

MEETING NOTES – North Santa Monica Blue Ribbon Committee

Date: November 7, 2013
Location: City of Beverly Hills – Library Meeting Room - 444 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Subject: Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting #1 - North Santa Monica Blvd Reconstruction
Project No: 1BEV041000

Attendees (Consultant Team):

Sean Vargas, PSOMAS
 Jeff Chess, PSOMAS

Michael Meyer, Iteris
 Steve Smith, Gruen Associates

1. THEMES EXPRESSED DURING SELF INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- The goals for the project will be important and should be prioritized
- Bicycle safety concerns
- Mobility for all modes is important
- Important to protect the residential character of the areas north of the Boulevard

ELECTIONS

- **Barry Pressman – Chair**
- **Ed Brown – Vice Chair**

2. PROJECT ISSUES

I. Project Team Introductions

- **Sean Vargas** – Introduction / Project Goals
- **Michael Meyer** – Complete Streets Discussion

II. Committee Member Comments/Questions

- Railroad Right-of- way on South side is not owned by City.
- Medians must not have visibility issues.
- Concern that medians may cause traffic backup.
- Is removing greening allowed by Council? [Council is concerned about loss of green space, but wants consideration of complete streets in the committee’s evaluation]
- Request data regarding ped-auto accidents on cross streets at the DG path.
- Are there other alternatives that the Committee can consider or just those presented to the City Council? [yes if meet project goals]
- Interest in evaluating bicycle routes on Little Santa Monica Blvd or another street.
- Are sidewalks necessary along the north side to meet ADA requirements?
- The maintain vehicular flow goal should be expanded to include “*so traffic will not seek alternate routes through neighborhoods to the north*”
- The project should seek to improve (mitigate) existing traffic conditions, such as the turn issues at Beverly Blvd and should consider future traffic volumes.
- Will the grass in the park eventually have to be converted to low water usage vegetation?
 - Per Director of Community Services – no plan to convert grass
- Can we add landscaped medians to widen for bike lane?

- Yes, committee can consider.
- Request for history of West Hollywood improvements
- How wide is a Bike Path? [5 ft min; 6ft is better]
- Bikes and Parks go together.
- Will Committee address Traffic mitigation? [Council directed Traffic & Parking Commission (TPC) to address traffic mitigation; Committee members may provide input to TPC]

III. Public Comments

- Walking and bike riding should be encouraged on Little Santa Monica, not NSMB.
- NSMB is a through traffic route; Don't modify it and cause traffic to divert to residential streets.
- Not every street needs bicycle lanes.
- Construction impacts will be significant. Is this reconstruction project really needed?
[Note: Committee Chair suggested that the City needs to develop a statement as to the need for the reconstruction]
- Bicyclists use both North and South Santa Monica Blvd, but it is dangerous on NSMB – drivers are aggressive.
- Are there plans for potential commercial developments on the private parcels along the south side of NSMB?
- If Level of Service analysis is presented, it should be for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as cars.
- Is there potential for reversible lanes?
- Opposition to a two-way bicycle/pedestrian pathway on the north side of the Boulevard.
- WH/BH – Have different character. Evaluate making South Santa Monica Blvd a walking path?
- Recognize traffic migration into residential. Bikeway from Burton continuation may work.
- Dreading this undertaking! Concerns of construction duration and project impacts. Need to upgrade infrastructure (paving, utilities, and drainage). Need to justify project.
- Maintain vehicle flow and improve other modes. Surface conditions need to be improved. Every road is available for bicycles. Evaluate connection to Burton Way.
- Bicycles in the corridor are commuters, feel very unsafe. Frequent biker feels unsafe, 5th option is bad, green space should be sacrificed to do this right.
- Green space is sacred. Bicycles are overrepresented here.

IV. Goals Ranking

- Have Blue Ribbon Committee Members Rank
- **What are the goals – Please Rank**
 - 1) **Maintain Vehicular Flow**
 - 2) **Rehabilitate Infrastructure – Prerequisite this is a statement**
 - 3) **Respect Character**
 - 4) **Maintain Access to Beverly Hills Business Triangle**
 - 5) **Complete Streets**
- Will write down priorities on index cards to vote

V. Next Steps

- Minutes shall be provided.
- Trolley Tour sign ups – 2 days available. Will start at N. Crescent (City Hall)
- Next Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting – December 10, 2013

Notes Prepared: December 5, 2013