

Midway Pacific Highway Community Planning Group Regular Meeting

Date: April 16th, 2025

Location: 2911 Sports Arena Blvd, Suite A San Diego CA 92110

Call to Order: 3:10 PM. Quorum achieved shortly after meeting started.

No Minutes available to Approval of minutes is delayed because Karen (absent) sent them to Chair, who hasn't reviewed them yet.

Non-Agenda Public Comments

Audience member asked about Midway Rising EIR. Some discussion about due date and group's responsibility being review of the land use and specific plan conforming to our community plan. Chair confirmed members of the public can join group's ad hoc subcommittee. Board members were disappointed in short 45 day review period for what is really two separate and significant issues although linked.

Government Reports - Margaret Doyle (on behalf of Councilmember Campbell):

- **Trash Fee:** City Council will discuss the proposed trash fee on June 9th at 2 PM. Prop 218 letters will be sent out before then. This applies to single-family homes (four units or less) serviced by the city.
- **Rosecrans Shelter:** This shelter, a partnership with the city and county for individuals with behavioral health concerns, might not be funded in the upcoming budget. Shelter capacity thought to be around 100.

Government Reports - Randy Reyes (from the Mayor's Office):

- **Draft Budget:** The proposed draft budget was released yesterday.
 - It includes \$157 million in new revenue from fee adjustments, parking meter/citation rate updates, retail cannabis tax, and Measure C (TOT tax).
 - Measure C (tourist tax) will start being collected May 1st, with higher rates closer to the convention center. Funds will go to homelessness, road repair, and convention center improvements.
 - The trash fee and Measure C are the biggest new revenue generators.
 - The General Fund has been paying for trash services for 100 years.
- **Public Safety:** Police and Fire departments will see a net budget increase.
 - Fire-Rescue: +\$24 million (includes advanced lifeguard academy, wellness program restoration, but eliminates fast response squad and some staffing units). No fire station closures are proposed.
 - Police: +\$29 million (maintains current service levels with a \$3 million reduction in overtime budget).
- **Homelessness:** Proposed investment of \$105 million (\$71 million from general fund, \$25 million from state, \$85 million from other grants).
 - This supports 17 shelters, 5 safe parking sites, 2 safe sleeping sites, and various supportive programs.
 - **Rosecrans Shelter:** The city's portion of funding for the Rosecrans shelter is being reduced because the county plans to demolish the building in front of the tent and the MOV expires this summer. The city doesn't think it's safe for 150 people to live near an active construction zone with potential lead/asbestos exposure, while the county thinks it's fine if utilities are connected. The county mostly funds unincorporated San Diego for basic services, but the city disagrees.
 - Question about the parking meters downtown not working and getting tickets. Randy said he'd look into it.
 - Board member questioned the \$150 million for homelessness, arguing it's not working and tax-paying residents' services are suffering. Randy clarified that \$71 million is from the general fund, the rest from grants.
 - Board member asked for an extension on the EIR comment deadline, preferably 30 days, or at least two weeks, due to the short timeframe and volume of documents. Randy said 45 days was the most they could do previously but would check again.

- Board member asked about the Ramada Inn remodel for permanent supportive housing (62 units). Randy said it's almost done, delayed by utilities, and should open this year.
- Question about where the Rosecrans homeless would go if relocated. Randy said they'd figure it out; they won't put them back on the street.
- Question about the old hotel near the Rosecrans exit (where Raising Canes is going) that was used as a migrant shelter. Randy said there's extensive work being done, similar to the Ramada, but he hasn't officially asked what it is.
- **Roads:** Budget proposes repairing nearly 390 miles of streets (241 projects including slurry cape seal, resurfacing, and full resurfacing of 147 miles).
- **Stormwater:** \$48 million for Capital Improvement Programs, mostly emergency projects (\$39 million for stormwater emergencies, \$9 million for flood resilience). This is in addition to \$732 million in federal EPA loans.
- **Reductions:** \$175 million in reductions across all departments.
 - \$30 million reduction in personnel costs (eliminating 393 positions, 160 currently filled, vast majority will be transferred).
 - \$46 million reduction in other costs.
 - \$35 million reduction in external contracts.
 - \$64 million savings by delaying contributions to reserves.
 - **Libraries:** All libraries closed on Sundays and Mondays. Homework/tutoring program reduced from 18 to 10 libraries (in districts 4, 8, 9).
 - **Recreation Centers:** Hours reduced from 60 to 40 per week.
 - **Parks:** Select restrooms and city parks closed seasonally.
 - **Animal Services:** Contract with Humane Society of San Diego to be rebid.
- **Next Steps for Budget:** Mayor presents proposed budget to City Council on Monday at 2 PM. City Council budget review committee meetings May 5-9. Revised budget in mid-May.

Police Department Update (Officer Harris):

- Crimes against persons: up 1.5%
- Crimes against property: down 15%
- Crimes against society: up 22% (likely due to more enforcement)
- Rob Field: 14 VHO campers observed, down from 55 two months ago.
- Board member asked if Rob Field campers moved to Mission Bay Drive (near the Hilton), and if that area is enforced. Randy said yes, and more enforcement will happen in Mission Bay Park once the new safe parking lot near the airport opens (if the injunction doesn't go through).

Midway Rising Team (Jeff Meyer):

- The Midway Rising Draft EIR, Specific Plan and other docs were released March 24th, 2025.
- 45-day public comment period ending May 8th, 2025 at 5:00pm.
- EIR is on the city's dedicated CEQA webpage.
- Offered to meet with the subcommittee to answer questions.
- Goal is for city council approval of the EIR in the fall, no later than the end of the calendar year.
- Team asked about non-mitigated transportation impacts (section 6.3.2). Jeff explained the city council can issue a "statement of overriding considerations" if the project's benefits outweigh the unmitigated impacts.

Action Items:

- **Item A - Election & Board Member Updates (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary):** Tabled until next meeting as Vice Chair and Secretary aren't present. Cathy was seated for a new three-year term as a property rep.
- **Item B - Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Midway Rising/Specific Plan Amendment:**
 - Subcommittee was formed at the Special Meeting held April 2nd, 2025 to review recently released Midway Rising EIR and other documents. All PDFs are in a OneDrive/Google Drive shared to all participants and board members.
 - Derek and Todd were added to the subcommittee.
 - Cathy offered to help with C, D1, and D3 (vehicle miles and community plan amendment).

- Stacy (representing the shopping center directly across the street) is already doing an independent review with a land consultant and offered to tag along with Mary and provide her draft by Monday.
- **Motion:** Todd and Derek added to the subcommittee, next meeting set for April 23rd, 2025 at 3:00 PM at regular Goodwill training room location. Motion passed unanimously.
- Next subcommittee meetings tentatively scheduled for the 23rd and 30th of April at same time and place, followed by a special full board meeting on May 7th to approve the official response to the EIR and other documents.

Old Business:

- **CPC Rep:** Cathy volunteered to be the CPC rep.
- **Vacant Board Seats:** Will follow up with interested people to fill the board by next month.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:08 PM.