



City of Ridgecrest

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Infrastructure Committee Member: Chairman Tom Wiknich, Councilmember Jerry Taylor, Members Lois Beres and Craig Porter
City Manager Kurt Wilson
Dennis Speer, Public Works Director
Recorder: Karen Harker, Administrative Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wiknich at 5:04 pm. Mr. Wiknich made mentioned that there were three planning commissioners present. Jason Patin was there as a citizen running for City Council and will not be making comments.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Wiknich asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Lois Beres made the motion, seconded by Craig Porter. The Agenda was then approved as submitted.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Craig Porter to approve the minutes from August 16, 2010 minutes as written; motion was seconded by Jerry Taylor. Minutes were then approved as submitted.

4. COMMENTS: (PUBLIC COMMENT)

Dave Matthews would like to commend the Public Works Department on the work that was done at the intersection of Norma and Ridgecrest Blvd project. North to South a little bumpy especially in the southbound right hand lane. Mr. Speer also noticed this and realizes that there might be some issue with the cross gutter concrete and asphalt. He will ask the street supervisor to take a look at it. Craig Porter has had a lot of good feedback from community members regarding the intersection.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. W. Ridgecrest Blvd – 100 % design and drainage

Mr. Speer stated that the design plans were delivered on the 18th of August and that the 100% submittal is on the table. Loren Culp, City Engineer, stated that the design firm is still working on details of the design specifically the landscaping. We are still meeting with the downtown group and getting feedback from them as to what design plan they like in the landscaping. Penfield and Smith, our engineering firm is doing the detailed plan check of the plans and will be doing this over the next several weeks. Jerry Taylor asked when Penfield and Smith will be done with the plan check. Mr. Culp stated that we just signed a contract and has not asked what their timeline is. What do you think is

reasonable? Mr. Culp felt that three weeks for consultant and staff time was plenty of time. Lois Beres asked about the additional projects that Loren Culp has mentioned. Mr. Culp felt that the only other issue was the drainage issues and there is a possibility to have a drainage project to this project. The City has a report from Helt Engineering and a hydrology report with a Master Plan and I'm ready to make a recommendation once the plan check is done for the construction of drainage within the Ridgecrest Blvd project. I have asked the consultant to look at Balsam St Project for drainage also. I feel confident that by the middle of this month a proposal from the consultant on the drainage issue will be forthcoming with the design and construction of a drainage project. The committee is concerned about the feedback that they are getting back from the community and would like to make sure that the next meeting is held in a more public format so that the public can come and see what is happening with the project. Chairman Wiknich stated that he has been getting feedback about parking and that there is now concern about how much parking is being taken away. Mr. Culp reminded the committee that there were three options given at the last Town Hall Meeting and that Option A was minimum landscaping with parking, Option B moderate landscaping with a few spacing of parking being eliminated as it is now and Option C, high landscaping with mostly off street parking. The consultant is leaning toward the Option 2 plan which allows for bulb outs and landscaping with a loss of a few parking sites. Mr. Taylor felt that no matter what the city did in regards to landscaping we needed to get estimate from our staff for watering and labor for landscaping.

Public Comment:

Gary Allred – Joe Pollock had made recommendations for the area regarding the drainage and are they being considered. We are working on the standard for the 10 year flood. Loren Culp reiterated the process for looking at the 10 year flood. Discussed the Master Drainage Plan and how the Plan works into the Ridgecrest Blvd Project. Anything other than a 10 year event will run on the roadway from Norma to China Lake Blvd. The Master Drainage Plan has most of the water being diverted above Norma in any given rain. Mr. Allred was also concerned about Monogram Plus losing parking due to the island that has been staggered in the area in front of her business. Mr. Speer explained that the island is an area that will allow the pedestrian a refuge when crossing. Mid-block crosswalks are not usually done at uncontrolled intersections. The islands have been placed in areas that will allow for trucks to turn into side streets and also allow for the safest pedestrian crossing.

John Robbs – Discussed last flood and how it affected the stores on the Balsam Street. He saw that there was just a lake of water from Baxendale's all the way to China Lake Blvd. Dennis explained that this had to do with the drains being clogged. Rainy season is usually from October to March and the drains had not been cleaned out yet. That had a lot to do with the flooding on Balsam Street.

Trisha Miller has comments on landscaping. Ms. Miller has taken it upon herself to go around to the merchants and ask what option A, B or C they liked the most. Out of the 25 shops she spoke with 9 merchants and of those most of them were in favor of Option B. They were concerned about the root structure of the plants holding if there was a flood or while they were being established. Some of the business owners were not sure what a bulb out looked like and if the committee could send a link to Ms. Miller then she would be able to forward that information to the merchant. Most merchants were in favor of losing a few "on street parking" for beautification. One owner was completely

against losing “on street parking” and didn’t feel that landscaping was necessary. The merchant thought all the money should go to the drainage issue. Ms. Miller tried to explain that this was not a drainage project but a streets project. Most merchant would like to see more crosswalks and liked the idea of a center turn lane. Chairman Wiknich on behalf of the committee asked Ms. Miller to continue to interface with the merchant and bring the information back to the committee.

Mr. Robbs asked about signal controls at cross walks the ones that you push the buttons that allow you to cross the street. Mr. Speers stated that these have not been approved by the MUTCD yet will not be considered for another 2 years. Meanwhile you must follow the vehicle code and the vehicle code does not allow them. How about lowering the speed limit? Lowering the speed limit needs to be done by a speed zone study.

Randy Jenkins – when is the project being programmed – answered 2012. Mr. Jenkins is concerned about the two crosswalks that have been taken out on Ridgecrest Blvd and asked how many people have been killed. He felt that you should be able to establish controlled intersection where you can put crosswalks in such as on 178 and Sunland. Mr. Speer discussed how crosswalks are established in the city by municipal code. Mr. Jenkins feels that by not having crosswalks it is not customer friendly for the merchants on the Boulevard. People either have to go to China Lake Blvd or Norma to cross the street. This causes people to jay walk. Discussion between Mr. Taylor and Mr. Jenkins regarding how crosswalks work and human nature took place. Mr. Jenkins asked where the money is coming from and how much we have to come up with. This is state money to fund that project and we have put in 1 million for design and the state has programmed 12 million. Is it a phased project? Yes. Mr. Allred asked if the utility issue has been addressed. Mr. Culp stated that the consultant has been in close communication with the utility company and they have done core samplings. Is the truck traffic being discussed? Mr. Wilson stated that staff is looking into the issue and working with Kern County.

Committee Comments:

Mr. Taylor wants to make sure that the next meeting is being held in a format that is more of an Outreach to the community for the project. It is very important that the community have the opportunity to look at what is being done on the West Ridgecrest Boulevard Project.

B. Bond List – Prioritized RDA Roads List

Mr. Speer handed out the Priority List for the Road List but cautioned the committee to use this list. With the new Pavement Management System (PMS) being done, this list is subject to significant change. Passed out the PMS Matrix it doesn’t tell you if you are looking at a maintenance project or a reconstruction project. This is where the consultant will get your bang for your buck with how to use the capital improvement money for these projects. Jerry Taylor explained to the public how the matrix worked. Pass out handout from Willdan for the PMS- Discussed the process of getting the PMS started and how fees got started. Penfield and Smith wanted 240K for the PMS and so staff proceeded forward with the next qualified consultant on the pre-qualified list. The City is able to obtain the services for the PMS from Willdans for \$28,500.00 Mr. Speers had nothing but good things to say about Willdan. Project Manger has GIS quality map that will pinpoint each street and give the details of that street. This GIS mapping will cost the City an extra \$2500.00. Mr. Wilson wanted the committee and public to know

that staff was able to take a three year process that was presented to them and get it accomplished in a 3 month process also at a reduced fee. This is quite important when you start looking at the timeline for the Bond list and how we need the information for getting the streets done. Chairman Wiknich wanted to know how this committee could get these projects or this list that was presented to them before the City Council and let them know that we need 5 million dollars to get these streets taken care of. Mr. Wilson felt it was best to wait for the PMS study to be finished and take a look at the study to make an accurate assessment of the roads and cast a wider net and be able to get the engineering reports needed. This would allow for a bigger picture and a bigger bang for your buck approach that the committee has been speaking about.

Public Comment:

Jack Noyer - Does Kern Cog set these priorities or do they care which one are done first. No Kern Cog does not. Is there a three year window on this PMS list. The RDA money needs to get done in a specific amount of time. Ron Porter asked why Norma was listed in segments. Mr. Wilson reminded the group that this is just a study that was done and that we would not be doing the projects necessarily in a small stage. Randy Jenkins asked if the \$28,500 for the PMS and then \$2500 for a mapping if this is a flat fee. Yes this is a flat fee. Mr. Jenkins also wanted to know what it would cost to do an overlay on a street that was a mile long. Mr. Speer indicated that we have been doing streets at about half a million for a half mile of roadway. Mr. Jenkins wanted to know if the area of La Mirage was private or is the City responsible for them. There is an area over at Gold Canyon that is terrible and should be repaved. If the City is responsible for it, it should be done soon. Ron Porter asked if the PMS will give a maintenance schedule. Mr. Speer stated yes and also that it will do a scenario along with a benefit cost scenario. Mr. Jenkins asked if we are mandated with the use of our funds to use the PMS as a guideline. The City Council will use the PMS as a guideline and recommendation from staff and committee to make the determination.

C. Corporation Yard Expansion

The City has an RFP out for the Multi-disciplinary Engineering Services for a whole host of professional services so that we have consultants ready to move forward with our very aggressive capital improvement program. Do we have a master plan for the Corporation Yard Expansion? No. We have the RFQ is set up so that they have access to document and staff and that they can develop the preliminary engineering report. Jerry Taylor felt that staff needed to be evaluating what their needs are in the various Departments that would be effected by utilizing the corporation yard Street, Parks, Transit. Mr. Taylor felt that each department should be creating basic requirements so that the consultant doesn't need to spend the time with staff eating up that valuable time and money.

Public Comment:

Ron Porter – Asked what were the number of years the City intend this project to cover with the building of a new compound. What does the City want it to accomplish, and has the city looked at the cost savings of equipment storing inside. Mr. Taylor felt these were all valid questions that would be answered with staff's recommendation. Dave Mathews – At the last Quality of Life I recommended that the Parks Maintenance use the southeast side of parking area for storage with storage units. Mr. Wilson stated that

if he went and looked at the area, if felt sure that Mr. Matthews would see some changes. Jack Noyer – How big is the parcel – 13 acres and 35 acres adjacent. USO area is just a few huts and a small building. Randy Jenkins – Do you have room for this Corporation Yard. Yes we have room at the corporation yard for a new facility.

D. Traffic Lights Projects

Ward street project – Mr. Speer spoke with the Project manager via email and the email stated that within 90 days of the contract being awarded they would start construction. The 90 days is from July 16 2010. So on or around October 14 they should be starting the Ward Signal Project.

Radar Project – We have the E-76 to construct and are preparing documents to go out to bid Loren Culp brought to the committee that he would like the committees approval to take to council and ask for RDA funds to complete some asphalt and concrete work in the returns and cross gutters. Mr. Culp indicated that Caltrans is allowing the City to piggy back on the bid document as a separate bid item. The fee to do the work for design, construction management and materials is 25K. Mr. Taylor was concerned that maybe we would be piecing projects together. How far in asphalt to we take the intersection down to. Where does it stop? There are sections of China Lake Blvd that need asphalt and are doing the intersection really the way to fix the problem.

Upjohn Project is part of the RDA money. Spoke with Caltrans District 9 to resubmit for the Upjohn on HSIP grant. Stand a better chance by redoing the application. Caltrans feels that we have a very good chance of receiving money this time around. Mr. Wiknich wanted the public to know that even though it has been allocated for RDA funds the City is still seeking other funding sources so that the RDA dollars will go further.

Mr. Taylor wanted the committee members and public to know that he had Contacted Bart Godett at Caltrans and spoke about the left turn pocket on Drummond Ave and French on China Lake Blvd. The pocket doesn't have enough room for cars to enter. Caltrans did say that it was a poor design. Mr. Speer indicated that Caltrans will soon be placing a raised median along the length of China Lake blvd and so this might help with the issue at hand as Caltrans reevaluates the area.

Public Comment

Ron Porter - Why is the City not using LED Light on Church Signal – Mr. Taylor informed Mr. Porter that we are using LED lights it is just that technology has come so far that the light looks like an incandescent when it really is LED. Dave Matthews – Thank you for the update on Upjohn.... Left turn pocket on Drummond there has been a number on times that traffic does back out into the number two lane and that means lots of cars.

Randy Jenkins – Walmart and are we moving forward with the project in the next couple of years. Mr. Wilson stated that we don't have an official date but we are very close we have had discussion over the last couple of weeks.

6. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Speer was asked how quickly staff would be able to delivery on the capital improvement projects done. Mr. Speer and Mr. Culp through discussion felt that once

they were able to get the engineering firms short listed and on board that they would be able to delivery projects anywhere between 6 weeks to 3 months.

Mr. Speer attended workshops at the Air Resource Control Board and new information that is coming out of the meetings is that they are toning things down. In mid-September the Board in reconsidering new data that states maybe they have been to constringent and will re-evaluate the new laws that they would have implemented. They will make a decision in December.

At the TTAC meeting studies are being done by Caltrans on Hwy 58 regarding the Hinkley Gap and are scheduled for work 2016. Hwy 395 has move out to 2030 with the exception of the intersection of 395 and China Lake Blvd. And Hwy 14 is still being funded for the 6 miles north of Red Rock Canyon.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

West Ridgecrest Blvd. – Design Plans and Drainage – cost proposal engineering and construction

9. ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned at 7:32