

## February 5, 2013 Corte Madera/Larkspur Joint Council Meeting Notes

PREPARED BY: Dina Potter                      Dina Potter

COPIES:    TAM - Dianne Steinhauser, Bill Whitney;  
    Jacobs - Sean Mayer;  
    Circlepoint – Scott Steinwert, Ben Strumwasser;  
    Fehr & Peers – Matt Haynes, David Parisi;  
    CH2M HILL – Kai Chan

DATE:     February 8, 2012

PROJECT NUMBER:                                GCIP / 467417

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### Speakers

#### TAM Board

1. Alice Fredericks – Chair, Town of Tiburon
  - a. Proposed working group made up of stakeholder municipalities to review and assess alternatives over next three to six months
  - b. Working group would include two 2 members each from Corte Madera and Larkspur, one member from Ross Valley and one or two other municipalities
2. Katie Rice, County of Marin District 2 (Ross Valley)
  - a. Greenbrae is a problem interchange that must be addressed; it is irresponsible walk away without finding solution
- b. Steve Kinsey, County of Marin District 4
  - c. Bracken would support project if he couldn't find a different solution
  - d. Communities need to re-address constraints to maintain single level project.

#### Caltrans

Roland XX - Several bottlenecks, weaving and merging points create conflict points

#### CHP

Lt Dave Toffel - Read data that matched F&P data for 2000 to 2009

### Council Questions/Comments

1. Dan Hillmer, Larkspur Mayor and TAM Board, to Kinsey
  - a. This project originally intended to address San Rafael Bridge WB to Hwy 101 SB traffic; why isn't that movement being address?  
Direct connector required third level ramp that San Rafael said no to, doesn't address weaving and merging problem at Greenbrae, and if did not move forward with project would have lost RM2 funding.
2. Len Rifkind, Larkspur Council
  - a. Agreed with Katie Rice that it was worth taking the time to revisit alternatives and impacts.
  - b. Asked Haynes to clarify breakdown of POC users?
    - i. 67% of users are transit-related (getting on or off bus)
    - ii. 18% are related to school; many of which are transit
    - iii. 33% of users are non-transit related; of which 30% will have shorter trip and 3 % will have longer trip

3. Larry Chu, Larkspur Council
  - a. Lots of confusion about traffic data and need to clarify what numbers are being used
  - b. If accidents over last 3 years are lower then appears that situation getting better
4. Ann Morrison, Larkspur Deputy Mayor
  - a. Met with Diane Steinhauser and Bill Whitney last week and she appreciated that they were informative and not defensive
  - b. Likes idea of Ad-Hoc Cmte
5. Carla Condon, Corte Madera Council
  - a. Wondered if some accidents were result of DUI or other bad driving rather than congestion or merging/weaving
  - b. Tamalpais Interchange has high number accidents but TAM refused to include it in the project
6. Alexandra Cock, Corte Madera Council
  - a. How much traffic growth will really happen in the future? Will traffic really increase and worsen congestion?  
Matt Haynes responded that there have been several data efforts throughout the project duration that calibrated the traffic model. Data shows that better access points will reduce traffic on local streets.
  - b. Why is ramp so high? With recent experience on Embarcadero in SF, this doesn't seem to be "state of practice" design.
7. Bob Ravasio, Corte Madera Council
  - a. Travel Times listed in Table 2-2-20 shows an almost 10 minute saving NB, but only 1-1/2 minute saving SB. The amount of improvements doesn't seem to be worth the savings.
  - b. Concern about bicycles and pedestrians with new elementary school being built and kids using Wornum with an additional ramp termini intersection.
8. Michael Lappert, Vice Mayor Corte Madera
  - a. Asked how a Neg Dec could be appropriate level of documentation.  
Scott Steinwert explained that all impacts could be reduced to less than significant with standard mitigation.
9. Carla Condon, Corte Madera Council
  - a. No EIR was prepared for the retrofit for San Rafael Bridge and noise/vibration from pile driving was a big problem. It is imperative to prepare and EIR.
  - b. Questioned noise walls.
10. Diane Furst, Mayor Corte Madera and TAM Board
  - a. Announce number of temporary and permanent piles to imply significant impact.
11. Larry Chu, Larkspur Council
  - a. Why is collision data included in presentation (10 yrs with PM 7.0 to 9.0) different than data in environmental document (3 yrs with PM 7.2 to 8.9)?  
Matt Haynes responded that recent Caltrans data came to same conclusion.
12. Diane Furst, Mayor Corte Madera and TAM Board
  - a. Provided added detail about 2 fatalities included in data – 2005 drifted off road and hit tree; 2001 choking on donut.
  - b. Did not disclose at public hearing that data in presentation was different than environmental report.
  - c. Highlighted that new data includes San Francisco accidents and that accuracy and problem is suspect.
13. Jeff Walters atty
  - a. What would happen if cities objected to ROW being taken?

## Public Comments

1. Bill – 1<sup>st</sup> plan that closed Madera was bad, current plan better for businesses, reduces conflicts on highway and back-up on SFD. Visited Hwy 101/San Rafael structures to compare and not as imposing as thought.
2. Jean - Shocked dismayed with project, there is congestion only during commute times , and had issue with conflicting traffic data.
3. Joan Lundstrom , former Larkspur Council - NB Improvements wants Bay Trail on Wornum extension.

4. Heber - Supports project and understands that it is difficult to accommodate all the many issues and restrictions and thanked TAM and the team.
5. Need larger 3D Model
6. Safety issues related to HOV
7. MacFarlane Partners
  - a. CEQA requires EIR; NOP/ NOI identified that level document
  - b. Significant impacts related to Visual, Aesthetics and Noise
  - c. Improperly identifies MacFarlane as speculative project and did not analyze noise impacts
8. Peter Breen - San Anselmo
  - a. Build / no build
  - b. TAM proposed ad-hoc
  - c. If there are 70,000 cars on SFD then 35,000 do through San Anselmo
  - d. San Anselmo must be included in Ad Hoc Cmte
9. David Schnap, Larkspur – need to prepare EIR /EIS
10. Jane Levison – concerned about number of trees being removed and believes that is significant impact.
11. School District representative - Safety routes to school
12. Patrick Seidler – Include N-S Greenway in project, provided plan for bicycle undercrossings of intersections.
13. Stan Hoffman, Town Center
  - a. TAM come up short with this project
  - b. Shifts traffic from Hwy 101 to local streets
  - c. TAM should be reminded that it works for community NOT Caltrans
14. Heather – Need “state of art” design that provides “Complete Streets “
15. Alisha O'loughlin, MCBC – rides bicycle with kids, project adds intersections that must e crossed - Need Separate & Safe facility for bikes/peds
16. **CM** - In 2009 the council voted against project, why weren't you listened to? TAM board voted to not require quorum?
17. Greenbrae Boardwalk – this area encompasses three jurisdictions - County, Greenbrae, and Corte Madera
18. Jackovics Senior – There are significant business damages , how can there be no impacts if I am impacts. Do not do project.
19. Allison – Spending more money to help cars and not bicycles/pedestrian, say no to RM2 funds, build flyover for bikes between Sandra Marker Trail and east side of Redwood Hwy.
20. Zara – I want to have safe route to school on my bicycle.
21. Joel Jackovics
  - a. Project solves weave problem and moves highway problem to local streets
  - b. Eliminates Nellen and landlocks property. Proposed small driveway not adequate.
  - c. 23 deficient parking spaces not replaced.
22. Sebastian Jackovics
  - a. Have been working with TAM because am not against project if solves a problem.
  - b. Nellen has four businesses along street with addresses on Nellen that will be impacts.
  - c. Hiring best attorney in area to protect rights
23. Nancy - San Anselmo
  - a. Local people are challenging Caltrans
  - b. TAM just wants the money
  - c. Couldn't believe the size of project in a small town like Larkspur
  - d. Happy to sit in traffic rather than look at monstrosity of a ramp
  - e. Need a surgical approach not clever
24. Cunningham
  - a. Don't think there should be any noise barriers
  - b. Concerned about impacts to WinCup development
  - c. Spending money we don't need and should fix potholes
  - d. Take \$43M and construct bicycle and pedestrian facilities

25. Peter Chase
  - a. TAM needs to come up with process and clarify how they will deal with comments
  - b. Comments by previous councils have been glossed over
  - c. Don't want kids to learn about egrets from wall art
  - d. Tree removal near Village

## Council Questions/Comments

### 1. Larkspur

- a. Len Rifkind
  - i. Urge support for Alice Fredericks' Ad Hoc Cmte
  - ii. Problems with traffic data
  - iii. Need to reconsider prior alternatives.
- b. Brad Marsh
  - i. Need good traffic data
  - ii. Freeway needs improvement
  - iii. Lost public trust with bad data – looks as though you created data
- c. Larry Chu - Willing to participate on Ad Hoc Cmte
- d. Ann Morrison - Do something that community can be proud of
- e. Dan Hillmer
  - i. Increased traffic congestion is real
  - ii. Larkspur General Plan – Quality of life issues more important in decisions
  - iii. Ad Hoc Cmte should include Alice, Steve, Katie, Larkspur and Corte Madera
  - iv. Step back to see if I580 WB to Hwy 101 SB Direct Connector solves the problem
  - v. Assess Noah Kennedy's Alternative

### 2. Corte Madera

- a. Alexandra Cock - Review data and use what we already have
- b. Carla Condon
  - i. Not collegial experience with TAM staff
  - ii. Citizens echoed what councils' have been saying about the project
  - iii. Safety is an issue at Tamalpais Interchange and needs to be included in the project
  - iv. Need more crossings of Hwy 101
  - v. Bad data and misinformation
  - vi. Need full EIR, especially noise since noise walls create more problems
- c. Bob Ravasio - Mission Creep, project started to help SFD now there is no improvement on SFD
- d. Michael Lappert
  - i. Concerned with taking of private property and impacts to Jacoviks
  - ii. Safety problem was lie
- e. Diane Furst
  - i. Trust shaken because of bad data and feeling manipulated
  - ii. Expanding PM limits seems skullduggerous
  - iii. Trust – Table 2 Joint Council Resolution not addressed issues for 2002
  - iv. Need to work with each other
  - v. Balance – highway, bicycles/pedestrians – Complete Streets