



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
August 9, 2016

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Piazza in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Ron Piazza
Vice Mayor Diane DuBois
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Todd Rogers (arrived 6:08 p.m.)
Council Member Jeff Wood

BOLIVAR PARK WATER CAPTURE PROJECT

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works made a brief presentation regarding the Bolivar Park Regional Stormwater BMP reporting on the involvement and cooperative efforts of various staff members and representatives from Tetra Tech and Willdan, making up the project team. She introduced Oliver Galang, Project Manager, Tetra Tech.

Mr. Galang displayed slides and provided a project overview which included the major project features such as diversion systems; pump station and pre-treatment unit; subsurface infiltration and storage system; underground storage and infiltration facility; and stormwater harvesting unit. He further described the project benefits; coordination and permits; and construction and sequence.

Jason Fussel, Design Manager, Tetra Tech, presented the traffic control plan illustrating the closure areas and detour plan adjacent to Bolivar Park.

In response to Mayor Piazza's inquiries regarding the extent and duration of the street closures at Del Amo Boulevard, Mr. Fussel stated that the streets would be closed mainly during excavation and that the contractors would be asked to plate or backfill the trenching work being done. He reported that there would be continuous driveway access for residences in the area.

Responding to Council Member Wood's concerns regarding the impact to residents, Ms. Rapp estimated that the groundbreaking would occur sometime in November and that the Public Information Officer, not only in his official capacity but also as a resident of the area, would keep the neighborhood informed of the construction schedule and its effects on traffic.

Council Member Croft inquired about the potential for the stored water becoming an issue with mosquitoes. Mr. Fussel replied that the positioning of the pipes and the addition of stainless steel mesh would prevent access for such vectors. Ms. Rapp assured that with the routine irrigation of the park, water would continue to circulate through the system regularly.

BOLIVAR PARK WATER CAPTURE PROJECT - Continued

Lisa Litzinger, Director of Recreation and Community Services, responded to Council Member Croft's question by stating that there would be no impact to the pool and that any debris from the construction would be cleaned daily.

Ms. Rapp replied to Mayor Piazza's questions by stating that replacement of two of the picnic shelters would be included in the Caltrans project budget and the remaining shelter would be replaced at the City's expense.

Sonia Southwell, Director of Community Development, explained the elements of the environmental process which included the initial study and mitigated negative declaration and the public review period.

Ms. Rapp summarized the bid and award schedule and concluded by recommending that City Council approve the design documents and authorize the advertisement of the project for construction.

Council Member Rogers maintained that traffic circulation, the staging of construction equipment and limited access in the park area should be given thorough consideration to minimize impacts to the residents.

Council Member Wood emphasized the importance of providing as much notification to the residents and neighboring schools by informing them of the potential impacts with regards to traffic and street closures.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ADVERTISE THE PROJECT. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Rogers, Wood and Piazza

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

LAKWOOD BOULEVARD CORRIDOR PROJECT

The Public Works Director introduced Bill Pagett of Willdan, who displayed slides and outlined the Lakewood Boulevard Regional Corridor Capacity Enhancement Project. Mr. Pagett provided a brief history of the project and identified some of the deficiencies in the corridor as found in recent studies, such as the average daily traffic volumes, vehicular delays, accident/collision rates and freeway ramps operations. He stated that the corridor study would be completed in the Fall and its goals included improved multimodal mobility and access; improved safety and security; healthier communities; environmental justice; improved air quality; economic gains; and improved quality of life. The project consisted of widening Lakewood Boulevard to allow for a regional bike path, construction of segments of sidewalk to allow pedestrian access to various commercial establishments, and landscape

LAKESWOOD BOULEVARD CORRIDOR PROJECT - Continued

improvements utilizing water conservation features. He added that the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and Metro had approved \$3.6 million from the I-605 Hot Spots Measure R funds for the preliminary design, environmental clearance and final design. Mr. Pagett concluded by providing a project schedule along with the next steps which included approval of the Memorandum of Understanding; authorization for preliminary engineering; establishing Underground District; continuing outreach to transit partners; continuing participation in the corridor committee meetings; and exploring possible construction funding sources.

Mr. Pagett responded to inquiries from Mayor Piazza and Vice Mayor DuBois by explaining that in order to widen the street to allow for the bike path, the project would consider the narrowing of parkways or service roads.

Council Member Rogers questioned the practicality of the project and stated his concerns on its potential effects with respect to traffic conflicts, increased crime and other unintended consequences relating to changing the neighborhood character of Lakewood Boulevard. He expressed the hope that the study would include an analysis of such quality of life impacts and stated his support for moving forward with the agreement.

In response to Mayor Piazza's and Council Member Croft's inquiries, Ms. Rapp explained that proceeding with the MOU approval did not result in a commitment to construction of the project. She stated that Council's action would secure the opportunity for the funding from Metro and move forward with the study. She noted that a proposal for preliminary engineering would go before Council at a later date.

Replying to Council Member Wood's request for clarification on funds to be spent, Mr. Pagett stated that the goal of the Gateway COG and Metro was to have the project be "shovel ready" so that in the event that funds became available for construction of the project, it could advance to the next stage for consideration.

MEASURE M PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORT

The Director of Public Works reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority had taken action to place Measure M, the Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan, on the November ballot, asking voters to approve a one-half cent sales tax. At its most recent Board meeting, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments voted to take a position to oppose the ballot measure because they felt that there were projects originally identified in Measure R that were not going to be advanced or completed and had been deferred further in the new proposal. A number of other issues related to the ballot measure generated concerns including the funding formula and the percentage of local returns to cities. The Gateway COG Board voted to develop a public information effort to better inform taxpayers and residents about the impact of transit funding on their communities and were asking the Gateway cities to participate in the funding of the effort.

MEASURE M PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORT - Continued

City Manager Howard Chambers stated that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti had arranged for a meeting with the Gateway COG to try to dissuade cities from conducting a public education campaign and opposing the measure. He added that approval of the appropriation of the City's assessed portion of \$12,500, would be required to participate in the effort.

Vice Mayor DuBois stated that since proceeding with the education campaign was a recent decision, many cities had not had the opportunity for their respective councils to consider approval to participate.

Council Member Wood inquired about how the monies would be spent.

City Attorney Steve Skolnik explained that the Gateway COG would be heading up the education effort and that cities were being asked to pay their share without a direct role in determining the specifics of the campaign.

Council Member Croft observed that the \$12,500 would be worth the investment in public information for something that would cost everyone at least as much in taxes.

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At 7:34 p.m., the Special Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Regular Meeting of the City Council. At 8:53 p.m., the Adjourned Regular Meeting was reconvened.

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MEASURE M PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORT - Continued

Vice Mayor DuBois stated that the recent actions of the Gateway COG reflected the Board's concerns that residents in the Gateway cities would be forced to subsidize transportation projects for other regions; that projects benefitting Gateway cities were being leapfrogged by high profile projects in more affluent areas, which were already given priority access to Federal funding; that Gateway region projects would not commence for decades under Measure M; and that the measure would also indefinitely extend a half-cent sales increase approved under Measure R. She cited the reasons for the urgency to take action included the media's depiction of Metro's recent successes such as the Expo line to Santa Monica and the rapidly approaching date of the election.

Ms. Rapp expressed apprehensions that supporters of Measure M were misleading voters by touting the measure as something that would relieve traffic congestion and fix potholes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO APPROPRIATE \$12,500 TO FUND THE GATEWAY COG'S MEASURE M EDUCATION CAMPAIGN. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Rogers, Wood and Piazza

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Piazza adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC

City Clerk