

MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP
for
SR 152 TRADE CORRIDOR PROJECT

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Mobility Partnership Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in the San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Don Gage	Supervisor, Santa Clara County	Present
Anthony Botelho	SBCOG Board Member	Present
Pat Loe	SBCOG Board Member	Present
Al Pinhiero	Mayor of Gilroy	Present

A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Minutes of Mobility Partnership held at Gilroy City Hall on 2/19/10 were approved with no comment.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no orders of the day.

4. SR 152 TRADE CORRIDOR STATUS UPDATE

The purpose of the meeting was to brief Mobility Partnership members on the results of the preliminary traffic and revenue study that assesses various tolling scenarios for providing funding toward roadway improvements relative to the SR152 Trade Corridor Project.

Discussion:

- a) Director Botelho asked that if the project pursues financing through tolling, if corridor improvements would be prioritized with higher priority projects being looked at first. This approach could be more attractive for public private partnerships to fund smaller projects rather than large ones. Tim Lee noted that the New SR 152 Alignment between US 101 and SR 156, for example could be built in phases each with independent utility.

- b) Tim Lee noted that VTA is working on a project to widen US 101 and construct a new US 101/SR 25 interchange, and Caltrans is working on widening SR 25 to Hollister. Tim Lee also noted that there are plans to phase the Los Banos Bypass.
- c) Mayor Pinhiero noted that the slide showing the change in average weekday traffic is an indicator of where the biggest impacts may occur and where priorities should be focused.
- d) Supervisor Gage noted that the more we break it down, the better opportunity to bid projects out to smaller businesses.
- e) Mayor Pinhiero asked for clarification on where SR 59 is located and the limits of the proposed six-lane widening of SR 152 in Merced County. Tim clarified the limits on an exhibit and noted that the preliminary traffic studies indicate that the indicated 6-lane widening improvement would be a longer term need as far out as 2035 or beyond. Further analysis is needed, however, to take into consideration planned development such as the expansion of the Crows Landing facility as an inland port and to account for growth forecast for Los Banos and Santa Nella.

5. SR 152 TRADE CORRIDOR – NEXT STEPS

- a) John Ristow noted that conventional funding methods are not expected to be able to provide the resources necessary to fully fund the construction of the improvements identified for the SR 152 corridor.
- b) The findings of the preliminary traffic and revenue study show that certain improvement scenarios could be fundable if tolling is considered as part of the funding package.
- c) John Ristow indicated that VTA plans to provide similar presentations to the Council of San Benito County Governments (SBCOG), Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), the California Transportation Commission (CTC), and VTA Board of Directors in the coming weeks and will report back to the Mobility Partnership on their feedback.
- d) The plan is to begin environmental studies for the SR 152 Trade Corridor project in the July timeframe.
- e) Mayor Pinhiero asked if there are plans for a corridor approach and to work as a group with the Central Valley agencies. John Ristow confirmed that this would be one of the topics that would be discussed with MCAG.
- f) John Ristow noted that VTA's jurisdiction is limited and a formal partnership would likely be needed for the agencies to jointly advance the project.
- g) Supervisor Gage noted that the various agencies would likely need to consult their boards in order to be able to initiate this approach.
- h) Director Botelho suggested expanding the MOU to include Merced and Madera county agencies.
- i) Supervisor Gage noted it would be a good idea to meet with the various agencies to discuss these matters further before any agreement is sought.

Agency Staff and Project Consultants in attendance: Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director, SBCOG; John Ristow, VTA; Darrell Vice, VTA; Mike Evanhoe, Gray Bowen and Company; Tim Lee, WMH; Adrian Gunderson, HDR; Shawn Vogtman, WMH

6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- a) Joe Thompson expressed his general opposition to the tolling concept and stated his preference to restore the intermodal facilities for the Central California Coast (originally based in the Salinas area) using trailer on flat car or container on flat car for goods movement. Mr. Thompson cited existing locations in Lathrop and Stockton that the system could link with.
- b) Stephen Rosati (Hollister resident) asked if the project would reduce truck traffic on SR 156. Supervisor Gage noted that was one of the positives of the New SR 152 Alignment Project.
- c) Mr. Rosati asked if the project would have limited access to local roads and are the most northwesterly routes through San Benito County being focused upon? Supervisor Gage confirmed that was the intent and noted that existing SR 152 would become a county road within the limits of the new realignment.
- d) Mr. Rosati indicated he was not a big supporter of tolls, but if were to proceed special legislation must be in place to ensure that toll funds are not diverted or borrowed upon by federal or state officials for other uses - the funds accrued must stay with the project.
- e) Mr. Rosati went on to say that a limit should be placed on the lifetime of the tolls, 50 years is too long. He also stated his support of tolling of I-580 as well and that the tolls should be one flat rate toll instead of a \$/mile toll to keep the traffic on SR 152 and people will not divert to local roads to avoid tolls.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.