinity of the Scout House and along River Drive.

Commissioner Mauro noted his concerns over bikes on Crestview Dr.

DD Askew described the rest of the bikeway routes and noted the bypass or alternative route located on Sixth Street. DD Askew also noted the need for suggestions or comments on the bike lanes and/or routes.

Commissioner Mauro noted he would like to see the bike lane changed from Crestview Dr to California Av due to the poor street conditions and visibility issues.

Commissioner Walker inquired if the upgrades to the bike lane were also going to be upgrades to the trail at the Cedar Av location.

Director Thompson noted that yes; the County would be willing to do both upgrades, although there would not be any bikes behind the Scout House off the Cedar Av side, only trail. He also noted there will be more meetings regarding the Class III bikeways and suggestions are welcomed.

Chair Showalter inquired if River Dr. would be paved up to the rocks.

Director Thompson noted this was only the beginning of getting bikes through Norco.

Commissioner Hoffman inquired if Sixth St would have a Class II bike lane - where would the bike traffic and trail be located.

The Director noted the travel lanes would diminish to 11' or so.

Commissioner Hoffman also inquired regarding the horse trailer traffic and the compatibility of bikes and trailers. He does not see Sixth St as even an alternate route for bikes.

Further discussion was held on safety and compatibility of bikes and vehicular traffic.

Director Thompson noted these were the options brought forward at this time. He also noted the original option has already been agreed upon by the Commission and Council – that option was bike lanes only and no parking on Corydon Av.

Commissioner Mauro also noted that drivers do not recognize motorcycles and will not see bikes.

Commissioner Gregory noted the compatibility of lanes would not work out on Sixth St and he agrees with Commissioner Mauro that Crestview Dr would not work, either. CG inquired how much footage would be lost for parking on Corydon Av.

Director Thompson noted Class II bikeways minimum through the City would be required for the possibility of future grants.

Commissioner Gregory noted, again, Sixth St was a bad idea.

Commissioner Mauro noted he sees far more bicycles than horses when he walks through the City.

Chair Showalter noted that he sees the horses out in the evenings.

Further discussion was held on number of horses, timing and where the opportune times and areas were to see horse traffic.

Commissioner Turpin noted that using Sixth St for a bikeway is not a good idea and neither is Crestview Dr. He would like to see bikeways that are safe.

Director Thompson noted the completed areas of the bikeways that already exist in the surrounding areas of the City.

Further discussion was held.

Director Thompson noted that along North Dr; a resident there owns 25 acres and also noted some of the acquisition issues.

Commissioner Burt inquired about using Fifth St instead of the routes mentioned as more efficient and there were no parking issues.

Director Thompson noted the project wants to remain as close as possible to the Santa Ana River.

Commissioner Mauro inquired as to the number of bike riders the City would see using these lanes.

Director Thompson noted the numbers were just not available until the lanes were installed.

Commissioner Gregory noted these were just interim solutions.

Chair Showalter inquired as to the funding aspect of this project.

Director Thompson noted this question has been asked. Only funds for the capital improvement project have been solidified by the County.

Chair Showalter inquired if the River Dr option would be the most viable.

Director Thompson noted possibly it could be, River Dr certainly has the room on the street.

Chair Showalter noted the futility of striping a street that is in poor condition.

The Director noted that striping was relatively inexpensive and we would look for improvements in the future.

Commissioner Turpin noted these options could be changed in the future with improvements.

Director Thompson noted there was the possibility of improvements in the future at no cost to the City.

Commissioner Hoffman inquired of the Citrus Av location for a bikeway mentioned in previous plans.

Director Thompson noted there were other alternate routes being discussed in lieu of Citrus Av.

Chair Showalter inquired if there was to be a bikeway and trail on both sides of the roadway on Corydon Av.

Director Thompson noted that yes, there would be bike lanes on both sides of the roadway.

Further discussion was held on routes and alternative routes at this time versus different phases and timelines of the project.

Discussion was held on the rights of bike riders to ride along any street in the City.

Director Thompson noted that any street determined by this Commission not to be used as a bike route, would not be used.

Chair Showalter inquired if the bottom line was to have a Class II bikeway minimum in the City.

Director Thompson noted the decisions made today would possibly affect decisions on other streets in the City.

Commissioner Hoffman inquired what exactly the Commission was being asked to agree to.

Director Thompson noted that suggestions were welcomed.

Commissioner Mauro inquired if in reality, the bikes can ride anywhere they want.

Commissioner Walker inquired of her concern regarding signage for both bike riders and equestrian users of the lanes and or trails.

Director Thompson noted the universal signage for the lanes and trails was included in the last Commission's meeting packet, but he did not have it this evening.

Commissioner Walker noted that equestrians may be bombarded by groups of bike riders and that direction of travel could be a problem as some horses may get nervous seeing bike riders coming towards them. Riding alongside of them did not seem to be a problem.

Commissioner Turpin noted that equestrians always have the right of way, as that has been the rule everywhere he has ridden.

Commissioner Hoffman suggested eliminating Sixth St as the by-pass alternate route; eliminating the portion of Crestview Dr from Eighth St to Sixth St.

The Commission unanimously agreed on this point.

Commissioner Hoffman noted Valley View Av should be eliminated and Woodward Av be substituted, if feasible.

The Commission unanimously agreed on this point.

Discussion was held on width of throughways and barricade issues.

Commissioner Hoffman suggested that Corydon Av become "no parking" on both sides of the street.

Further discussion was held on parking issues, notification of the residents, the safety issues of vehicular vs. bikes and the consequences of these concerns.

The Commission agreed to leave the Corydon Av section the way it was presented with the one exception of Commissioner Hoffman, who does not agree with the traffic compatibility.

Further discussion was held.

Commissioner Mauro noted there were no pedestrian trails in the City; the trails were not usable by groups of pedestrians and were unusable by the handicapped population.

Director Thompson noted all trails in the City were classified P/E, pedestrian/equestrian.

Commissioner Walker inquired if there were plans included in this project for rest stops.

DD Askew noted that yes; there were restroom plans, picnic benches, an awning and kiosks proposed for the project.

Further discussion was held.

M/S Burt/Gregory to approve the Class III bikeway moving the portion outlined in the exhibit from Valley View Av to Woodward Av, if feasible

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Mauro, Walker, Hoffman, Showalter, Gregory, Turpin, Burt
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

M/S Burt/Gregory to eliminate Sixth St as the by-pass alternate route. Effectively, this would also eliminate the section on Crestview Dr between Eighth St to Sixth St.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Mauro, Walker, Hoffman, Showalter, Gregory, Turpin, Burt
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

M/S Turpin/Walker to accept the Class II bikeway on the Corydon Av to Norco Dr section the way it is presented.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Mauro, Walker, Showalter, Gregory, Turpin, Burt
NOES: Hoffman
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Commissioner Hoffman votes no, as his experience in this regard does not agree with the vehicular vs. bike compatibility.

9. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chair Showalter inquired regarding the status of Third St.

Director Thompson noted the plan for Third Street's future. He also noted there may be other monies available by the end of July, or at least notification of any such funds existing.

Chair Showalter inquired regarding the status of the Reservoir.

Director Thompson noted the in-house design by the City's engineering firm, RKA. He also noted that this provides a great, hands-on experience and challenge for the Deputy Director and Superintendent to experience for themselves, the transition of wells to reservoir.

Chair Showalter inquired regarding the Three Bar Ln trees.

Director Thompson noted grid trimming would commence after the new fiscal year and these trees would most likely be on the list.

Commissioner Mauro inquired why the CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) did not come to the Commission before mailing and distribution to the residents.

Director Thompson noted the timelines and deadlines for the distribution of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). He also noted the \$25,000 fine the City would face if the CCR did not meet the distribution deadline.

Further discussion was held.

10. VERBAL UPDATES: STREETS – TRAILS – UTILITIES

Director Thompson noted that if any of the Commissioners had questions on any items, they could phone him and have their questions answered.

11. OTHER MATTERS:

Commissioner Hoffman noted the gate located at Ingalls Park at the top of Sixth St used for construction traffic and the only route out of park is locked most of the time. His key does not fit the lock and he noted that riders get trapped inside. Could this be remedied?

Director Thompson noted he would refer this to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department as Ingalls Park was under their purview.

Discussion was held.

12. ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 pm

Meeting adjourned to September 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm due to the Labor Day Holiday falling on the regular meeting day of September 3, 2012.

M/S Turpin/Burt to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Motion carried by the following vote.

AYES: Mauro, Walker, Hoffman, Showalter, Gregory, Turpin, Burt

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Lori J. Askew

Deputy Director of Public Works

/rmm