

# **Draft MINUTES**

## **MON 156 West Corridor Project: Community Advisory Group**

**February 28, 2007, 5:30-7:30 PM  
Castroville Library, Castroville CA**

### **Attending**

#### **Community Advisory Group**

Sherwood Darington  
Julie Engell  
Craig Geath  
Brad Houston  
Pete Lonero  
Arthur McLaughlin  
Leonard Rabe  
Carlos Ramos  
Mark Reasons  
Mike Scattini  
Jacqueline Simon  
Bill Theyskens  
Vee Thomas  
Mark Verbonich

#### **Agencies and consultants**

Bobi Lyon-Ritter (Caltrans Environmental)  
Kay Goshgarian (Caltrans Environmental)  
Dave Silberberger (Caltrans Project Management)  
Mark McCumsey (Caltrans Planning)

Jeff Morgan (Transportation Agency for Monterey County)  
Debbie Hale (Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Executive Director)  
Lou Hexter (Facilitator, Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc)  
Dan Drazen (Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc)  
Pat Gelb (Parsons, Project Mgr.)  
Gui Shearin (Parsons)  
Gilberto Baca (Caltrans Design)  
Roberto Banda (Caltrans Design)

#### **Other interested parties**

Raul Ebio (UCSC)  
Ed Mitchell (Prunedale Neighbors Group)  
Jan Mitchell (Prunedale Neighbors Group)  
Chris Orman (North County Fire District)  
Sig Matt (resident)  
Paula Chronister (resident)  
Margie Kay (resident and Citizens Advisory Group alternate)

Community Advisory Group members, representatives from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Parsons (consulting firm), Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc (consulting firm) and members of the general public attended the meeting and Lou Hexter of Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc facilitated. The project team provided a packet containing the proposed agenda and introductory materials to the Citizens Advisory Group members. The complete contents of the packet, as well as David Silberberger's Power Point presentation, will be posted on the Transportation Agency for Monterey County ([www.tamcmonterey.org](http://www.tamcmonterey.org)) website or can be requested from Caltrans by calling or emailing Kay Goshgarian (559 243-8302 or [kay\\_goshgarian@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kay_goshgarian@dot.ca.gov)) The following topics were addressed during the meeting. The second and third items summarize handouts included in the introductory packet.

1. Self introductions were performed by the Citizens Advisory Group members and other attendees. The Citizens Advisory Group members also described the concerns that brought them to the table, including:
  - Congestion-for residents along Route 156 and visitors to the Monterey Peninsula
  - Safety and number of fatalities
  - Circulation and access- for commercial facilities and residential properties along Route 156
  - Equitable approach to growth, growth and maturity of community
  - Growth impacts from transportation facilities and how transportation projects induce growth
  - Land use and transportation

2. Citizens Advisory Group's roles and responsibilities were presented:
  - Provide input during the environmental review process, including technical studies
  - Advise on issues studied for environmental analysis (community concerns and technical information)
  - Communication vehicle between technical team and community.

Operating principles were presented:

- Encourage members to participate in discussions
  - Meetings and related activities conducted to ensure ideas and views of all members are considered equally
  - Communications to be conducted with courtesy, honesty and respect especially when giving or receiving contrary opinions as well as positive or negative feedback
  - Share relevant information and facts to facilitate progress
  - Meetings scheduled and materials developed to enhance availability and ensure equal opportunities for participation based on the needs of the Citizens Advisory Group members
  - Meeting facilitator will help the Citizens Advisory Group manage agendas and enforce operating principles
  - Suggestion to have Citizens Advisory Group use parking lot technique to add items to the agenda
  - Citizens Advisory Group members need to bring issues to the meetings from the public they represent
3. Project Overview-PowerPoint presentation by David Silberberger, Caltrans project manager:
    - Project background historical timeline
    - Project purpose: Improve safety, operations, and local road access; relieve existing congestion; provide capacity for the future
    - Map of project area
    - Espinosa Parkway no longer a viable alternative
    - Design process
    - Project alternatives 11 and 12
    - Funding: Estimated cost, \$350 million; potential funding sources through bonds, State Transportation Improvement Programs, local sales tax/developer fees; potentially deliver in phased approach
    - Target schedule-Phase 1: complete environmental document October 2009; begin construction as early as May 2012; end construction May 2015
    - Current safety concerns: Community is concerned about doing something now; Safety Corridor Task Force is currently meeting to identify the problems and propose both short-term and intermediate solutions
    - The Route 156 West Corridor project is the long-term solution

4. The following questions were asked at various times throughout the meeting. Answers are also given if provided at the time. More detailed answers will be researched and discussed at future meetings.
  - **Q.** Why are project cost estimates increasing? Estimated project costs increased from \$200 million to \$350 million within a short time period.  
**A.** Primarily the increasing costs of construction materials.
  - **Q.** When do you decide if the project is still feasible?
  - **Q.** How do you know if costs will be met for all phases of construction?
  - **Q.** Can the Safety Corridor Task Force and this Citizens Advisory Group work together?  
**A.** It would not be efficient as their goals are quite different. The Safety Committee is focused on the short to medium term. The Citizens Advisory Group is focused on the long term.
  - **Q.** Will there be an interchange at Castroville Boulevard?  
**A.** Yes, in either alternative.
  - **Q.** Will land use and traffic modeling be addressed with relation to growth in the environmental document?  
**A.** Yes. Land use and traffic modeling with relationship to growth will be addressed in the environmental document and will be a later topic of discussion for this Citizens Advisory Group.
  - **Q.** Will the Citizens Advisory Group have the opportunity to review the traffic modeling data?
  - **Q.** How will this project be funded? Does the community need to contribute?

- A. A Citizens Advisory Group member emphasized that the community must pass bond measures to pay for projects; cost only increases over time.
- **Q.** Will impacts to area flora, fauna, endangered and threatened species and mitigation measures be identified in technical reports?  
A. Area flora, fauna, endangered and threatened species and mitigation measures will be identified in technical reports and the environmental document. This will also be a topic of discussion for the Citizens Advisory Group.
  - **Q.** Will farmland impacts and mitigation measures be identified?  
A. Farmland impacts will be identified in the environmental document. This will also be a topic of discussion for the Citizens Advisory Group.
  - **Q.** When will Citizens Advisory Group members receive meeting minutes to review?  
A. Minutes will be distributed by email or regular mail within 2 weeks of the meeting. They will also be posted on the Transportation Agency for Monterey County website and later on the Caltrans website.
  - **Q.** How will each design alternative better serve fire and emergency services?
  - **Q.** How do you expedite environmental process (the schedule) without sacrificing quality?
  - **Q.** What does success look like for this project and will there be an exchange between the public, Citizens Advisory Group and the project team?
5. The following items were requested by the Citizens Advisory Group members:
- An indication of the access points along the corridor for each project alternative
  - A review of open house summary report and availability on the Web
  - Copies of Citizens Advisory Group meeting minutes
  - Project cost breakdown per item, i.e. land, materials, mitigation
  - Copies of meeting handouts for Community Advisory Group alternates
6. Public comment on the proposed agenda was reserved for the last ten minutes of the meeting time. There was discussion of this schedule and various suggestions made. The issue was not decided, but agreed that for this meeting public comment would be taken at the end. Other suggestions included:
- Public may comment during the meeting-remembering to be concise and to the point as possible
  - Public comments reserved for the end of the meeting
  - Public comments at the beginning of the meeting, perhaps the first 10 minutes
  - Public comments could be made at the close of each issue discussed by the Citizens Advisory Group members
  - Individual comments from the public should be limited to 2-3 minutes and/or confined to topics on the agenda
  - If comments from public are taken at the beginning of the meeting, make sure comment represents topics from the agenda
  - Suggestion to have public email comment to see if it would fit into the agenda
7. Action items
- Establish when public comments would be appropriate
  - Place Citizens Advisory Group information on the Route 156 West Corridor project website
    - Citizens Advisory Group member names (contact information is optional)
    - Link for the public to send comments
    - Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc to set up email address for comments
8. Facility and meeting dates
- Castroville Library is a good facility for future meetings, but not available on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March
  - Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc will set a meeting date within the next two months when the library facility is available

Meeting adjourned