



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

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NEIL R. CULLEN
DIRECTOR

November 14, 2002

Ms. April Vargas
MidCoast Community Council
P.O. Box 64
Moss Beach, CA 94038

Dear Ms. Vargas:

Re: Meeting to Discuss MidCoast Roads and Standards

The following are the issues that I recollect from my discussion on November 6, 2002, with the Public Works Subcommittee of the MidCoast Council, together with what actions we have or will take:

Issue: Light at the intersection of Highway 1 and the Entrance to the Airport.

Action: I have notified staff and we will schedule the light to be replaced. Streetlights that are maintained by the Department for the Lighting Districts have a tag on the poles which has the phone number that can be called if a light is out.

Issue: Does Public Works staff at Planning get or read the letters from the MidCoast Council regarding issues related to new building?

Action: I talked to Pete Bentley and he does read the letters that pertain to work in the public right-of-way if he receives them. Pete suggested that Public Works be copied on the letters to insure we receive a copy.

Issue: Traffic using the Alameda/Obispo Road to avoid Highway 1 backups in the morning.

Action: I called the Caltrans' Traffic Division and they will see if they can increase the green time on the Coronado signal to reduce the delay on Highway 1 in the morning. I also notified the California Highway Patrol (CHP) of this issue.

Issue: Speed of traffic on 3rd Street near the School.

Action: I called Captain Eberly of the CHP to make him aware of the residents concerns.

Issue: The County policies on tree removal or cutting.

Action: As I stated at the meeting, this is an issue with "many" sides. The Board recently agreed to plant trees on the Alameda de las Pulgas in West Menlo Park conditioned on the property owners forming and contributing to a maintenance district to maintain the trees. This may be an option that the MidCoast Council wishes to pursue. However, it is my understanding that there would need to be a Proposition 218 election in order to levy a charge on property. Another option since the forest is mature, is to investigate options whereby the property owner who wants a tree down is obligated to plant and maintain replacement trees. This does have the drawback of requiring some monitoring of the newly planted trees to insure the property owner maintains the trees that are planted.

Issue: Impact of new development on drainage.

Action: A funding mechanism is in place - i.e., mitigation fees - to finance some drainage or road improvements. However, I believe Chuck Kozak wants to pursue reducing runoff from development as a mitigation measure. We are starting to look at this in the Fair Oaks area near Redwood City as this area has limited drainage and limited opportunities for improving the drainage, but at the same time property owners have approved of a plan to provide minimum road improvements.

Issue: Level of Knowledge of the Community Plan.

Action: The level of knowledge of the Community Plan on how it affects what is constructed appears to vary among the residents that were at the meeting. I believe that the Council and County staff will need to agree on a common interpretation as we proceed with reviewing road standards and priorities in order to avoid lengthy discussions before any proposed changes in the standards or priority setting process is brought to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

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Issue: Comparable Costs of Resurfacing and Reconstruction.

Action: The current cost of resurfacing a street with 2 inches of asphalt concrete ranges from \$2.10 to \$3.00 per square foot. The cost of reconstructing a road to the minimum standard ranges from \$8.10 to \$10.00 per square foot, excluding the cost of constructing drainage facilities. The cost of 3-foot valley gutters on both sides of the road was factored into the reconstruction cost estimate. The estimate for both resurfacing and reconstruction have the engineering, surveying, associated work and permit costs factored into the estimates.

Residents that were at the meeting may have also submitted other issues to you and I may have missed issues that you captured in your notes. I will try to respond to any other issue that were raised once they have been identified. We should also meet and discuss if the Subcommittee wants to review the proposed resurfacing projects as previously discussed, minimum standards for the seven (7) sub areas of the MidCoast, a priority setting process, drainage projects, and financing in order that we can formulate a process for improving the roads serving the MidCoast if that is the desire of the residents and the Council.

I can be reached at 650-599-1421 if you have any questions or to set up another meeting.

Very truly yours,



Neil R. Cullen
Department of Public Works

NRC:sdd

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cc: Supervisor Richard Gordon
Chuck Kozak, MidCoast Community Council