

November 12, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor Gayle McLaughlin
Members of the City Council

From: Meeting of the Public Safety and Public Services Standing Committee

SUBJECT: SUMMARY
Meeting of the Public Safety and Public Services Standing Committee
Thursday, November 8, 2007, at 10:03 a.m.

Present: Chair Marquez, Members Sandhu, Thurmond and Vice Chair Bates.

Absent: None

Discuss & Consider adopting a resolution supporting the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility (ICM) Project, project concept and funding plan

- Steve Chan, Kimley Horn & Associates, gave an overview of the plan. The Freeway Management System (FMS) controls and balances traffic on a mainline freeway to optimize traffic flow, harmonize speed, and reduce delays and incidents.
- The key features are variable speed limit signs to harmonize speed, reduce stop-and-go traffic, and increase the average speeds through the corridor.
- Some of the benefits will be speed harmonization in order to achieve an 8% system-wide increase in average speeds, increase in travel time reliability, improved air quality and reduced fuel consumption, and reduce both recurring and non-recurring congestion.

OUTCOME:

A motion was made by Councilmember Sandhu, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond to recommend to the City Council adoption of a resolution supporting the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility (ICM) Project. Vice Mayor Bates abstained.

Receive a report on Civic Center Revitalization Project and space requirements for the City Hall and old Hall of Justice Buildings

- Steve Duran, Community & Redevelopment Director, stated that Phase 1A of the project is almost complete. The budget is \$12 million. The City Hall structural work is complete enabling the City to receive a \$1.1 million state seismic grant.

- Phase 1B has a budget of \$91 million and includes seismic upgrade of former Hall of Justice and auditorium and former Hall of Justice core shell work, complete interior renovation of City Hall and former Hall of Justice, limited interior improvement work in Auditorium, and complete Plaza renovation.
- The basement in City Hall has been waterproofed and the structural work at the former Hall of Justice has started.
- The Phase 1B Project schedule is to complete the auditorium June 2008, City Hall January 2009, Plaza May 2009 and June 2009 for the former Hall of Justice.
- Web-based software is being used for monitoring labor compliance. The goal is to have 20% more Richmond resident site labor hours. 73% of new hires on the job are Richmond residents.
- Vice Mayor Bates expressed interest in having a waterfall display with Koi fish at the renovated City Hall lobby, which would represent the sister city relationship between Shimada, Japan and the City of Richmond. Also, space should be allocated for display areas for items from the various sister cities.

Receive a report, discuss alternatives and parameters, and provide input for a recommendation to the Redevelopment Agency Board to develop property by a single developer for properties fronting along 23rd Street between Bissell and Barrett in the amended 10-A and 10-B (Downtown) Project Area pursuant to the Agency's Tenant Preference and Owner Participation Guidelines

- Steve Duran, Community & Economic Development Director, stated that the proposed boundaries are the vacant EDD building and parking lot between 21st Street and 23rd Street and the blocks bounded by Macdonald Avenue, 23rd Street, Barrett Avenue, and 24th Street.

OUTCOME:

The committee directed Mr. Duran to discuss the plan to redevelop the area with all the businesses that would be impacted and then return to the Public safety Committee with their responses.

Discussion regarding the Southside Substation Lease

- Steve Duran, Community & Economic Development Director stated that the Police Department would like to open a substation on Cutting Boulevard to the east of Carlson Boulevard. A site has been identified on S. 34th and Cutting Boulevard. Redevelopment Agency would be able to pay for tenant improvements.

- Capt. Anthony Williams stated that the current substation on 11th and Cutting Boulevard is too small and is not centrally located to better serve the community.

OUTCOME:

The Committee recommended that staff investigate whether the owner of the proposed property would consider selling the property to the City rather than leasing it.

Discuss and consider directing staff to work with West Contra Costa County Unified School District and Nystrom School staff regarding traffic safety around the school site on Harbour Way South and Florida Avenue

(No discussion)

OUTCOME:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Bates seconded by Councilmember Sandhu to Recommend to the full City Council approval of suggested recommendations which include bulbouts, lane width reduction, reconfiguring on street parking, lighted crosswalks, student pickup and drop off areas, and bike paths to the full City Council.

Discuss and consider directing staff to continue to work with PG&E on the upgrading of the City's street lighting system

- Vice Mayor Bates stated that Mr. Todd Lewis is willing to place LED lights in a couple of test locations in the city free of charge.

OUTCOME:

Rich Davidson, City Engineer stated he has contacted Mr. Lewis in the past and will follow-up with him again.

Direct staff to meet with the BART General Manager to discuss security, crime statistics, and supplemental transportation logistics and report back to the committee at the December Public Safety Committee meeting

- Councilmember Sandhu stated that are several issues that to be addressed between the City and BART. These include coverage coordination between the BART police and city police in order to have security needs met at the Richmond Transit Center, installation of surveillance cameras, and location of taxis on the premises.

OUTCOME:

Councilmember Sandhu requested that city staff, Chief Magnus, the BART Manager and the BART police chief meet to discuss security, crime and transportation related issues and report back to the Public safety Committee at a later date.

Receive a report from the Richmond Beautification Committee and consider a proposal for a comprehensive graffiti abatement program

- Councilmember Thurmond stated that the Richmond Beautification Committee is recommending that the Council approve a \$25,000 contract with Boyles and Associates to support the implementation of a comprehensive graffiti abatement effort in Richmond. One of the strategies proposed would train to assist with graffiti abatement efforts.
- The Beautification Committee held 3 community meetings to gauge community support for the proposal and there was overwhelming support.

OUTCOME:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond to recommend approval of the contract with Boyles and Associates.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

No public speakers.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m. The next Public Safety Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 20, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.