



HSR City Council Subcommittee

Members

Patrick Burt
Larry Klein
Nancy Shepherd
Gail Price

Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2010
8:30 am – 10:00 am
Council Conference Room
Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA

Minutes

1. Oral Communications: None
2. Approval of Minutes from 2/16: Minutes will be approved at the next meeting to allow time for review.
3. Relationship with Caltrain Joint Powers Board and Possible Presentation to JPB in April

Mr. Emslie said the discussion of this item is a continuation from the previous meeting. He emphasized the notion that the City of Palo Alto should show support of commuter service and suggested the City put a presentation together.

Mr. Emslie suggested a couple members of this Subcommittee could go before the JPB and present concerns of a hybrid option, support of electrification and emphasize the importance of a commuter rail.

Chair Klein said staff should contact the JPB to be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

Mayor Burt emphasized the Subcommittee should convey to the JPB that a broader political support and future funding sources should be established – more so than what the JPB envisioned. Grade separations and speed (according to the 2025 Program) are qualifying factors to receive funding of federal monies.

CM Price asked if this would be an informational presentation to the JPB. Mr. Emslie confirmed this as true.



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CM Shepherd asked if City staff can also present to the City Council as well. Mr. Emslie said yes.

CM Price suggested City staff present to the JPB and then consider a larger scale presentation, encompassing more factors.

Mayor Burt confirmed that the presentation would include a comparison between High Speed Rail and Caltrain.

4. Preparation for Community Outreach Meetings in March re Alternatives Analysis

Mayor Burt said the feedback received from consultants indicates that we should spend time on preparation before the Alternatives Analysis is released. He asked what preparation can be done with the absence of a draft. He also asked if there is any usefulness for additional meetings.

CM Shepherd asked when the Alternatives Analysis is being released. Mayor Burt said April 1, 2010.

Sara Armstrong commented that the CSS toolkit will be released in March of 2010.

Mayor Burt stated the public would benefit from education of the EIR.

Mr. Emslie suggested City Council combine the March 15 Study Session with an opportunity for the public to comment.

CM Price asked if staff will be prepared to preliminarily respond to the CSS toolkit. Mr. Emslie said yes.

Mayor Burt said there are three potential topics for the March 15 City Council meeting: 1) CSS toolkit, 2) program level EIR and 3) preparation.

CM Shepherd said we should strategically unravel this process. We need to take into account that not everyone understands the language and specifics of the process.



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Chair Klein said we should focus specifically on the EIR at the March 15 City Council meeting. He added that the Mayor can provide a brief summary of where we are at during the March 8 City Council meeting.

Mayor Burt suggested the Subcommittee write a letter to the Peninsula Rail Program and ask if their maps are current and valid.

Chair Klein added that we should check with the HSRA if they are also using these maps.

5. Outreach to Stakeholders List and Involvement of Internal City Stakeholder Departments (Public Works and Utilities)

Mr. Emslie stated this item is a carry-over from the previous meeting. He said the Public Works representative would be Assistant Director Mike Sartor and the Utilities representative would be Engineering Manager Greg Scoby. Their assignment will be to work with Gayle Likens and the Subcommittee as liaisons. They will be present at meetings whenever pertinent topics arise.

Chair Klein speculated about the Utilities situation in regards to the right-of-way. He said the liaisons should focus on these types of issues.

Mr. Emslie said he would ask them to come present to the Subcommittee in a couple weeks to demonstrate their scope of knowledge.

Mayor Burt said that at a staff level, we need to identify historic resources and parks that would be reduced or impacted.

Rita Wespi said the EIR documents have been decertified.

Mayor Burt suggested the EIR should be the focus of the upcoming Council meeting, but then cover other topics for the public – staff can make presentations on the other two earlier mentioned topics.

CM Shepherd agreed. She added this would allow us to prepare the community on the complexities of the process.



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CM Price stated the vast majority of the Council meeting should cover the EIR. Chair Klein agreed.

Chair Klein confirmed that during the March 8 City Council meeting, the Mayor will make a brief presentation on upcoming events. During the March 15 Council meeting, the focus will solely be on the EIR – via staff presentation.

Mayor Burt added the Subcommittee can invite stakeholders and tentative stakeholders to the March 8 meeting.

6. Follow-up re possible Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HSRA/PCC including review of MOU with Gateway Cities

Mr. Emslie suggested the Subcommittee carry this item over until after the next PCC meeting.

7. Report from Legislation Subcommittee re Bills to Support/Oppose

Mayor Burt said the Subcommittee could not provide a response to the CEQA bills that went to the Senate Subcommittee yesterday.

Mayor Burt motioned for the Chair and staff to act more in real time.

CM Shepherd seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Rita Wespi said she wants the Subcommittee to go on record in opposing some of the upcoming Senate bills.

8. Report on PCC meeting of 2/19

Mayor Burt said Terry Nagel (Vice-Mayor of Burlingame) and himself presented a draft of purposes of the PCC and potential areas of shared financial resources.

Mayor Burt said at the next PCC meeting, cities will share what items they will want to collaborate on. In regards to the CSS toolkit, he brought up



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the potential question of what happens if we go through the extensive process and receive no approval from the HSRA.

Mayor Burt mentioned there was a discussion on the opportunity of legislative bills – looking at crafting reform of the governance of rail authority (composition, Senate approval, roles, etc.)

9. Report on Request for Copy of JPB Station Footprint Study

Mr. Emslie said the City of Menlo Park requested this a long time ago and the JPB accepted their request. However, the JPB has been refusing Palo Alto's request for a while now.

Mayor Burt motioned to make a Freedom of Information request for this item.

CM Price seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Mayor Burt stated that if we receive no response, we should agendaize this item.

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