



Morena Corridor Specific Plan

Morena Corridor Specific Plan – Clairemont Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Meeting #5_Mobility Summary

Date: November 2, 2015

The fifth Clairemont Community Planning Group Morena Specific Plan Ad Hoc Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting was held November 2, 2015. Chairperson Margie Schmidt gave a welcome, introduction, and presented the agenda and format for the meeting. Brooke Peterson, Project Manager (consultant, PlaceWorks) presented an overview of the agenda and reviewed the project schedule. Stephen Cook (consultant, Chen Ryan), presented existing mobility conditions and previously proposed concepts prepared for the Morena Boulevard Station Area Planning Study (MBAP). Michael Prinz, Senior Planner/Project Manager, City of San Diego Planning Department, attended and answered questions.

Provided below is a summary list of comments provided by community members at the meeting. The comments are organized by presentation topic section.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS – EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Lack of safety of walking with children over Clairemont Drive
- Concern noted regarding maintenance and safety of cycle tracks (3 similar comments)
- Question regarding whether a bike/pedestrian connection could be considered over or under I-5/railroad right-of-way. (4 similar comments overall)
- Issue noted regarding frightening rail noise when trains go by.
- Benefit to Morena Blvd is that you can get off I-5 and move down Morena at 45 mph.
- Request for consideration of parklets and more pop-outs.
- Desire for there to be “curb appeal” on Morena. The improvements along Morena need to be about the community. Mobility improvements on Morena are the most critical improvements.
- Comment noting the mobility improvements presentation was over-focused on bikeability.
- There is a place along Morena for single-story retail.
- Glad that the consultant team recognized parking shortage.
- Suggestion to look at angled parking and surface lot parking.

- Request for consideration of traffic circles along Morena.
- Request for consideration of the 8-80 vision approach – creating a bike and pedestrian system that is safe for someone that is 8 years old and 80 years old.
- Suggestion for back-in parking along Morena.
- Any redevelopment on Morena and West Morena need to be carefully considered because the area is already congested.
- Note regarding the importance of keeping people moving well but slow traffic down.
- Request for consideration of a freeway park cap over I-5 like over the 15 in City Heights.
- Bike lanes need to be completely protected bike lanes because speeds along Morena are too high to have unprotected bike lanes.
- Request for City/consultant team to bring mock-ups/renderings of street designs.
- Note that trolley IS coming; traffic is going to dictate how people feel about traveling to/from the trolley.
- In looking at other places – Solana Beach and Bird Rock – traffic circles have calmed and beautified the neighborhood. The secret to cyclist/pedestrian safety is calming the traffic.
- Need to consider parklets such as constructed in Little Italy.
- Note that there are disadvantages to back-in and angled parking.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS – PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED CONCEPTS

- Question regarding why 2 northbound (NB) and 1 southbound (SB) lane were proposed (Morena Blvd.).
 - o Response: there more traffic traveling north; and there are no conflicts with driveways and cross-streets on the west side.
- Comment noting skepticism on whether the multi-purpose path should be located on the west side of Morena and that it should likely be on the east side.
- Consideration needs to be given to the drop-off design at the trolley station. Current design will result in people pulling into/out of the multi-purpose path to drop off passengers.
- Need to create a safe path but shouldn't take parking away in order to provide space for the multi-purpose path.
- Ideal concept would be to have a multi-purpose path on both the east and west side of Morena.

- Comment noting changing technology and future probability of robotic, driverless vehicles.
- Need to consider friendliness of the environment and ensure that what is designed now takes future impact on the environment into account.
- Hope that the opportunity to design for new technology in the concepts for Morena is not squandered.
- Suggest that a sound barrier be built along the west side of Morena between multi-purpose and railroad that can't be tagged.
- Request to bring station area designs to the next committee meeting.
- Request to consider possibility of using the median on Tecolote Road bridge
- Need dedicated bike/ped access across Morena Boulevard. A major safety concern exists with limited crossings and long distances to crossings at signals. People are crossing mid-block which is a critical safety issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Request for bridge over I-5 similar to the bridge in La Jolla over Torrey Pines Road.
- Recommendation to install yellow bumpers as a good way to slow traffic approaching crosswalks.
- Need to better address access for emergency vehicles. (2 similar comments)
- Objection to freeway underpass based on significant safety concern.
- Consideration request for a bridge that would spiral up/down each side of the freeway/railroad.
- Request for pedestrian access solution that would accommodate and be attractive to a stroller.
- Concern regarding trolley parking being used for Mission Bay special events.
- Request for more opportunities for the public to share what they want to see in the plan.
- Comment noting opportunity to make Morena a new destination. Multi-purpose path should be on the east side of Morena to allow it to pass by businesses and other uses.
- Comment noting agreement with Mr. LaMattery's boardwalk concept.
- Suggestion for a long closed median along Morena that would calm traffic.
- Note regarding importance of doing the specific plan well because a significant investment is being made with the trolley and need to make it work well for the community.

- Parking is a critical aspect of making the community vibrant.
- Comment supporting proposed 2-1 lane design concept for Morena Blvd.
- Note regarding importance of focusing not just on Morena but surrounding streets that feed into Morena.
- Need an identity sign on Morena similar to Kensington, University Heights, etc. signs.
- Comment noting transit should have been better included in the presentation.
- Support for 2 NB lanes on Morena and board walk on the east side.
- Request to look at funding sources for a connection to/from Bay-Morena from SANDAG.
- Concern regarding bike lane-motorist conflicts such as opening doors etc.
- Suggestion to survey bikers that use Mission Bay bike path on whether they would use Morena path.
- Recommendation to reject all the Phase I study recommendations and support for a boardwalk along Morena.
- Request for project team to consider urban greening opportunities and incorporate street trees into design.
- Request for age sensitive bike/ped opportunities.
- Request to create a connection to Rose Canyon bike path.
- Request to lower speed and enforce it rather than change roadway designs to calm traffic.
- General support for MBAP Phase I concepts.
- Question regarding cost to construct freeway bike-ped bridge.
- Opposition noted to accommodating bikes in multi-purpose path design; just create a wider sidewalk.
- Suggestion to leverage Hilton for financial support for freeway crossing connection.

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING – JANUARY 11, 2016.