

**CITY OF SAN MATEO SPECIAL JOINT PUBLIC WORKS AND  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014, 7:00 p.m.  
POLICE DEPARTMENT, EMERGENCY OPERATIONS ROOM**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Anna Kuhre led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL.** Members present were Public Works Commissioners; Anna Kuhre, Chair; Jay Michlin, Vice Chair; Garrett Rice; Laurie Watanuki and Erika Powell. Planning Commissioners; Charlie Drechsler, Joshua Hugg, Dianne Whitaker, Rick Bonilla, and Chris Massey. Staff in attendance included Susanna Chan, Deputy Director; Gary Heap, Senior Engineer; Ken Chin, Project Manager; Tracy Scramaglia; Associate Engineer; Aaron Lam, Associate Engineer; Jonathan Strange, Management Analyst; Ron Munekawa, Chief Planner; and Sergeant Dave Norris.

**3. HILLSDALE PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE BRIDGE PRESENTATION.**

Aaron Lam and Tracy Scramaglia, Associate Engineers, presented an overview on the history of the project including alignment study and the Caltrans process. Consultants Brad Leveen from Mark Thomas & Co. and Joe Tognoli and Michael Fitzpatrick from TY Lin presented a summary of bridge types and aesthetics, which included signature bridge designs.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

The item was open for Public Comment with the following comments from: Frank Markowitz, Thomas Jackoviks, Pat Giorni, David Shum, Jim Whittamer, Joan Diskin, Dave Clark, Ricardo Light, and Steve Vanderlip.

- Safety and function should be priority with aesthetics secondary; artistic element could be brought in utilizing lighting, landscaping, artwork, mosaics, rather than expense of “signature” structure.
- Caltrans does not take public input and consultants cannot be trusted; high school seniors would do a better design.

- Belmont Bridge is the worst design for bicyclists; the curves are hard to navigate, there are blind spots and it is not wide enough for bicyclists, pedestrians, strollers, and dogs. The design needs to be a 12 foot wide, unobstructed deck with no curves. Bicyclists and pedestrians just want a safe way to cross over the freeway. Benches and look-outs are not needed, since there is nothing to look at except the freeway
- The footprint of the bridge needs to be considered, as it may be overlooking backyards and would create a privacy issue.
- San Mateo needs to spend money wisely and not put excessive amount into the design of a signature bridge – it just needs to be well built, low maintenance, low cost and safe.
- Suggestion to replicate Ryder Park theme bridge; should be artistically functional.
- Learn from the Belmont Bridge, which is a travesty. The design plan needs to consider children, seniors and wheelchairs.
- Like the design of the Burlingame Bridge. Simple is the way to go. Commissioners should walk and bike the different bridges in the area and get a feel for them from a pedestrian or bicyclist viewpoint.

Comments from the Public Works and Planning Commissioners included:

- Pick an ageless design and look at the recreational diversity of the area; like the concept of artistically functional; functional design with a few embellishments;
- Must be cost conscious; something that says you're in San Mateo, similar to the bridge in Berkeley; other suggestions included the merging of Ryder Park and Seal Point bridge but number one priority must be safety.
- Monte Diablo Bridge is an example of what the design should not be; landings and ramps need to be considered in the new design and this is where embellishments could be added.
- Priority should be on cost as funding is tight; need safe route to move pedestrians and bicyclists across 101; blind spots need to be considered when designing the bridge.

- Should be aesthetically pleasing from all angles; less is more; lighting and landscaping are important with an emphasis on low maintenance.
- Privacy could be an issue for residents in immediate area of bridge; functional design that emphasizes safety.
- Underwhelmed by some of the consultant's designs; need a design that fits the environment and stands the test of time.
- Should listen to the public as consensus seems to be; safety, functionality, cost, consideration of ramps and landings, lighting, and low maintenance.
- Cost is a priority with a simple design and a sign that says something like "San Mateo, the Heart of the Peninsula".

## **5. NEXT STEPS.**

Tracy Scramaglia summarized the next steps;

- All the comments from this workshop will be taken to the Council Study Session on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Staff will focus on 2 or 3 designs, looking at landings and connections.
- There will be another workshop concentrating on site specific rather than a broader look at designs.
- Will look at obtaining funding; Measure A funding for the next phase, which is environmental; SMCTA is the Expenditure Plan.
- Residents can sign up on the City website under "NotifyMe" to get on the City mailing list for Public Works updates on the Hillsdale Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Update.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Ken Chin announced that there is another Taste and Talk Speaker Series on Thursday, February 7, in the Oak Room at the San Mateo Library at 6:00 PM

**7. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**COOKIE KAPLAN**  
**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**