

Rancho Bernardo Joint Traffic/Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes November 28, 2005

Co-Chair: Robin Kaufman

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Co-chair Irving Sherman. The following Committee members were present: George Cooke, Myrna Reese, Dick Katz, Kathy Keehan, Meera Varigonda, Dick Walker, Jerry Coates, Jim Denton, Hal Altenbern, and Althea Altenbern. The following Community Guests were present: Jeff King (Principal of RB High School), Barbara Billotte, Steve Eggers, Donna Hartings (RB News-Journal), Laurette McEnaney, Margaret Stephans, Margret Wilder, Winnie Baumer, Al Baumer, Donna Furlong, Ken Kronberger, and Richard House. The meeting was held in the 2nd floor conference room at the San Diego National Bank.
2. The minutes from the October 24 meeting had been previously distributed.
3. Rancho Bernardo High School Parking and Traffic Issues - Guest speaker, Jeff King, Principal of Rancho Bernardo High School, addressed the committee. He gave an overview and background summary, to address what has been done, what can be done, who can do it, and a chronology. He explained that he is in his third year at the high school, and there have always been challenges with parking in the community. In the first year, his idea was to make sure every parking spot on campus got used, and permits for parking were not to be limited. Under that new policy, all qualifying juniors and above would be allowed parking, but not guaranteed a spot. This actually made the situation worse because, in effect, the available on-campus parking spots were "overbooked". The students reacted by parking in two-hour spots on neighborhood streets, and went out every few hours to shuffle the cars back and forth. In the second year, he met with an administrative team and decided not to "overbook" the parking. The school assumed that other options would be used (e.g. carpool, bus, walk, bike, etc.). The problem seemed less severe in the second year. Cars are subject to search in the student parking lot, and that causes many students to not want to park there. (The school can act on "reasonable suspicion" vs "probable cause".) Therefore, even by filling up the student parking lot, some students will still prefer to park on neighboring streets. There was a proposal to the Mormon Church in which the school would provide morning and afternoon security for student parking, but the Church declined. Another proposal to sell permits for parking at the Jewish Temple behind the school didn't work out because of liability issues. One way to control parking on neighborhood streets is to implement a "Permit Parking" plan where residents could have permits for their own street parking needs. The Principal has limited authority (no legal authority to enforce off-campus parking rules in the community). He recommends that residents or the Home Owners Associations

call the police to have illegally parked cars towed. Jeff Carter is the San Diego Police Officer assigned to the High School. Discussion followed. George Cooke asked about projected enrollments with the new schools that will be opening to the west. Hal Altenbern reported that the student parking lot was 37% empty today and that the staff parking lot of approximately 300 was 20% vacant today. He also questioned the 3-minute drop off zones on Paseo Lucido and if it is being used a lot. Others reported that it gets used quite heavily at the beginning and ends of each school day. Hal also questioned whether a professional traffic study had ever been conducted to evaluate traffic flow through the campus. The answer was no. Another suggestion by Hal was for new striping to accommodate diagonal parking, but George pointed out that diagonal parking could reduce the number of parking spaces. A Los Rios resident reported that police don't come into the side streets very much and that u-turns and accidents are a problem. He said that the HOA is considering hiring their own security service, and possibly closing their community off. In response to a suggestion that parking fees could subsidize school buses, Jeff King suggested passing those ideas on to the Superintendent. Other schools have different situations. Westview has plenty of parking spots. Mount Carmel has only 2100 students. Poway High has an issue, but there are many parking restrictions in that community. Meera Varigonda said she sees a difference from two years ago, and that things have improved. They tried some mass transit improvements with Judy Leitner, but no one showed up with the flyers. Dick Katz asked if there were meetings with the parents at the start of each year, but that doesn't really happen. Jim Denton concluded that it is up to the community to put restrictions in place that can help streets like Corte Sabio. This was an informative and interesting discussion, and the committee thanked Jeff King for coming before the community to discuss these important issues.

4. Greens East Road - traffic calming and petition for stop signs. A group of residents came back with the completed petition for a stop sign on Greens East at Campillo. The group had met with Brian Maienschein's chief of staff, Lance Widmot, and they recommended that the committee give consideration to the residents' request. Dick Walker suggested painted stripes as another alternative to narrow the roadway. A motion was made by Kathy Keehan to recommend to the RB Planning Board that we support the residents' petition. The motion was seconded by Jim Denton and, following discussion, passed unanimously.

5. Oak Valley Middle School Update - George gave an update on a meeting attended at the school with representatives from the school, the PTSA, the School District, and Newland Communities. The meeting included live observation of school as it was getting out, which provided many ideas for additional signage and crosswalks.

6. Via Tazon Truck Parking - Dick Katz gave an update on the Jacobsen truck parking, and presented a letter from the owner of Personally Fit, and a petition from business owners on that street. The proposal is for parking restrictions on Via Tazon for no parking from 2 AM to 6 AM. A motion by

Myrna Rees to recommend the proposed parking restrictions to the RB Planning Board, was seconded by Dick Katz and passed unanimously.

7. Hal Altenbern gave an update on the Driver Side Mailbox proposal for the Post Office. Discussions have opened again, and the question now is whether the Shopping Center will allow it.

8. Acena two-way entry update - Irv Sherman reported that there might be a problem with the original site design. (The one-way flow might have been mandated at the time.) The owners of the Shopping Center need to check with the City on this. Maybe in December they'll have time to do this.

9. Extra left-turn lane from northbound Paseo Lucido onto Bernardo Heights Parkway. Hal Altenbern made a proposal to convert the "through lane" on Paseo Lucido at Bernardo Heights Parkway to a "straight or left turn" lane to accommodate the number of vehicles traveling away from the High School who turn left onto Bernardo Heights Parkway, backing up traffic in the late afternoon. This would create two lanes turning left. Kathy Keehan questioned whether there was enough space in the intersection to allow left turns from both directions. The committee agreed that this request should be submitted to City Traffic Engineering for further evaluation.

10. Update on Stop Sign Installations - The stop signs at Camino Ramillette and Calle Estepona have seen one get installed, and the other is expected in two weeks. The stop signs on Bernardo Oaks Drive at Francisco Drive are expected by June.

11. Timing of Pedestrian Crossing on Bernardo Center Drive at Bernardo Plaza Drive - The request for an evaluation has been submitted to City Traffic Engineering, and the committee is awaiting a response.

12. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next meeting will be at 7:00 PM, Monday, January 23, 2006, in the 2nd floor meeting room at the San Diego National Bank, located at 16789 Bernardo Center Drive. There will be no meeting in December due to the holidays.

Minutes prepared by George W Cooke

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