

Coastal Mobility and Livability Working Group (CMLWG)

Summary Notes

Meeting No. 3

September 29, 2016

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Poinsettia Room, Encinitas Civic Center

505 S. Vulcan Avenue

Encinitas, California 92024

A copy of the CMLWG meeting agenda and packet may be viewed by the public in the Planning & Building Department lobby during normal business hours and on the City's webpage at <http://www.encinitasca.gov/index.aspx?page=529>

1. AGENDA REVIEW

2. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ACCEPT MEETING #2 NOTES

The CMLWG is comprised of thirteen (13) regular members. The CMLWG is also comprised of a representative from each of the City's Commissions to serve as ex-officio members.

Regular Members

1. Carris Rhodes, Leucadia 101
2. Brett Farrow, Cardiff 101
3. Tom Cozens, Encinitas 101
4. Jim Benedetti, Chamber
5. Richard Risner, Preserve Cardiff Rail Corridor
6. Jody Hubbard, Yes Rail Trail
7. Rahul Deshpande, Cardiff T.C.
8. William Morrison, Leucadia T.C.
9. Judy Berlfein, Bike/Walk Encinitas
10. Mikayla McFadden, Paul Ecke School
11. Robert Hemphill, Engaged Citizen
12. Ron Dodge, Engaged Citizen
13. Carmen Barnard, Latino/Hispanic

Ex Officio Commission Members

1. Greg Drakos, Planning
2. Peter Kohl, Traffic and Safety
3. Joy Lyndes, Environmental
4. Judy Thum, Arts
5. Gabriella Gjata, Youth
6. Kris Stewart, Senior
7. John Gjata, Parks and Recreation

At this meeting, nearly all members that have been formally appointed were present, with two absent (Jody Hubbard and Robert Hemphill).

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 MINUTES)

One member of the public, Gerald Sodomka addressed the working group. His concerns were related to the desire for the coastal rail trail to be separated on a bridge over the lagoon as well as to stop double tracking because the freight noise is the nuisance rather than the horns.

4. SANDAG OVERVIEW OF COASTAL RAIL TRAIL

A presentation was made to the CMLWG by SANDAG, providing an overview of planning considerations for the Coastal Rail Trail (CRT) and how the CRT process will interface with the Coastal Mobility and Livability Study (CMLS).

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff Working Session with CMLWG

5. CMLS: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES MAPPING

This agenda item consisted of breakout sessions with CMLWG members actively mapping issues and opportunities. Each breakout group reported back to the larger group with key discussion items. An overview of key discussion points and/or items that surfaced during the feedback session is provided below. For a complete understanding of issues and opportunities identified, please review the maps and flip charts posted at <http://www.encinitasca.gov/index.aspx?page=365&recordid=63>.

- Livability
 - Comfort/beautification needs: benches, art, tree canopy/shade, and green infrastructure were suggested in specific locations
 - Consider a Quiet Zone throughout the City
- Mobility
 - Desire for north-south bike and pedestrian facilities, separated from traffic, on both sides of the rail corridor throughout the City, with crossings for each community
 - East-west connections are important for safety and to reduce reliance on parking
 - Several suggestions were made for specific trail alignments and connections
 - Schools are important destinations and opportunities for pedestrian and bike travel to school is important from a safety and health perspective

- Parking
 - Parking was suggested at several specific locations
 - Concerns were also raised that if parking is improved traffic could increase, particularly with respect to coastal access
 - Parking and improved access is critical for businesses
- Rail Crossings
 - Traffic congestion should be reduced at train crossings
 - Several suggestions were received for rail crossings at specific locations
 - Consider a policy for east-west rail crossing locations with criteria
- Long-Term Aspirations
 - Consider trenching and covering the rail corridor, which would allow reuse of the land above it for community needs, such as an art center or a parking structure
 - Consider relocating the rail corridor to the Interstate 5 corridor
 - Consider the cost-benefit of these long-term aspirations, particularly in light of larger issues, such as sea level rise, bluff erosion, etc.

6. OCTOBER CMLS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

A brief update was provided to the CMLWG on upcoming public workshops, online outreach, and pop-up outreach and the CMLWG was asked whether any modifications were recommended to the proposed workshop format. CMLWG members provided documentation of their efforts to promote CMLS, and CMLS outreach, directly to City staff; this was not part of the group discussion during CMLWG Meeting #3.

City Briefings and Updates

7. CITY COMMISSION INPUT ON CMLS ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A brief update was provided to the CMLWG on format and logistics for City Commission input on issues and opportunities, covering role of Ex Officio CMLWG members.

8. UPDATE ON WAYSIDE HORN DEMONSTRATION

A brief update was provided to the CMLWG on the Wayside Horn Demonstration held on September 22, 2016 and how the CMLS will evaluate potential crossing locations, crossing types, and associated alternatives for train warning systems.

9. FEEDBACK ON PARKING STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE

A brief overview of the Draft Parking Study Questionnaire was provided to the CMLWG. The CMLWG was asked to provide feedback on the draft questionnaire. Discussion points and/or items that surfaced during the feedback session included:

- More people live in Old Encinitas than Downtown Encinitas, but it is not included in the mail out survey distribution list.
- How do people feel about underground parking? It is important to consider how expensive it is to build underground parking, and if some people refuse to use it, then it's a waste. The survey should address what percentages of people feel comfortable and what percent don't feel comfortable with underground parking.
- A specific survey for merchants should be created for along the Downtown corridor to figure out how many employees they have and how much parking is needed for their employees. Some merchants have indicated that parking can be such an issue that they would consider leaving the area
- Give a few suggestions for the "Rather than use a car, would you walk, bike, or use transit to this destination? Under what conditions?" Provide a question to prevent people from just saying "no", and encourage them to provide feedback such as a dedicated bike path or better walking paths.
- Did you park and get to your destination in a legal and safe manner? This question references to people parking across the street from a location and running across the street to get there.
- Add a question, on a scale of 1 to 5 how likely are you to: walk, bike, or use transit. If neither, why?
- Would you be more likely to come to the area if the parking situation were improved? The question should address that improved parking would increase traffic into the area and then circle back to the issue of a lack of parking.
- For the Intercept survey different communities have different peak times throughout the week. Leucadia will have activity Tuesday and Thursday nights and Cardiff Thursday through Saturday nights.
- When asking about work: Is the survey referring to people who actually work Downtown or are they coming to the area for a meeting? Perhaps this question is missing the group who has meetings Downtown.
- The questionnaire doesn't address different kinds of bike users with different levels of abilities.

10. NEXT STEPS

A brief discussion identified next steps in the CMLS process.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS CONT'D

Two members of the public addressed the working group regarding the wayside horn demonstration and related directly to the bells. The concern was whether or not the bells were in the anticipated locations (i.e. up high) and whether or not there are new technologies for softer sounding bells in addition to the wayside horn.

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