

# Midcoast Community Council

An elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248

Bill Kehoe . Laura Stein . Lisa Ketcham . Bob Kline . Len Erickson . Dan Haggerty

## Approved Minutes: Meeting on October 24, 2012

### **Call to Order.** 7:00

Present: Councilmembers Bill, Laura, Lisa, Dan, Len. Absent: Bob.

Supervisor Don Horsley, Planning Deputy Director Steve Monowitz, Nicholas Calderón  
8 members of the public.

### **1. Board of Supervisors Report** – Supervisor Horsley

Single-use bag ordinance passed by BoS. Brought re-usable bags to give out.

### **2. Public Comment**

Cid Young: Thank Supervisor Horsley for securing funds for Seal Cove road access; thank volunteers who gathered signatures for Fire Board recall.

Christy Usher – Frustration with Planning & Building staff lack of responsiveness in dealing with residential code enforcement issues in Montara, showed examples, respectfully request support to get resolved in timely manner.

Kathryn Slater-Carter: Re Ms. Usher's comments, Montara is eclectic community, unless there are specific safety issues, people should be able to have their yard the way they want.

Fire Board wants to raise wages/benefits, fewer employees, Cal Fire is most cost efficient service we can get.

Has concerns that roundabouts will slow emergency vehicles.

Laura: SamTrans' proposed bus changes for Midcoast: 294 would no longer run thru Midcoast. It would only run from HMB to San Mateo with added weekend service. Route 17 would be extended to Pacifica 7 days/wk, but there would be no increase in frequency to replace the lost 294 through the Midcoast. Comment period is still open on these proposed changes – contact Lauren Dong at SamTrans at [ssp@samtrans.com](mailto:ssp@samtrans.com) or 650-508-6338.

Don: would like to attend if/when MCC discusses this.

Laura: Mon AM (10/22) tremendous backup on 92 due to flashing red light at Crystal Springs Reservoir. CHP said light turned off due to pumpkin traffic. Is it standard procedure to have traffic modulated by turning off traffic light?

Don: will contact CHP captain to find out what happened, make sure it doesn't happen again.

Leonard Woren: After power outage, signals come on flashing until someone calls it in. UPS was installed there some years ago - maybe it needs replacing.

Quarterly GSD recycle event is this Sat. 9-1.

8<sup>th</sup> St landslide repair project consultant contacted him – will pass contact info to Council.

### **3. Consent Agenda** – approved all 5-0

Approval of Minutes for 10/17/2012

Approval of Comments on PLN2012-00276 Landslide Repair lower 8t St. Montara with attached Botanist report.

Len: move change agenda order 4 b & c. Bill objects that his presentation on FMR wasn't posted on website. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Bill abstain)

### **4. Regular Agenda**

#### **a. Highway 1 – Traffic and Trails Study Session**

i) Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Study Phase 2 Final Draft

ii) Highway 1 Action Plan Update and Status of Projects

iii) Public Participation in Highway 1 Corridor Activities Going Forward

Steve Monowitz: Phase 2 final draft has corrections/clarifications, but no substantive changes. Wants to focus discussion on Action Plan -- how we're going to take conceptual plan to reality.

Len: One change in Study was inclusion of letter re 2011 meeting with Caltrans and consultants.

Coupled with current Caltrans lighthouse project, wonder how to better coordinate with Caltrans?

Steve: Caltrans asked County to include letter. Agrees coordination with Caltrans needs to improve –

it is a challenge -- he hasn't had much experience with it.

Len: Lighthouse project added wideness where crossing would be -- crossing is now less safe.

Steve: Perhaps extra width will provide for median refuge down the line.

Don: Is not about to try to stop Caltrans lighthouse project. Looking to Caltrans to approve proposed highway treatments as well as funding. Like having your hand in the mouth of a lion -- want to be nice.

Laura: Couldn't we have a Caltrans liaison for this project?

Don: Sounds good - he can make that happen.

Looking at Parallel Trail segment to connect Farallone View school to Moss Beach, via Carlos & Main Street. Gully is a problem. Safe Routes to School grant funding could be used.

Steve: Parallel Trail discussion is perfect example of what Action Plan lays out for both phases of Hwy 1 Study -- specific steps from concept to reality. Requires coordination with MCC, service districts, environmental review and permitting.

Thanks MCC for work and contributions on Action Plan, providing explanation on time frame & priorities, restored roundabouts as potential long-term opportunity, logical categories, additional issues that need to be addressed. Has some corrections and changes he would like to propose tonight to get feedback on.

Broad category of Traffic includes Comprehensive Transportation Mgmt Plan. Council added 45mph speed throughout Midcoast except along airport -- speed limits set by Caltrans based on observation -- proposed road treatments would tend to slow traffic, leading to decreasing speed limits where appropriate. In terms of specific projects, divided near to mid-term, and mid to long-term. Called out specific key locations in priorities. In addition to traffic, trail projects include area-wide (Coastal and Parallel Trails) and bike lane improvements. Priority projects include Carlos St, Surfers' Beach area. Trail projects include associated parking issues, including parking study, key issue areas, trailheads. "Other" category includes pedestrian projects such as possible over-crossing at hostel, potential improvements to Main St. Montara, consolidating driveways opening onto hwy, bike lanes and sidewalks in appropriate places on Hwy 1.

That is Action Plan overview. Opportunity for some refinements, though hoping to avoid another round of draft/review. Goes to BoS 11/20 -- has strict deadlines, yet wants as a good document as can be. Asking MCC to allow him to make some changes that would benefit plans. Will correct typos, inconsistencies (top=high), consolidate, clarify. Need to correct what is in TA and what is not. Column "phase/action" has full gambit of what project goes through (not that helpful). Could use column for current status, next step. Recommends MCC authorize him to make those changes.

Policy is staff report is released to Supervisors and public at same time, but Steve will explain what the Action Plan changes are before next MCC meeting (11/14) so Council will know what to expect.

Don: asked Steve to get MCC a draft before their next meeting.

Len: Airport Street should be recognized as a separate trail -- not Coastal or Parallel -- but still important. Safe routes to school - not much consideration of El Granada school, maybe because Don/Steve not involved in Phase 1? That study now 2 years old, yet no projects have come out of it -- we just hear that Surfers Beach area is complicated. Miramar access to El Granada school doesn't involve Surfers Beach -- see proposals in Phase 1.

Don: Want to get something done, some easy victories, stay on county streets. Will give El Granada School serious second look.

Steve: It's tied into our methodology for establishing priorities, starting with less complex. Re Airport St. understand it is separate & important. Also plays a role in short term while Parallel Trail location fronting airport (east/west side) is sorted out.

Don: Surfers Beach area in Phase 1 contemplated moving highway eastward. Even though that study was first, county won't be looking at that first -- very difficult & controversial.

Dan: As changes are made in documents going forward, what method used so changes stand out? Steve uses underline & strikethrough. Dan would like hard copy.

Bill: Look at east side of Airport St. for uninterrupted bike trail. Driveways entering Hwy 1 are also a problem in Moss Beach, Montara.

Steve: Clarified - consolidate driveways area-wide specific to Hwy 1. Item on raising approach grade to hwy at airport entrance, not sure where that came from. (Lisa: not from MCC.) Will look into further whether it's a safety issue. Question last item: construct sidewalks and edge treatments on Hwy 1. Everyone agrees no one wants this. [Ed.note: These items came from 6/8/12 draft Action Plan, p.5 & 7.]

Bill: confusion on wording re Alhambra in El Granada as short cut -- this is not desirable.

Steve: Action Plan definitely a work in progress.

Public participation – there will be lots of it. As we identify funding resources, moving forward, taking concepts to reality, there will be both mandatory and optional public input. Coordination with MCC, keeping apprised, getting input -- hoping to use that as a way to branch out to the larger community. Intend to continue productive beneficial dialog we've been having. Remains open to idea of forming additional committees. Should the MCC feel the need to establish its own subcommittee specific to this and assign a liaison to work with the county as you did with the Princeton Plan, would wholeheartedly support that. At this point not inclined to establish a separate Citizen Advisory Committee for the overall project. There are specific projects within the plan, such as Transportation Mgmt Plan, that may very well warrant a Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee. That's my view of public participation going forward and happy to consider your suggestions.

Laura: re Comprehensive Transportation Plan, need to work with HMB & Pacifica.

Steve: Hasn't initiated discussion because haven't found funding source; have some grants in mind.

There will be lots of outreach to neighboring jurisdictions, don't need to specify in Action Plan.

Laura: Accident statistics will help us to evaluate safety. Need current dates and intersections, hard to tell where hwy markers are. When Caltrans does project, required to have statistics in their report.

Could we see those for current project at lighthouse?

Nicholas: Has been swapping calls with Caltrans -- long game.

Lisa: showed slides of vegetation encroachment in Hwy 1 right-of-way – low hanging fruit, to gain trail space and increase pedestrian/bike safety along highway by just pruning overgrowth or removing privately planted trees. Could Supervisor influence his contacts at Caltrans to get this done?

Don: This maintenance needs to be ongoing. We'll do what we can. Property owner needs encroachment permit to plant in right-of-way.

Leonard: Action Plan font size too small. Public participation needs to be sequenced so we aren't told there's no time to make changes. CDP process broke down re lighthouse left turn project. No mid-block crossing at Surfer's Beach -- center median would work there instead. There are no driveways onto Hwy 1 in EG. Traffic signals are a disaster without adequate storage lanes -- need to prevent HMB from activating any new signals until storage lane is built. Michigan left turns are easier and more in character with coast's many smaller streets intersecting with one major street. Sidewalks OK but not curbs.

Dave Olson: Curbs on highway decrease bike safety. Left-turn lanes make drivers move right onto fog line.

Len: coordination with Pacifica?

Don: will talk to Pacifica but they've got some controversial projects.

Steve/Don: Use MCC as forum to do outreach to community.

Len: Committees are opportunity discuss issues in detail, often have broader participation than regular MCC meetings. Is it up to MCC to put Hwy 1 committees together to work on detail level?

Steve: Whatever discussion happens at this level would be supplemented by environmental and permit public process. If Council thinks it would be worth making the effort to reach out so we get greater attendance for specific study session on particular project, he would lend department support to try to increase outreach so we get more than just the usual participants. Has no objection to anything in proposed letter.

Dan: Witnessed gridlock from tunnel to Montara Beach due to people entering/exiting full parking lots at Gray Whale Cove & Montara Beach -- need wider shoulder there.

Bill: Reported Montara resident here earlier was against roundabouts.

Len: summarized proposed MCC letter.

Laura: How would Len compare/contrast to Steve's ideas. Do we have the bandwidth to do this?

Steve: The 2 ideas are not in conflict. Could use Steve's process to accomplish Len's interests which are valid.

Bill: Airport section should go with Moss Beach instead of El Granada. Clarify that each focus session is open to all public.

Don: MCC committee and consultant should figure out how segments are broken out – not here tonight.

Lisa: Coastal Trail committee works well -- details, site visits, different cast of characters, very productive. I sense that's like where Len wants to go with this. Move approve letter.

Len: Need consultant at committee meeting to explain tools available.

Bill: Wonder how do you get people to do their homework ahead of time so you get valuable input and aren't all over the map.

Steve: Need materials available so people can dig in and provide quality feedback; need responsible parties (consultant, Caltrans) here -- will strive to do that. Council can help us identify who interested people are, getting the word out.

Leonard: For sections, include up to N. Capistrano with El Granda, rest of Airport section with Moss Beach.

Letter approved 5-0

b. **Fitzgerald Marine Reserve** – Dardenelle Trail and future plans  
Order changed to after 4c. Tabled for lack of time.

c. (9:15) **Coastal Access and Views from County Rights-of-Way in Montara.** Presentation on coastal access issues between 7th St. and Montara Beach. Inform and discuss concerns and possible solutions.

Steve spoke before presentation (needing to leave), having already studied it. Would like to help in any way he can to resolve issues raised.

Re Montara: Is not aware that **4th and 5th St.** rights-of-way have been given up. Public Works keeps records of public rights-of-way.

Re **7th St**, DPW granted encroachment for fence prior to coastal permitting requirement. What needs to occur to unravel that is complicated – at Planning Commission level, and by Coastal Commission. Don't have silver bullet tonight. Your desire to dig deeper into it to see if there's a solution that provides public access is a valid question – would like to offer our support or help. Feel free to follow up with him with questions or research.

Re **FMR**, according to Parks Dept, limits of construction were surveyed in accordance with approved construction plans; has no evidence to refute that. If there is evidence, we would help resolve that.

Lisa gave slide presentation, asking for County help with coastal access issues 4th to 7th St.

Don: If you send us the whole thing we'll start working on it.

Leonard: Agree with the presentation. BoS should instruct County Counsel to turn over every rock to get 7th St. fence removed. Shouldn't be allowed to get away with it. Would like MCC to take up Surfers Beach RV lot Cypress trees.

Lisa: First step is to find out if we still have these rights-of-way at 4th & 5th. Then can proceed with code enforcement there. The other question is how did we get this fence on Seacliff? Would be nice to know who to contact at the County on these types of issues so we wouldn't have to bother you (Don).

Don: Ana Santiago is code enforcement officer for District 3 -- there is tremendous backlog.

Len: Both Nicholas and Steve are very helpful, spend lots of time on our issues.

Don: Final comments: Need parking meeting with GGNRA, State parks & MCC -- if you want to have subcommittee or whatever you want to do. Will contact you.

**5. Council Activity** – Meeting announcements

Bill attended Devils Slide tunnel meeting today -- won't open till early 2013.

**6. Committee Reports** - none

**7. Future Agendas**

11/14 – Hwy 1, FMR, SamTrans

**8. Adjournment** (9:30)