



Wednesday, November 21, 2017
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Cacciotti on Wednesday, November 21, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Joe, Khubesrian, and Mahmud; Mayor Pro Tem Schneider; and Mayor Cacciotti.

Absent: None.

City Staff

Present: Stephanie DeWolfe, City Manager; Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney; Evelyn G. Zneimer, City Clerk; and Anthony J. Mejia, Chief City Clerk; were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cacciotti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The City Council agreed to pull Item Nos. 1 and 2 from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION

1. Award of Contract to Minagar & Associates, Inc. to Perform Professional Engineering Services for On-Street Parking and Traffic Study in the Monterey Hills

Councilmember Mahmud referenced written suggestions provided to staff prior to tonight's meeting; recommended the establishment of a date by which the report will be due and provide for contract termination by May 31, 2018.

In response to City Council inquiries, Public Works Director Toor explained the timeframe needed for the preparation of the Study, as well as Commission and Community meetings to be held.

Mayor Cacciotti opened and closed the Public Comment period, there being no one desiring to speak on this item.

Following discussion, MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Accept a bid dated October 20, 2017, from Minagar & Associates, Inc. for on-street parking and traffic study in the Monterey Hills.
 2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Minagar & Associates, Inc. for an amount not-to-exceed \$14,210, as amended.
 3. Establish a contract termination date of no later than May 31, 2018 and the specification of a report due date in advance of the contract completion date.
 4. Reject all other bids received.
2. **Adoption of a Resolution Approving the 4th Amendment of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' Joint Powers Agreement**

Councilmember Mahmud provided information regarding the role of the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Construction Authority integration, noting that it is not limited to transportation and has the potential to assist with other projects of interest.

Mayor Cacciotti opened and closed the Public Comment period, there being no one desiring to speak on this item.

Mayor Cacciotti indicated support for the staff recommendation and provided a brief overview of the history of the ACE Construction Authority.

Councilmember Joe indicated support for staff recommendation.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 7541 entitled "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Pasadena, California, approving amendments to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Joint Powers Agreement as adopted by the SGVCOG's Governing Board."

ACTION/DISCUSSION**3. Approval of a Letter to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Regarding the State Route 710 North Extension Early Action Projects List**

Principal Management Analyst Margaret Lin and Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates (Nelson\Nygaard) Senior Associate Steve Boland narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "SR-710 North Early Action Project Priorities," outlining the proposed SR-710 North Extension Early Action Projects; responded to City Council inquiries.

Mayor Cacciotti opened the Public Comment period.

Samuel Zneimer, South Pasadena Resident, urged the City Council to prioritize bicycle lanes, address car volume by supporting alternative modes of transportation and becoming a leader in bicycle and alternative modes of transportation.

Hannah Swanson, South Pasadena Resident, indicated support for reducing traffic on Fremont Avenue; stated the City has a responsibility for prioritizing pedestrian safety in the R-1 Zone.

Larry Abelson, Public Works Commission (PWC) Chair, indicated support for the proposed letter prepared by Nelson\Nygaard; provided information regarding the PWC and Freeway & Transportation Commission (FTC) related meeting discussions.

Andy Au, South Pasadena Resident, urged the City Council to recognize the rarity of this opportunity and to consider the future impact of its decisions; stated that the safety for bicyclists and pedestrians is serenity; urged City Council to consider a shovel-ready master bicycle plan.

Kim Hughes, Public Works Commissioner, suggested considering options that move traffic away from residential streets, such as directing traffic from Fremont Avenue over to Fair Oaks Avenue; opined that speed is not as important as flow and sync.

Stephanie Ramirez, South Pasadena Resident, urged the City Council to address regional traffic issues through the provision of alternate modes of transportation that will reduce the number of vehicles on the road; suggested thinking about making improvements for pedestrian safety.

Sean Talkington, South Pasadena Resident, discussed the bicycle valet at the South Pasadena Farmers' Market; noted there is a need for long-term dedicated bicycle routes in all directions that provide safety, especially for families with children.

Dennis McCullogh, South Pasadena Resident, indicated support for the proposed plan; expressed disappointment to see that the bicycle plan is not prioritized; suggested striping the road to create bicycle routes that provide protection for bicyclists, specifically on Monterey Road.

Wesley Reutimann, BikeSGV Executive Director, expressed concern regarding greenhouse gas emissions; noted that 31% of trips are less than a mile; spoke in support of prioritizing bicycle lanes and providing high visibility crosswalks at all thoroughfares; strongly recommended implementing green infrastructure.

Judy Bergstresser, South Pasadena Resident, encouraged the City Council to continue to advocate for a safe, pedestrian friendly environment and refrain from entertaining contradictory goals, such as allowing any accommodations for additional freeway transportation; submitted written correspondence.

Jesus Banuelos, South Pasadena Resident, spoke in support of increased bicycle safety, including paths, bicycle racks, and additional security cameras at the Mission Gold Line Station.

There being no others desiring to speak, Mayor Cacciotti closed the Public Comment period.

Councilmember Mahmud recommended re-formatting the City's Early Action Projects List Response Letter to Metro to identify which category of projects the City is referring to; suggested staff to ensure that the projects provide a nexus to the SR- 710 North Extension (freeway gap).

Mayor Pro Tem Schneider indicated support for prioritizing the 2011 Bicycle Master Plan (Bicycle Plan); indicated Monterey Road is a gap in the Bicycle Plan and recommended consideration of a roadway reconfiguration; discussed travel speed statistics on Monterey Road.

Councilmember Khubesrian expressed interest in slowing traffic down, increasing pedestrian and bicycle safety, and enhancing the east-west connection; stated making improvements to the bicycle infrastructure and achieving smooth traffic flow can both be achieved.

Councilmember Joe indicated support for making improvements to Fair Oaks Avenue, prioritization of the Bicycle Plan, and collaborative efforts between cities to make traffic improvements within the region; expressed interest in the inclusion of a bus rapid transit (BRT) to Priority 3.

Councilmember Mahmud noted that it might be difficult to secure Measure M funding for the BRT.

Councilmember Mahmud presented the following suggested changes to the letter:

On Page 3-6 of the Council Meeting Agenda Packet:

“Improved safety along the main cut through traffic corridors (i.e. Fremont Avenue, ~~Columbia Street, Grand Avenue, etc.~~ Meridian Avenue)”

Mayor Cacciotti indicated support for the letter and for an update to the Bicycle Plan; discussed current traffic conditions beyond city limits.

Principal Management Analyst Lin indicated that the BRT could be included in a later effort in collaboration with the City of Pasadena.

During the course of discussion, the City Council agreed to include implementation of the Bicycle Plan under Category 1, specifically on east-west Huntington Drive, east-west Mission Street, and north-south Fair Oaks Avenue; provide clarifying language regarding which projects are intended to be included in Categories 1 and 2; modify language on Page 20 to focus on the reduction of speed in the main traffic corridors including Fremont Avenue and Meridian Avenue; remove the request for an electric charging station as it is an unauthorized project.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, CARRIED 5-0 to approve a letter to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority regarding the request for funding for Early Action Projects within the City of South Pasadena in lieu of the State Route 710 North Extension Tunnel Alternative, as amended.

4. **Authorize Staff to Complete the American's with Disabilities Act Components of the Monterey Road Rehabilitation Project from Pasadena Avenue to Fair Oaks Avenue**

Public Works Director Paul Toor presented the staff report.

Mayor Cacciotti opened the Public Comment period.

Larry Abelson, Public Works Commission Chair, indicated opposition to a Road Diet as it includes the removal of travel lanes which would move traffic to residential streets not designed for this purpose; noted that the goal is not to increase traffic but to place traffic where it belongs and manage it; noted the designation of a needed traffic signal at the intersection of Monterey Road and Orange Grove Street.

Andy Au, South Pasadena Resident, indicated support for bicycle lanes on Monterey Road.

Sean Talkington, South Pasadena Resident, stated an east-west bicycle lane in South Pasadena would be helpful to new riders.

Wesley Reutimann, South Pasadena Resident, encouraged the City Council to carefully consider all aspects of potential multi-model travel corridor improvements; recommended adding the project to the Metro funding wish list.

Stephanie Ramirez, South Pasadena Resident, indicated support for seeking funding from Metro; opined road diets are an inconvenience for motorists but are beneficial to residents and pedestrians.

Jose Luis Zavala, South Pasadena Resident, spoke regarding the implementation of a Road Diet and his experience with near accidents on Monterey Road; encouraged staff to take the time to implement new technologies and find funding to improve the traffic flow on Monterey Road.

Gayle Glauz, Public Works Commission Vice-Chair, opined that a Road Diet of two lanes will create significant congestion; suggested maintaining neighborhoods and keeping traffic on the streets designed for it.

There being no others desiring to speak, Mayor Cacciotti closed the Public Comment period.

In response to City Council inquiries, Public Works Director Toor suggested allowing the PWC to re-evaluate the Minagar & Associates, Inc. (Minagar) Study and determine the feasibility of adding a bicycle lane without the removal of traffic lanes; explained the use of a sharrows.

Mayor Pro Tem Schneider spoke in support of the staff recommendation; stated El Centro Street is not a good road for a bicycle lane due to lack of continuity; suggested staff consider an addition of a bicycle lane to Mission Street; provided information regarding the intent of roadway reconfigurations; encouraged staff to have Nelson\Nygaard re-evaluate the bicycle plan, cautioning against a complete redo of the plan.

Councilmember Mahmud expressed concern for moving forward with a Road Diet as it will result in unsafe actions by motorists during peak times defeating the goal of safety; indicated support for further study in Priority 3 in Metro SR-710 North Extension Early Action Projects List; recommended re-evaluation of the Fremont Avenue and Monterey Road intersection during peak school drop-off times.

In response to City Council inquiry, Public Works Director Toor advised that Nelson\Nygaard representatives can offer an opinion on the Minagar Study, however, in the absence of the original traffic model, an opinion cannot reflect the assumptions that are not clear in the written report.

In response to City Council inquiries, Steve Boland, Nelson\Nygaard Senior Associate, discussed traffic study options.

In response to City Council inquiries, Public Works Director Toor discussed funding options to fund a new Nelson\Nygaard study.

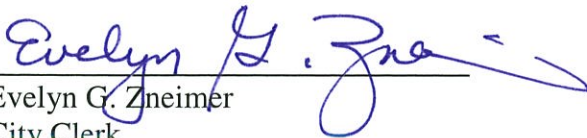
Mayor Cacciotti expressed concern regarding the cut through traffic; spoke in favor of repaving Monterey Road, the addition of bicycle lanes and sharrows; stated public support has not yet been received; encouraged staff to pursue a Road Diet on Mission Street instead.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 5-0 to:

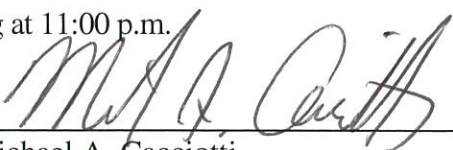
1. Direct staff to complete the pavement rehabilitation, new traffic signal at Monterey Road, traffic signal synchronization, left-turn pockets, and Orange Grove Avenue, and the Americans with Disability Act components of the Monterey Road Rehabilitation Project from Pasadena Avenue to Meridian Avenue.
2. Accept the Public Works Commission's recommendation to not proceed with the reconfiguration components of the Project and instead direct the Public Works Commission to provide recommendations on a feasible east-west bikeway alternative that will not reduce traffic capacity or result in negative safety impacts.
3. Direct staff to include the addition of an update of the Bicycle Master Plan within Category 2, Priority 3 of the Metro SR-710 North Extension Early Action Projects List.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cacciotti adjourned the Special City Council Meeting at 11:00 p.m.



Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk



Michael A. Cacciotti
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on January 17, 2018.