

Western Avenue Task Force Minutes February 16, 2006

Meeting started at 4:09 p.m. at Coco's

Attendance: Jerry Gaines, Don Shults, Bill Schurmer, Mark Buczko, Dan Dixon, Cynthia Fowler, Yunus Ghausi, Stan Katten, Sal Sotomayor, Gordon Teuber, and Yadi Hashemi.

Chair's Comments: Jerry Gaines – Western Avenue is now open. MORE San Pedro did article, very informative. MORE San Pedro will do a follow-up. This summer there will possibly be lane closure due to sanitation work to be done at Avenida Aprenda.

Minutes: Change date to reflect 2005. Don Shults moved to approve minutes. Sal Sotomayor 2nd. Moved & approved.

Reports:

City of Los Angeles—Cindy Fowler: None

Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV)—Ron Dragoo: Not present. Comments in the newspaper not just the street affected also community. Possible sleeve system for replacement of remaining drains.

Jerry:

1. **LAUSD** feasibility study. Scale for 2100-2300 students. Study could take more than a year to complete. Two schools close to each other does not make sense. Mary Star needs access from Gaffey Street and not Western Avenue. Dept of Defense (DOD) needs to approve. Mary Star has met all requirements to move forward.
2. **Bizno**—has had some meetings but not information about discussion.

CalTrans—Yunus Ghausi:

Traffic Study Report—

Phase 1 complete; Need to adjust timing more.

Governor-State of Union Address: Governors concern for congestion. Bond issue. CalTrans directed by Governors Office to relieve congestion in areas. Western Avenue is one of the areas of concern. Western Avenue project submitted, and approved 1/11/06. Approval does not include widening, but includes adaptive control systems. System will monitor traffic to operate more efficiently. Offered support by LADOT. Design & built within 12 months. Funding will come from surplus or bond issue. Do not know when bond money will come. Funding is for traffic signals only – no re-striping or widening. Request covers from RPV Drive North to Summerland only. Signal system will be compatible with City of Los Angeles. Yunus is optimistic about funding availability within the next few months. This will be part of mid-term improvements.

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LAUSD and developer(s) could possibly provide some of the funding, along with public agencies. In order to mitigate traffic in the area, a comprehensive report will be necessary.

Glenn Ogura – DOT -- cash for project; given assignment by Assistant Manager of LA DOT. City of Los Angeles will be looking into funding for roadway work.

CalTrans can not look for funding; Application needs to be from City. Every 2 years application is reviewed. MTA prioritizes projects. Need to lobby local agencies in order to benefit from MTA. If there area utilities to relocate the costs need to be determined and included in request. Federal Funds: pressure on Councilwoman to apply for funding.

Yadi: DOT has section regional transportation unit. Works well with CalTrans and MTA. However, it takes time. Document is done and can be turned over to Regional Surface Transportation Division. Shift in emphasis to transit than traffic. Need to identify and advocate with transit improvements.

Marymount College: mitigate measures to 2 intersections. Bizno's talked with DOT. Copy of document needs to fund some projects for improvement.

Tie-in developments. Account for any development review. Joint developers possible get money together. Possibly receive money from other public agencies. Account would be accessible for long-term improvements with possible local matching fund element. Possible: Western Avenue Improvement Fund which would be assessed for so many trips. Need level of service analysis per development. Mitigate over 2% of standard formula used for total amount of money to contribute.

Fitness Drive: 230 units update. 28000 S. Western Project @ City Council 2/15/06. Access issues, developer agreed to fund exclusive left-turn and "U"-turn at Avenida Aprenda.

Stan: Motion 1 or 2 members of Los Angeles City or Rancho Palos Verdes to put together funding information with Chair (a sub-committee). Bill Schurmer 2nd;
Bill: Don, Stan & Jerry on sub-committee.

Committed to signals in San Pedro to ATSAC by Mayor of Los Angeles. Multi-jurisdictions MOU between RPV & LA for Escrow Account.

Northbound direction, left-turn phasing in at 1st Street and Western will take away more time. Volumes will not justify. Yadi will look in to accident records.

Stan: Safety is #1 priority.

Framework: send for sub-committee to review and to formally talk to city governments. Focus on regional collaborative view of planning. Need new numbers since sinkhole repairs are complete. CalTrans will monitor and adjust lights north of Summerland.