



CITY OF RIDGECREST

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

City Council Conference Room
100 W. California Avenue.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present Chairman Tom Wiknich; Members Steve Morgan, Lois Beres and Nellavan Jeglum city staff and public

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. It was noted that Member Morgan would arrive late.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 9th and 22nd, 2007**

The minutes were approved

4. **COMMENTS: (PUBLIC COMMENT)**

Dave Matthews mentioned he had difficulty seeing the stop sign, due to elevation difference, when traveling westbound on Las Flores just before Downs. Also, Mr. Matthews mentioned that at the intersection of Upjohn and Downs, the middle lane on Downs becomes a left only turn lane with no warning. PW Director Speer will look into both issues.

CE Pollock he has received and marked potential flood zones on the FEMA maps. He suspects the problems will be acknowledged; the City will need to fund the necessary changes to the map. Current maps are deficient. There's a new zone X that replaces the C Zone. Member Jeglum noted that lenders use the current maps to identify insurance needs.

5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

a. Brief from Chairman on issues decided at 7 November City Council Meeting:

- (i) Rite Aid left turn lane median project – Chair Wiknich reviewed with the Committee how the Council came to their decision to approve the left turn lane. The end result however has no reflection on the Committee and more to do with extra information that was provided.
- (ii) Roads Initiative - Chairman Wiknich said that he had introduced the Roads Initiative in its entirety to the City Council including a recommendation from the Committee. Of the 11 comments made, two were unfavorable. Chair Wiknich

shared the comments he has received on the initiative and in general the public consensus was “no consultant”. Member Morgan asked if either of the Planning Commissioners have received any feedback from residents – neither Member Jeglum nor Member Beres had received any.

- b. Discussion on Roundabout engineering contract - Chair Wiknich noted that this topic had been discussed at the City Council Meeting held 7th November. It was decided that all further discussions would sit with the Infrastructure Committee. There have been two engineer reports that don't recommend a roundabout at the Bowman/China Lake intersection. If another report is required the City would have to pay for it.

PW Director Speer distributed handouts and addressed several issues relating to roundabouts. PW Director Speer noted that a roundabout was a traffic control feature and there is a requirement that a study be conducted to determine a need before any traffic control device can be put in place. PW Director Speer referred to FHWA guidelines and commented on the recent articles in the local newspapers.

- CE Pollock said it was his understanding that the Committee was to address the question of retaining a firm to review and make a recommendation.
- Member Morgan stated that if the City at this point wants to build a roundabout they would need to come up with the money.
- Chuck Griffin commented that the City had the opinion of their engineer therefore hiring a consultant to conduct a study would be a complete waste. Further he noted that numbers collected from such a study would not reflect the anticipated numbers – in terms of traffic flow. He said that the work currently being conducted by the County would decrease traffic on Bowman Road.
- Gary Parsons said that Wal Mart had designed traffic control according to the findings of the E.I.R. and had only designed a roundabout at his request – he noted this design was not complete. Mr. Parsons went on to say that Wal Mart are trying to mitigate their costs and that if the City decided they wanted a roundabout they would have to justify to Wal Mart why they should build a roundabout.
- Mr. Fallgatter questioned the cost difference between a traffic signal and roundabout since the design was incomplete; he does not think the City has enough information and facts. Additionally, Mr. Fallgatter said that he had done some measurements according to Wal Mart's design and stated it's very confusing. Mr. Fallgatter asked for the date of the FHWA Report and Guidelines referred to by PW Director Speer. Member Morgan committed to getting this information to Mr. Fallgatter.
- Chairman Wiknich was undecided until he had viewed a video clip; after viewing the clip he expressed concerned because a truck using the roundabout would use both lanes. How big would the roundabout have to be for a truck to safely pass through? CE Pollock commented that the design with the least conflict was 300 feet. Mr.

Griffin said that if two trucks came through the roundabout together there would be problems.

- Member Jeglum asked what it would take to get an R.F.P. and Mr. Pollock responded that the cost would be estimated at around \$45,000.
- Member Beres commented that the “bottom line” was if Wal Mart was not going to pay for the roundabout the City would have to and the City did not have the money therefore she would not vote to spend money to get a consultant to tell members what Wal Mart already had. Member Jeglum agreed this was a valid point. Member Morgan said he had no opinion to offer.

The Committee opted to not recommend the hiring of a consultant; Member Morgan abstained from this recommendation.

- c. Update on Norma CDBG project funding and scope - CE Joe Pollock advised there was no change. Chairman Wiknich noted this was the subject of a Public Hearing.
- d. Request for alley closure on (Howell/Felspar; behind Mom’s Furniture) – CE Pollock advised that there were two people here to discuss this request. Mr. David Tharp indicated the request was for closure of part of the Alley; Mom’s Furniture owns both sides of the Alley and would like to close it off. Mr. Griffin said that the closure was requested for nights only for the purpose of security. The Fire Department indicating they did not have a problem with the night time closure. He noted that the Auto Dealer would still have access through their gate. The request he said was to pave, put up a fence and keep the alley open all day long.

The Committee recommended a Public Hearing be established with 300 ft. notices.

- e. Request for a 4-way stop at Balsam and Argus - CE Pollock said he had received a request for a 4 way stop at the intersection, the Police Department had advised it was not warranted and subsequently staff had received a signed petition from residents seeking a 4 way stop at the intersection. Staff questioned whether the petition warrants a traffic count. After further discussion Member Jeglum suggested residents do a primary count to see if there was justification for spending money to get an official count done. PW Director Speer advised this could be done and Member Jeglum agreed to talk with residents regarding this option.

6. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
None.

7. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.