



GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Police Department Building (Building No. 5)
Emergency Operations Center (1st Floor)
8200 Westminster Boulevard
Westminster, CA 92683
October 26, 2015
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Ta called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Don Anderson, Gloria Constas, Sergio Contreras, Gilbert Cruz, Owen Eames, April Erazo, Lupe Fisher, Richard Jolly, Mimi Lozano, Gia Ly, Lisa Manzo, Sandra McClure, Khanh Nguyen, Tyler Nichols, Helen Ortega, Jamison Power, Patricia Robbins, Laura Sottile Rose, Syed Shah, Tri Ta, Diana Williams

PRESENT: Don Anderson, Gloria Constas, Sergio Contreras, Gilbert Cruz, Owen Eames, April Erazo (arrived at 6:41), Richard Jolly, Mimi Lozano, Gia Ly, Lisa Manzo, Sandra McClure, Khanh Nguyen, Jamison Power (arrived at 6:40), Laura Sottile Rose (arrived at 6:50), Tri Ta, Diana Williams

ABSENT: Lupe Fisher, Tyler Nichols, Helen Ortega, Patricia Robbins, Syed Shah

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Eddie Manfro, Planning Manager Art Bashmakian, Associate Alexis Oropeza, Assistant Planner Christopher Wong, City Traffic Engineer Adolfo Ozaeta

Placeworks Staff: Wendy Grant, Amanda Tropiano

Psomas Staff (Subconsultants for Placeworks): Steven Frieson, Arief Naftali, Nam Nguyen, Eduardo Lopez

Fehr and Peers (Subconsultants for Placeworks): Jason Pack

SALUTE TO FLAG: A GPAC member led the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no public comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 13, 2015 approved unanimously

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Planning Manager Art Bashmakian thanked GPAC Members for their time and efforts in this process.

Amanda Tropiano, Senior Associate, Placeworks, provided a brief background.

Project Updates

- Public Outreach Efforts

Ms. Tropiano reported that the City mailed out 32,000 individual mailers to every property owner and business in the City and addressed community meetings, engaging the public, an upcoming Council meeting where the plan will be presented and community events.

- Land Use Plan Review

During the upcoming City Council meeting, Council will review the draft Land Use Plan and Ms. Tropiano addressed the topics for discussion at this time.

Introduction to Mobility in Westminster

- City Resources
- Ongoing Projects

City Traffic Engineer Adolfo Ozaeta provided details of a presentation addressing the City's Traffic Engineering Department, tasks and areas of responsibility, possibilities for various modes of transportation, communications, the State Active Transportation Program, funding sources, current projects and the need for projects, policy and community. He addressed challenges, the importance of staying engaged and consensus-building at the grassroots level. City Traffic Engineer Ozaeta introduced Jason Pack, Fehr and Peers (Subconsultants for Placeworks).

Presentation and Discussion on General Plan Mobility Element

Jason Pack, Fehr and Peers, provided a brief background of his qualifications and experience and addressed proximity-based development, speed-based development, development of traffic engineering, the current General Plan Mobility plan, levels of service, general objections, the evolution of transportation State bills, consolidation of funding and the various types of streets in the City.

Discussion followed regarding accommodating all users on streets.

Mr. Pack continued with his presentation addressing projects in surrounding cities, the layered-networks approach, ensuring that bike and pedestrian streets are safe and the City's transit corridors.

Presentation and Discussion on Active Transportation Plan

Steven Frieson, Psomas Staff, provided a brief background of his qualifications and experience and addressed funding sources and consolidation and creating an Active

Transportation Plan. He commented on the overall purpose, the interactive process, identifying strategies for increasing walking and bicycling, and highlighted the elements of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). He presented examples of typical bicycle facilities, types of bicycle routes and logical divisions of the City from an activities and destination point of view.

Ms. Tropiano added that consideration is being given to internal and external City connectivity.

Mr. Frieson listed existing streets that provide connectivity between north and south and east and west, and their applicable types of facilities. He addressed typical amenities for each type of facility, specific opportunities along logical City borders and destinations, and routes considered as potential candidates to include in the network.

Next Steps

Going forward, Mr. Frieson addressed collaborating with City staff and stakeholders and the need for approval by City Council.

Discussion followed regarding challenges on Trask and Edwards with consideration to nearby schools, the need for input from the GPAC, looking at various opportunities for connectivity, connecting the City with the City of Huntington Beach, a prior Bikeways Opportunities Study, receipt of a Tactical Urbanism grant, issues connected to the 405 project, and next steps for the ATP.

Ms. Tropiano introduced group activities for the GPAC to undertake.

Mr. Pack provided instructions in terms of the information and feedback desired from the GPAC.

The GPAC was divided into working groups to work on the exercises.

The assembly reconvened and a representative from each group was chosen to review their areas of concern. These included multi-lane boulevards, the possibility of implementing angled parking, providing wide off-sets between buildings and pedestrian areas, encouraging people to walk by increasing green space and the importance of adding vertical landscaping and hiring a landscape architect to enhance the pedestrian experience.

Discussion followed regarding having sidewalks wide enough and considering landscaping, taking into account ADA accessibility.

Comments were received regarding reducing vehicular speeds in specific areas, working with developers to ensure appropriate designs, the importance of open space, increasing walkability, the importance of prioritization, installing parklets as appropriate, implementing Class 4 lanes on Hazard for increased safety, the number of schools in the

City, and treating Edwards and Goldenwest as connectors rather than arterials.

Ms. Tropiano commented on Beach Boulevard being a "super" street and the way that the hierarchy was structured showing roads on either side of Beach, as arterials. Those would be car priorities with bike priorities "in between". She asked for the GPAC's opinion regarding same.

Members of the GPAC felt it would be a mistake and that Edwards and Goldenwest should not be treated having cars as a priority, but treated equally in terms of pedestrians and bikes.

Discussion followed regarding schools and residential areas on Edwards, prioritizing bikes and vehicles, identifying Goldenwest as a key north/south vehicle facility, the GPAC's preference of identifying it as a key bike/pedestrian facility considering existing land uses, single-family homes on Goldenwest, and challenges with enforcing a school route due to the speed of vehicles on Goldenwest.

Mr. Frieson referenced priority corridors for bike facilities, addressed other major corridors in the City and asked the GPAC to list three priorities out of the six presented. Additionally, he asked the GPAC to choose from a list of amenities Members would like to see along Class 1 facilities. These would include benches, lighting, interpretive kiosks, artwork, and playgrounds.

GPAC Members completed the exercise.

ADJOURN: Date to be Determined

There being on further business to come before the General Plan Advisory Committee, Chair Ta adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m. to the next meeting of the GPAC, the date of which is to be determined.