

Monday, September 12, 2005

Via email

To: Francis D. Mensah, Ph.D., P.E.
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Ruby T. Louie,
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Dear Francis & Ruby:

Thank you for your help in organizing the Devil's Slide Tunnel Project presentations for the coastal communities. Included with this letter is copy of the agenda for the 9/14/05 MidCoast Community Council meeting. As you can see, the item is scheduled to start at 7:55 PM, and the council has allotted 1 hour and 15 minutes.

I would expect a 20 minute presentation from Caltrans staff on the project's progress and the schedule for the next few months would be a good start, with the rest of the time devoted to Q&A with the Council and the community. With input from the councilmembers and others, I've assembled a list of issues and questions that have come up surrounding the project that you will probably be asked to address. Some you may want to work into your initial presentation, if they seem relevant. I've tried to group them as best I could. Others will come up, of course.

Maps and photos and any sorts of visual aids are always welcome, especially shots of the current state of the site to explain just what is going on. The meeting will be recorded for broadcast the following evening on the local cable access channel.

I am looking forward to the presentations. Thanks again for your help. If you have any questions or needs for the meeting, please contact me at the numbers below.

Sincerely,

Chuck Kozak
Member, MCC Planning & Zoning Committee
650 996 8998 (Cell – days)
650 728 8239 (Home)

cc: MidCoast Community Council
Deborah Hirst, Supervisor Richard Gordon's office
Interested parties

Issues and Questions Regarding the Devil's Slide Tunnels Project.

General overview schedule of the project – what we can expect to see being done where over the next month, next six months, next year, etc.?

There is word that the trail connections and parking configurations are being configured - What are the latest plans for the pedestrian trail connections at the two portals? How will parking traffic be controlled? Will there be traffic lights in place to handle either, and if so, where will they be and how will they operate? Will traffic from the parking lots have the ability to make left turns onto the highway?

Construction site Traffic issues

- some sort of information/warning signs at Linda Mar in Pacifica and around the beach in Montara informing drivers that a big surprising project is up ahead about 2 miles.
- Can there be better accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists? Watching them try to navigate the rock-cut construction area is pretty scary to watch.
- Will the road modification stay in place when the south rock cut is finished? Can that little jog be widened or lessened in radius (or at the very least have the lines painted again) so it's not such a scary place to meet a truck coming the other way at 40 mph?
- Traffic impacts – general schedule for closures as work progresses – how long a period during what times of the day

Construction worksite issues & questions

- worries about the amount of soil that is built up against the K-Rail retention along the north end of the rock cut before the portal area.
- What sort of in-house and independent monitoring is in place, for biological, environmental and erosion/sedimentation impacts as work progresses? What sort of impacts have been discovered so far in terms of species of concern in the area, such as red-legged frogs, the peregrine falcon, SF garter snakes, dusky-footed woodrats, etc.?
- Where did the top-soil go? How is it being stored?
- How can the Council-members get a tour of the site?
- What's the plan for proceeding with the north portal? What will be the traffic impacts, if any? When does the bridge construction start?
- What will be the impact of the blasting for the tunnel excavation? What is expected to be the loudness and vibration of the blasting (i.e. will it be heard or felt in Montara and Pacifica)? When will that begin and how long will it go on and what hours of the day?

Winter issues:

- Erosion & sediment control of all that bare earth – what's the plan?
- Can the Bridge work proceed in the rain?
- How long will you be able to keep working into the rainy season?
- How completely will the project shut down during the rains?

Other things of importance:

- What is the plan for the Chart House mitigation site, and what was the problem that occurred there 3 weeks ago? Contractor did some initial work, then abruptly halted after complaints, and now seems to be dormant.
- Can there be a regularly updated report on the project at the Caltrans website, along with posting of expected traffic delays & detours, as well as a good contact for local media to get further information? Anyone doing a Tunnel blog?