

San Ysidro COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

San Ysidro Community Plan Update Advisory Committee

Community Plan Update

Meeting #16

January 9th, 2013

SUMMARY

ATTENDEES

*San Ysidro Community Plan Update
Advisory Committee members present:*

Matthew Paredes
Raquel Moran
Bertha Alicia Gonzalez
David Flores
Tom Currie
Jason Wells
Jennifer Goudeau
Miguel Aguirre
Anthony Aguirre
Alicia Jimenez
Michael Freedman

Steve Otto
Antonio Martinez
Rachel Kennedy

Project Staff:
Sara Osborn
Samir Hajjiri
Nick Abboud

Consultant Team:
Leo Espelet
Dave Sorenson
Josie Calderon
Gardenia Durante

INTRODUCTION

On January 9th, 2013, members of the San Ysidro Community Plan Update Advisory Committee (Update Committee) of the San Ysidro Community Plan Update Process convened. The purpose of the meeting was:

- a) To hear a presentation and discuss the Pedestrian Master Plan and the list of potential pedestrian improvement projects.
- b) To kick-off the San Ysidro Intermodal Transportation Center Study, to provide preliminary input with a visual preference survey and discuss comparables.

Approximately 80 people were in attendance from the community.

MEETING MINUTES 1/9/13

Michael Freedman opened the meeting at 6:15 PM with a call to order. He briefly introduced the committee members and the items on the agenda.

Michael Freedman introduced Sara Osborn to present a brief status on the plan update.

a) Community Plan Update Schedule - Sara Osborn, City of San Diego

Sara provided a brief history and background on the plan update. The update started in July 2010. In recent months, the community has discussed the proposed land uses and a subcommittee of the Planning Group was formed to identify new industrial and commercial zones to replace the PDO. Sara touched on the Key Objectives and Goals the community formulated as part of the plan update vision effort.

The City secured a Traffic Modeling contract in October and currently is in the process of completing the calibration of the traffic model. Data from this modeling will be available later this spring. In addition to traffic analysis, this year, the community will confirm both the land uses and associated zoning, and begin discussing public facility needs and financing. A draft plan is estimated to be out for review in early 2014, followed by the environmental process.

b) Pedestrian Master Plan – Maureen Gardiner, City of San Diego and Dawn Wilson, RBF Consulting

Dawn Wilson presented the fourth phase of the Citywide Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP). San Ysidro is one of seven communities being studied as part of this phase. The purpose of the PMP is to identify pedestrian routes and infrastructure needs; proposes improvements that promote safety, accessibility, connectivity, walkability to improve mobility and neighborhood quality; and serves as a key resource when seeking grant funding for implementation.

An assessment of the area was conducted with a walk audit, review of past studies and outreach with the planning group. A Preliminary list of Improvement Area projects was created from this research and input. Dawn presented the 10 projects with suggested improvements within the San Ysidro community. These included:

- Improvement Area 1: I-5 Northbound Ramps @ Via San Ysidro
- Improvement Area 2: Calle Primera (Via San Ysidro to Ped Bridge)
- Improvement Area 3: Beyer Boulevard Connectivity Improvements
- Improvement Area 4: Beyer Boulevard Walkability Improvements
- Improvement Area 5: Smythe Avenue Connectivity Improvements
- Improvement Area 6: Seaward Avenue & Rail ROW Sidewalk
- Improvement Area 7: Sunset Lane School Zone Improvements
- Improvement Area 8: East & West Park Avenue Improvements
- Improvement Area 9: East Beyer Boulevard School Zone Improvements

Improvement Area 10: Otay Mesa Road Sidewalk Project

The next steps in the PMP process include internal City review and community input for Improvement Areas, developing conceptual design and preliminary cost estimates, prioritizing projects, preparing the draft Report for City review, and submit final report to City in April of 2013.

Community Comments regarding PMP:

Improvements are needed on:

- East San Ysidro Blvd
- Border – Port of Entry needs more attention
- Cypress Alley – high traffic volumes and pedestrians
- Caltrans Pedestrian Bridges over the 5 and 805

Prioritization?

- Old Otay Mesa Road – high

Outlets at the Border will be installing the following:

- Signal at Ramps
- Calle Primera

c) Greetings from Mayor Filner

Mayor Filner addressed the audience, supporting community involvement and the planning efforts.

d) San Ysidro Intermodal Transportation Center Study - Rachel Kennedy, SANDAG presented by Katz & Associates and IBI Group

Rachel Kennedy kicked-off of the ITC study. She presented an overview of the project and provided a back ground of the area, discussing the need for this feasibility and cost analysis study. The study will help identify various public/private uses and services within an ITC facility.

IBI group then presented comparables, similar existing projects from other communities around the world. The presentation included visual preferences survey using the electronic polling survey system. This allowed meeting participants to express their preference for different types of uses and architectural elements for the SYITC through the use of hand held voting devices. Once the visual preference survey concluded, participants were asked to complete a paper opinion survey regarding potential public and private land use preferences for the future SYITC. The next presentation on the SY ITC will be March 13th. The meeting concluded with a question and comments listening session. Project comments for this item were combined with general public comment. All comment following this session are documented below in agenda item 3, Public Comment.

e) Next Steps - Next meeting will be March 13th, 2013 at Willow Elementary at 6pm.

3) Public Comment

General

- General excitement for SYITC project
- General view that growth is bringing positive attention to the San Ysidro area
- Existing ITC was a project that many community members “worked and labored” over and was appropriately vetted by the community but has since been “mismanaged”

Communication

- Emphasis on a need to incorporate the Tijuana community in project conversations
- Emphasis on ensuring the community is robustly involved in the process
- Emphasis on ensuring the community is appropriately vetted
- Belief that the community is underrepresented and easily forgotten

Transportation

- Moving the Trolley station “up and back toward the gateway” in order to appropriately tap into pedestrian traffic
- Ensure bicycles and other forms of transportation modes are taken into consideration, not just Trolley and bus service

Business

- Fear that local business will be eradicated
- Fear that public properties will be overtaken

Amenities

- Request for facilities (small office/bathroom) for local police – emphasis on providing a police presence to heighten safety

MTS Contract Related – Commentary

- Significant opposition to the newly adopted contract/program
- Fear that it will result in a majority of privately-owned transportation services going out of business
- Safety concerns for pedestrians
- Opposition to Greyhound managing the bus depot

Michael Freedman adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm