

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021, AT 4:00 P.M.
HELD VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Johnson (Chair); Council Member Lopez (Committee Member); Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo; City Manager Starr; Senior Management Analyst Fuentes; Executive Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Avels; Director of Community Development Diaz

Absent: Deputy Director of Economic and Community Development Caldwell

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee accepted the minutes of the September 17, 2020 meeting, as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

V. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATES/ITEMS

A. OPERATIONS

1. MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

An Operations Activities Report for the past month was included with the agenda. No questions or concerns were raised.

2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS — None

B. FACILITIES

1. MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

A Facilities Report for the past month was included with the agenda. There were no questions or issues with the report.

2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS — None

C. ENGINEERING DIVISION ITEMS

1. Review of Ramona at Howard

Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo provided historical background and context for the discussion. Additionally, Mr. Castillo provided

information on work done to enhance the intersection and the submitted grant application to install a roundabout.

Ms. Felicia Alcaez, resident, expressed her concerns. **Ms. Alcaez** is concerned with driver behavior and proposed that speed bumps be added to Ramona due to street configuration and speeds of drivers.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo addressed **Ms. Alcaez's** concerns regarding stopping sight distance, with an explanation of the engineering calculation.

City Manager Starr asked for **Ms. Alcaez's** request for speed bumps to be further addressed. Mr. Castillo advised speed bumps cannot be installed on streets where the speed limit is higher than 25 mph. Ramona Avenue's speed limit is higher than 25 mph and cannot be adjusted down due to the federal requirements for the 85th-percentile method used for setting speed limits. Additionally, it was stated that traffic control devices must be warranted prior to installation through the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUCTD) process. Stop signs and traffic signals must meet specific warrant requirements before installation.

Committee Member Lopez requested Mr. Castillo share information from the Systemic Safety Analysis Report (SSAR) with respect to the intersection. Mr. Castillo provided the information that states that based on "hot spot analysis," the intersection is ranked 11 out of 18. Priority location, it is ranked 4 out of 10. Mr. Castillo made a distinction that the SSAR reviews intersections to identify corridors to address. Looking at intersections to address specific concerns would be a separate analysis.

Ms. Alcaez wanted information on how the city will keep residents apprised of any efforts to address concerns at that intersection. Mr. Castillo stated the Committee and City Council are part of the information tools utilized to keep residents apprised of any activities.

Ms. Evelyn Gonzalez, resident, wanted to know how long the City has been aware of issues at the intersection. Mr. Castillo stated the City addresses issues as they arise. The review of traffic concerns is an ongoing process. Additional concerns about the lack of stop signs and visibility of the stop signs were addressed. Mr. Castillo pointed out that a stop sign is in place for each lane. Information about the timeline for the Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) grant application was provided, noting the project award would be a two- to three-year process. Finally, Committee Chair Johnson and Mr. Castillo reiterated the City's commitment to be responsive to the residents' concerns through the goals set forth in the General Plan. Any additional enhancements will be installed as soon as the City can make it happen.

2. **9015 HELENA AVENUE — DEED OVER PARKWAY AREA**

Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo stated the City is in the process of deeding over the parkway area to the resident of 9015 Helena Avenue. Deeding the area to the adjacent property owner will relieve the City from the responsibility of maintaining an area that should be in the possession of the resident. Staff will move an item forward to council in March.

3. 9614 BENSON AVENUE — DEED OVER ACCESS TO SUNRISE PARK

The City is exploring the option of deeding the area to the adjacent property owner since the area will most likely not be used as an access point for the park. Prior to making a final decision, Mr. Castillo suggested a Parks Master Plan study be conducted to further analyze this issue.

4. SUBMITTED APPLICATION FOR MONTCLAIR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo announced the City submitted a \$5 million grant application for multiple pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements around three adjacent schools: Montclair High School, Montera Elementary, and Monte Vista Elementary along Monte Vista Avenue. The awards are expected to be announced in February/March of 2021.

5. SUBMITTED APPLICATION FOR HSIP GRANT FOR RAMONA AT HOWARD ROUNDABOUT

Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo stated a grant application was submitted for the proposed roundabout. The grant application is for \$700,000 and announcement of awards is pending.

6. REMOVAL OF PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM ON PALO VERDE STREET AND BROOKS STREET

Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo noted that a council item was moved forward at the last council meeting. Council asked for the item to be brought back to the Committee. The item will come back for further discussion in March.

VI. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE/ITEMS

Executive Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Avels reported issues with parking violations at the Alexan Kendry Complex Magnolia to Cypress Street, including parking in front of fire hydrants, red zones, crosswalks and disabled-accessible access points. Numerous citations have been issued for the violations. The City is addressing the issues with the property management company. Chief Avels will speak with City Engineer Castillo about red curbs as an option to address the concerns and minimize police resources being used for enforcement.

Chief Avels reported that a resident submitted a request for a red curb at the 4600 block of Evert Street, which is currently under review.

Chief Avels provided an update on the reimplementation of parking enforcement related to street sweeping. The process has been challenging due to the number of violators. Total parking citations are back up to over 962 for the month of January, which include street sweeping violations. This number is near the average prior to the suspension of street sweeping parking enforcement. Chief Avels stated the cadets are doing a pretty good job and feels we are headed in the right direction.

Chair Johnson commended the cadets for all their hard work.

VII. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROJECT UPDATES/ITEMS

Director of Community Development Diaz reported staff is in the process of completing carryover projects from 2020. A new replacement carwash will be going in at 4384 Holt Boulevard. An existing self-serve carwash that has been there since the 1970s will be replaced with an automated carwash. The Village at Montclair project was approved. They have subsequently submitted their plans for plan check, and the developer is looking to get permits early spring/summer to get the project under construction.

Mr. Diaz provided an update on the General Plan Update. Currently, staff is reviewing draft documents to be presented to Council in the upcoming months.

VIII. CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo reported the status of the following capital improvement projects:

A. LOCAL PROJECTS

1. CENTRAL AVENUE UTILITY UNDERGROUND PROJECT

Permits were pulled to complete the undergrounding of utilities work. The project is expected to be completed in a couple of weeks.

2. HOLT BOULEVARD REHABILITATION PROJECT

The project consists of paving Holt Boulevard from Mills to Ramona Avenue, as well as installing a dedicated left turn signal phase at the intersection at Amherst Avenue. The Contractor is substantially completed. The signal modification was delayed due to a traffic accident, and damage to the traffic signal will need to be replaced before completing the project.

3. STREET IMPROVEMENTS ON ARROW HIGHWAY AND FREMONT AVENUE

The design plans for this project are now complete. The complete street improvements will make the streets pedestrian-friendly and improve the aesthetic value of the area.

4. REEDER RANCH PARK – START OF DESIGN PHASE

The City received a \$5 million grant to design and construct a new park on City-owned land adjacent to the Reeder property. A design contract was awarded to the design firm EPT. The design is progressing and will enter the final phase soon.

B. REGIONAL PROJECTS

1. I-10 CORRIDOR PROJECT

Public Works Director/City Engineer Castillo stated the project continues to move forward. Mr. Castillo noted a project update that was presented by SBCTA during a lunch Webinar earlier in the day during its committee meeting. This is a long duration project, and construction will take place

over a 3- to 4-year period. Specifically, the on-ramp at Monte Vista Avenue for eastbound I-10 traffic will be closed for the duration of the project.

2. CHINO BASIN PROGRAM (IEUA)

The Chino Basin Program meetings will reconvene soon. Many of the cities have questions and concerns about the project, its \$600 million price tag, and its financial value to the cities. IEUA staff is planning to look at other options. Further information and direction will be coming soon.

3. CENTRAL AVENUE BRIDGE

The design continues to move forward. The Scope Change Request and accompanying Scoping Study Report were submitted to Caltrans Local Assistance. The package states the City's case to Caltrans that it makes more sense to replace the bridge than rehabilitating it. The Caltrans local office did not object to the approach, and the recommendation to replace the bridge was submitted to Caltrans headquarters in September. Caltrans has not started reviewing the package. Staff will contact the Caltrans Local Office ambassador to try to push the project forward. Once Caltrans is in agreement, the project can move into final design. Staff will be seeking \$15-20 million in construction money to fully fund the overall project.

4. FOOTHILL GOLD LINE EXTENSION

City Manager Starr stated that progress on the extension from Glendora to Pomona is proceeding well and is ahead of schedule by at least 6 months. Completion of the extension may be accomplished in 2024. After testing of the system, operations may commence in 2025. If the Pomona to Montclair segment (the "Montclair segment") had been approved, the expected time of completion would have been 2028. The extended project completion duration would have been due to the added work to relocate the existing Metrolink tracks to make room for the Gold Line tracks that would parallel Metrolink tracks from Pomona to Montclair. The Montclair segment adds a considerable cost to the project. There is currently a \$570 million deficit to complete the segment. If the money is secured before October of 2022, it can be added to the existing contract. If it is not secured, the contractor may not agree to extend the contract. The Montclair segment would then need to go out for bid under a new contract and may require recertification of the environmental document. The financial deficit would be too great to find local money to close the gap, and most likely federal funds would need to be sought. When the project federalizes, it would have to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Staff has asked **Congresswoman Torres** to introduce a bill to exclude major transit-related projects from needing to create a NEPA document before proceeding to construction, which could take years. The passing of the bill would expedite moving forward into the construction phase. It remains to be seen whether Congress would approve such a bill. Next Wednesday, the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Manager, Construction Authority CEO, City Engineer, and City Legislative Advocate will be in a Zoom meeting to discuss a path forward to secure federal funds for the Montclair segment. After this meeting, meetings will be expanded to

include representatives from the offices of **Congresswoman Torres, Senators Portantino, Holden, and Leyva;** and **Assemblymember Rodriguez.** Representatives from the cities of Claremont and Ontario will also be invited to participate in further discussion of the path forward as it relates to funding of the Montclair segment. Under federal requirements, in order to be competitive applicants need to provide local match of 50 percent. The inclusion of state legislators would assist in securing the 50 percent local match from state funds in the sum of \$285 million. Staff will keep track of President Biden's \$3.5 trillion infrastructure bill, as there is the potential for earmarks. If earmarks or other opportunities present themselves, staff will work on securing the necessary funds. Staff hopes to keep the segment to Montclair on track for completion in 2028.

IX. COMMITTEE AND CITY MANAGER ITEMS

City Engineer Castillo advised Public Works Superintendent Xavier Mendez retired.

The West Valley Connector Bus Project is moving forward into construction in July of 2022 with construction to be completed in 2024.

The San Antonio Creek Channel planning document is moving forward. The planning document will make the City more competitive as funding is sought for design and construction of the multimodal pedestrian trail.

Sunset Park has eight trees with insect infestations that must be removed. Staff will look into opportunities to replace the trees.

Southern California Edison (SCE) will be replacing 724 existing steel poles throughout the City with concrete poles. City staff, in partnership with SCE public relations staff, will make residents aware of the project.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:18 p.m., Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting of the Public Works Committee. The next meeting of the Public Works Committee is scheduled to be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Submitted for Public Works Committee approval,



Noel Castillo
Transcribing Secretary