

MEETING NOTES – North Santa Monica Blvd. Blue Ribbon Committee

Date: December 10, 2013, 6:00PM
Location: Beverly Hills City Hall - Municipal Gallery - 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Subject: Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting #2 - North Santa Monica Blvd Reconstruction
Project No: 1BEV041000

Attendees (Consultant Team):

Jeff Chess, PSOMAS
 Michael Meyer, Iteris

Steve Smith, Gruen Associates

1. PRESENTATION

- Introduction by Dr. Pressman
- Consultant Team Power Point Presentation
 - Recap – BR meeting#1, Walking tour, Existing road conditions.
 - Potential Alternatives.
 - Request for direction.

2. COMMITTEE/STAFF/CONSULTANT DISCUSSION

- Budget for the project. \$16 Million is currently budgeted. Budget will be refined as alternatives are selected and design documents are prepared.
- Project will be paid for by local funding, Caltrans contributed \$4.3 million when the Right-of Way was relinquished to the City.
- Suggestion to study the project in sections (e.g. Doheny to Rexford).
- A concern of medians will be emergency vehicle access through North Santa Monica Blvd. The Police and Fire department will review and advise.
- Question if bike lanes must be included in project. The City Council expressed interest in evaluating bicycle lanes as part of the process but there are not requirements that bike lanes be included.
- Existing curb radii may be inadequate and affect traffic flow.
- A concern of safety was raised concerning narrowing the 14' parkway in front of the church as this will decrease the distance between the vehicles and the sidewalk/pedestrians.
- Safety should be key concern with Police included in the discussion.
 - Traffic will increase with adjacent jurisdiction developments.
 - Beverly Blvd/Santa Monica Blvd Intersection – review accidents and potential improvements.
- Review of potential for widening the road to the south was requested. This will be reviewed in the predesign study.
- Will the bus cut out be retained? Can it be used for tour buses? Issue will be addressed in future meetings.
- According to the Police Department statistics, cyclist make up 15% of injured in accidents. Though only 2% of trips, City Sustainability Plan encourages bikes and walking, City General Plan also addresses bicycling.

3. STUDY DATA REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE

- Lane width data

- Data for bicycle/auto accidents along Santa Monica Boulevard; any studies that show how bicycle lanes affected study.
- Requested existing study/data of speeds of in lanes next to bike lanes (driver behavior).
- Feasibility of using right-of-way on south of Boulevard.
- Review of bus cut-outs.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **(No card submitted)**
 - Cyclists are here to stay and Committee should address alternative forms of transport.
 - Pedestrians on sidewalks are protected by parkway. Bicyclists will use Santa Monica with or without bike lanes
- **Jerry Bobkin** - Bike path on Santa Monica Blvd is a bad idea. Repairs to pavement and drainage are needed.
- **Jim Pocrass** - Bike Accident attorney. Can provide help where needed.
 - Bike Lanes reduce accidents
 - Federal funding is available for bike lanes.
- **Albert Gangian** - Bike Organization Representative (16 people). Bike lane is a good idea. Will decrease accidents/deaths. He will use bike lanes.
- **Robert Tannenbaum** - Maintain park space - not in favor of bike lanes.
- **Camier Maboobi** - Safety is a very important topic. Is in favor of bike lanes.
- **Thomas White** - Looks like Grand Regional Plan being forced on City. Opposed to bicycle lanes.
- **Eric Weinstein** – Bike Instructor – Come up with something great, not just repaving.
- Netherlands did a study of bike safety including separate routes.
- **Fr. Tom Welberts** - Former Pastor of Good Shepard Church – Supports adding a bicycle lane which will add an extra buffer/additional space for emergency vehicle.
- **Dr. Woodrow Clark** – Favors bicycle path.
- **Phil Brown** – Install medians and add trees. Put bike lanes on Carmelita.
- **Cory Klum**- Beverly Hills is surrounded by high growth. Supports bicycle lane.
- **Josh Curpies** – Assembly Member Richard Bloom Representative
 - Nothing shown to incentivize public transit.
 - Bike Lanes are important. Continue Connectivity.
- **William Brenner** – Noted letter in BH Courier – Opposes Bike Lanes on Santa Monica Blvd.

I. Questions put to vote Committee Chair. What project elements do you support? (by committee members show of hands)

	Yes votes	No votes
Medians	13	0
Widening with Bike Lanes	5	9
Recreational Bike Paths in Park	0	13

- Issues related to busses will be taken up at a later date.

Notes Prepared: December 13, 2013