



Tuesday, August 17, 2010

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber, Pico Rivera City Hall, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California.

Mayor Salcido called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. on behalf of the City Council.

**PRESENT:** Armenta, Camacho, Contreras Rapisarda, Archuleta, Salcido

**ABSENT:** None

**1<sup>st</sup> PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:** None.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project.**

Assistant City Manager Prang introduced Kimberly Yu, representative of Metro Gold Line who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the Metro Gold Line project. Ms. Yu explained that there are 13 cities involved in this project and that an extensive outreach has been made to the stakeholders and community groups in the entire project area, which includes the cities of Whittier, Commerce and Pico Rivera. She further explained that the two main light rail transit alternative routes being looked at are SR60 and Washington Boulevard and stated that the project goal and purpose is to improve transit services and mobility by providing a connection to the Metro Gold Line Eastside extension. The evaluation criteria used, she stated, is cost, ridership, and mobility improvement. She went on to further explain the project development process, purpose of the draft EIS/EIR, recommended evaluation criteria, emergency considerations, funding considerations, schedule for the EIS/EIR and beyond, public involvement and station planning as well as urban design goals. Ms. Yu introduced members of the Metro Gold Line project team, Mr. Ray Sosa, Chester Britt, and Melissa Hoguen who were available to answer questions regarding the Metro Gold Line project.

As the light rail transit project pertains to the Washington Boulevard alternative, Council members asked questions relative to: quotas for ridership, speed of railway, impact to students crossing the streets, construction of parking lot structure for park and ride, impact to small businesses during construction, how locations were decided

for park and ride structures, whether or not the rail system will be at grade level, how many field assessments in the city, will Metro be proactive with signage for businesses, mitigation of impact to be addressed prior to construction. There were other questions regarding where the ridership is going to come from, will Metro provide a subsidy for traffic congestion in the city, traffic impact on intersection of Paramount, Rosemead and Passons, how will local construction companies benefit from the construction projects, will the railway go under the 605 freeway, will there be any land acquisition, and will there be funding available to repave streets for wear and tear due to increase of traffic in the City. Council members requested an aerial overlay design of the alternative route for Washington Boulevard at a future meeting.

In response to questions asked by the City Council, Ms. Yu and members of the Metro Gold Line project team responded that in regard to a quota for ridership the criteria for cost effectiveness must meet the \$24.99 threshold per ridership in order to get funded, the speed of the railway system would go no faster than the allowable speed limit for that street, a pedestrian overpass would be considered to address student/pedestrian safety, construction is estimated to last 4 – 5 years, signage and field deputies will be provided for small businesses during construction; park and ride lot structures would be constructed on existing parking lots; parking structures for park and ride lot are based on land use and access points; railway most likely will be at grade level due to cost and environmental consideration; over 300 meetings have been held with field assessments done 50% of the time; ridership would be coming from Whittier starting at Lambert as well as from the study area; impact of traffic on street should be reduced due to increase ridership of railway; retail businesses should see an increase once the project is complete; during the construction phase local construction companies are encouraged to work with the local job program to create jobs for residents in the construction trade; railway will go under the 605 freeway at grade, no land acquisition currently identified; Metro has a funding strategy that works with all the cities that will provide 10% of state funding for re-pavement along with other funding opportunities; and in regard to construction and business impact more detailed information will be available at the end of the development process which is expected to be finished in September 2011. Ms. Yu added that the intent of the railway is to change peoples travel behavior and thus reduce traffic congestion.

Mayor Salcido called for a brief recess at 3:40 p.m.

Mayor Salcido reconvened the City Council meeting at 3:55 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION:**

**1. Modifications to the Beverly Boulevard Landscape Median Improvement –  
CIP No. 21231. (500)**

Assistant City Manager Prang reported that the changes and recommendations presented by Council have been incorporated in tonight's presentation and asked Director of Public Works Cablay to proceed with the presentation.

Director of Public Works Cablay recapped Council's approval of the road rehabilitation portion of the project and provided a brief PowerPoint presentation detailing the project goals of the median landscape project. Oscar Johnson from MIG provided information regarding landscaping turf, plant material, river rock, decomposed granite, curbs, and drainage for the proposed medians.

Councilmember Camacho commented on the irrigation system stating that he hopes the watering system stays focused on the plants and not the street to which Mr. Johnson stated that as part of AB 1881 you cannot have overspray on sidewalks or streets.

Mayor Pro Tem Archuleta commented on the gray curbing and asked if it could be painted green to give visual aid to the driver with Director Cablay stating the curb is a standard six inch median curb and that green is traffic regulated color and would not be advisable.

Councilmember Contreras Rapisarda asked in regard to a visual aid for the curb, if a reflective surface treatment could be added with Director Cablay adding that there are several different ways to add visibility to the curb utilizing surface treatment and that detailed information could be provided at a later date. Assistant City Manager Prang added that the curbing would be consistent with the median landscapes throughout the City.

In regard to maintenance of the landscape medians, Councilmember Contreras Rapisarda voiced her concern for the safety of maintenance crews mowing the lawns and therefore prefers artificial turf. Mayor Pro Tem Archuleta stated that lanes are blocked off to provide safety for public works crews while mowing the lawn.

Councilmember Armenta commented on the decomposed granite stating that the material is very porous to let water in and yet is low maintenance for weeds. He asked how the flooding would be controlled during heavy rain.

Director of Public Works Cablay stated that the water will drain on both north and south sides of the medians.

Mayor Salcido recommended that each item for discussion be taken by a separate roll call vote.

On Item 1 (1) motion was made by Councilmember Armenta, seconded by Councilmember Contreras Rapisarda to approve a design change to the approved landscaping concept plan incorporating turf for up to 15 percent of the proposed drought tolerant landscape theme. Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Armenta, Camacho, Contreras Rapisarda, Archuleta, Salcido

**NOES:** None

On Item 1 (2) an alternate motion was made by Mayor Salcido, seconded by Councilmember Armenta to eliminate "Welcome" from the proposed entrance monument sign. Motion failed by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Armenta, Salcido

**NOES:** Camacho, Contreras Rapisarda, Archuleta

Councilmember Armenta asked if the lettering on the monumental sign is the same in both drawings with Mr. Johnson responding in the affirmative. He requested that the "Welcome" not blend in with Pico Rivera to which Mr. Johnson responded that there is a one inch separation and that up lighting will provide a shadowing effect for the words Pico Rivera.

Councilmember Camacho asked how graffiti will be removed from the monumental signs with Director Cablay responding that staff has various techniques that could be used.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve Item 1 (2) as presented.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Archuleta, seconded by Councilmember Camacho to approve the proposed entrance monument: "Welcome Sign A, Sedimentary Wall," (Exhibit A) as presented. Motion carries by the following votes:

**AYES:** Armenta, Camacho, Contreras Rapisarda, Archuleta

**NOES:** Salcido

Director of Public Works Cablay continued with his presentation summarizing the options for the median landscape designs.

Mayor Salcido voiced his opposition to Alternate 2, which incorporates a two-way left lane configuration allowing left-turn access for eastbound and westbound traffic and stated that the issue is to provide median landscaping as a beautification project which this option eliminates. He asked what precipitated the change.

Assistant City Manager Prang added that although drivers currently make left-hand turns into the businesses on the north side of Beverly Boulevard, the left-hand turns are made illegally. In response to Mayor Salcido's question, he stated that the business owners along this corridor were contacted and they expressed their desire to have left-hand turns into their businesses.

Mayor Salcido continued to express his opposition as many businesses in the City have not been accommodated with left-hand turns and because this is a beautification project suggested that Alternate 1 would be a better solution which could allow U-turns at the intersections into those businesses.

Councilmember Armenta asked if business owners were notified that left-hand turns were illegal at the time they opened their businesses with Director Cablay stating that most likely they were not.

Councilmember Camacho stated that the City needs to be mindful when allowing certain permits and expressed his concern for businesses that may be impacted by placing a beautification median project that could potentially affect access to their businesses and future businesses as well.

Councilmember Contreras Rapisarda stated that all businesses are important to the City whether big or small and expressed her consideration of the left-hand turn and suggested a "keep clear" zone for that area.

Councilmember Armenta stated that he is in favor of the left-hand turn and suggested that to be consistent with the beautification project that landscaping on the sidewalks be improved.

Mayor Pro Tem Archuleta stated that business owners expressed their satisfaction with the capability of driver's being able to turn left or right to get in and out of their businesses. Taking everything into account, Alternate 2, he stated would best suit needs of the business community in that area.

Mayor Salcido voiced his concern stating that by allowing the left-hand turns in both directions may cause some confusion when cars enter the lane to make the turns and could be a potential safety issue, because as it stands now the lane allows only one legal left-turn.

Councilmember Camacho stated that the assessment analysis was done in a short period of time but believes that the traffic flow will work well with the left-hand turns as he frequents the area and that the decision needs to be based not just on current conditions but also on future development.

Councilmember Contreras Rapisarda asked for further clarification regarding Alternate 2 with Director Cablay explaining that in Alternate 2, the median would be left open with a keep clear zone.

Councilmember Camacho asked about when the project is expected to be completed with Director Cablay responding that the project is on schedule.

Alternate Motion by Councilmember Armenta, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Archuleta to incorporate a two-way left turn lane configuration (Alternate 2) allowing left-turn access for eastbound and westbound traffic as well as beautifying landscape on sidewalks. Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Armenta, Camacho, Archuleta

**NOES:** Salcido

**ABSTAIN:** Contreras Rapisarda

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. There being no objection it was so ordered.

**AYES:** Armenta, Camacho, Contreras Rapisarda, Archuleta, Salcido

**NOES:** None

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Gregory Salcido, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Daryl A. Betancur, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct report of the proceedings of the City Council special meeting dated June 30, 2010, and approved by the City Council on July 13, 2010.

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Daryl A. Betancur, City Clerk