

**BAY POINT MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
TRAFFIC AREA COMMITTEE
May 6, 2008**

TAC Chairwoman Magleby called the regular quarterly meeting of the Traffic Area Committee to order at 6:02 p.m. held at Ambrose Recreation and Park District Board Room, 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point, California.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Magleby

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gabor, Garcia, Kopitar, Hoagland, Siegfried, and Zumwalt

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairwoman Magleby stated that as there was no quorum of members, this meeting was for sharing information and discussion only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

PRESENTATIONS:

**Report by Contra Costa County Community Development – John Greitzer
Draft Expenditure Plan for the Port Chicago Navy Mitigation Fund**

Mr. John Greitzer passed out and then presented the County's Draft Expenditure Plan for the Port Chicago Navy Mitigation Fund including a short history/background of this Fund, and an update on the process thus far.

Mr. Greitzer reviewed the criteria for the new plan:

- Match the purpose of the funds (restore transportation links or waterfront access)
- Community input
- Achieve a mix of project types
- Projects that are realistic, "do-able" in next few years

Mr. Greitzer reviewed some details of the Draft Expenditure Plan:

- 2nd left-turn lane from Evora Rd. onto Willow Pass Road
- Bailey Road pedestrian/bicycle safety improvements (from Delta DeAnza Trail near Mims Ave. past freeway ramps to BART station driveway)
- Clyde Union Pacific right-of-way trail
- Bailey-Bella Vista connector trail
- Driftwood Drive landscaping improvements
- Bay Point waterfront park access improvements
- Planning and environmental impact review for Great California Delta Trail
- Build Great California Delta Trail from Bay Point park to Clyde, Concord and Martinez
- Build Great California Delta Trail from Bay Point park to Pittsburg

Mr. Greitzer concluded with the next steps for this plan:

- More public outreach and input through April

- Revise final plan mid May
- Adoption of final plan by Board of Supervisors late May (depending on what kind of input they receive)

Mr. Greitzer stated that these projects for the most part are relatively inexpensive and they are going to be able to fully fund them from the 8.6 million dollars; these projects are achievable, and for the most part can be completed in a few years. He stated they think the proposed plan reflects the community's input as well as the direction they received from Supervisor Glover.

Chairwoman Magleby stated she would be taking public comments at this time, reminding everyone that this was an informal meeting; that there was no quorum present so there would be no voting on anything, rather just discussing items tonight.

Mr. Ben Laskari stated that a lot of the trails were closed off, that the people in the area don't know how to get to the trails; that these trails right behind Casa Serena Senior Citizens complex were completely closed off.

Mr. Laskari also stated that he wanted to note that transportation costs, especially for senior citizens, are so high that they aren't able to use the public buses; that instead they walk, and that is not a good thing especially in the heat.

Mr. Greitzer thanked Mr. Laskari for the information and stated that he would be passing it on to Tri-Delta Transportation, and see if they can't get some resolution to the issue.

Mrs. Vivian Lisa stated that the mitigation money was set aside for a certain purpose and she believes it should only be spent for that purpose; roads not trails.

Mr. Greitzer stated he was glad Mrs. Lisa had brought up the road issue, as there was something he had meant to mention during his presentation regarding the Evora Road extension, which they had hoped for a long time to get done and they couldn't. He stated there is some chance that that may be accomplished through the Concord Naval Weapons Station Use Project; they're hoping that it does as they have given them the information.

Ms. Mae Cendaña stated she was here as a member of the Friends of Delta Trail, along with other members present, representing about 300 members, not just from Bay Point but from all over Contra Costa County. She stated they were very supportive of this project, because they know when they get this money there will be matching funds coming from the state that will help develop all of the trails. Ms. Cendaña stated that tonight in Clyde her counterpart will be speaking about the Clyde trail, and they are very supportive of that project. She stated that the Ambrose Recreation & Park District too have already given their support to the Great California Delta Trail in February 2007 and anyone interested in joining and supporting the trail can join them at www.deltatrail.com.

Michael Kerr stated that although he was a radical liberal, left-winger, he is very fiscally conservative, and when he hears this kind of money talk he sees a lot of it being wasted on stuff that makes absolutely no sense. He stated that it seems like developers and the BART system have gotten away with murder; why is any money being spent on landscaping for Driftwood when there is all of Bay Point to take care of? He stated that landscaping should be taken care of by the developers and people who own the homes out there. Mr. Kerr stated that it's the same thing with the Evora Road turn; they knew that Port Chicago Highway was going to be closed when they built all those homes and it should have been taken care of as part of the developer

being allowed to put in those thousands of homes. He stated that the Bailey Road pedestrian/bike project there again should have been taken care of by the BART project when they put it in. He stated the Bay Point community has a chance to have some money to do some extra things and he sees no sense in spending a lot of money on projects that should have been spent by other agencies or developers. He stated the other parts of the project seem reasonable.

Councilwoman Magleby stated that Mr. Kerr should contact some of the other persons on the list and share his message with them also.

Mr. A. J. Fardella stated he was representing himself and the Oak Hills Community Group, that he and his children were charter members of the Friends of the Great Delta Trail that he had brought his infant daughter to the first meeting. He stated that he thought the concept of the Delta Trail is a plan that needs to be implemented, something that will create a lasting legacy for all of our children. Mr. Fardella stated that any of these mitigation funds that can go towards supporting the Delta Trail idea come to fruition are well spent; that they meet the legal criteria of what the mitigation fund was meant to be paid for; that it is obvious to anyone who's realistic about Evora Road and how much it would cost to extend it, and the future development that is going to go on at the Naval Weapons Station, realize that the extension is far too expensive to have an impact from these funds. He stated that also a developer, as Mr. Kerr had remarked, is a better source for some of these improvements and the original specific intention of the mitigation funds is going to be taken care of by that. Mr. Fardella stated that he supports this plan; that he wants to hand it to the Community Development Department; that compared to the way this was initially presented to the community, that this plan is much more organized, down to specific expenditures for plans; and that he and the Oak Hills Community Group, by consensus, supports it too.

Ms. Betty Hannon asked if the money set aside for trail maintenance in this plan was for existing trails along with the new trails, or just for the new trails. She stated she knows the maintenance is not being kept up on the existing trails currently.

Mr. Greitzer stated that the maintenance funds that he had spoke of in the expenditure plan were specifically in regard to two (2) particular trails; the Bailey/Bella Vista trail which is an existing trail; that they would like to have a larger fund available to maintain it over time and make some surface improvements to it; and the Bike trail which would be a new trail with funds set aside for maintenance for that specific trail.

Ms. Hannon asked if the contract had already been awarded to someone.

Mr. Greitzer stated that the existing Bailey/Bella Vista trail (fairly minor) resurfacing would be handled by Public Works Department.

Mr. Fahy stated that it had been looked at and would only require a minor surface treatment, a slurry seal, which is included in the amount allocated; plus a trust fund that would help continue the ongoing maintenance on that trail.

Mr. Greitzer stated that there was no contract yet for the new Bike trail or the trail in Clyde; that they were a ways yet from being at that stage. He stated they still had to do the planning and acquire the land; that it was probably a couple of years off yet.

Chairwoman Magleby stated that Ms. Hannon's input was important, and reminded her about the contact phone numbers included with the plan.

Mr. Don Garabedian stated he doesn't generally get to these meetings, and plead some ignorance, but that these plans look very nice, that it will look pretty and be a great community pride thing, but what does it do to generate income for the community? He asked about Mrs. Lisa's comments about these funds already being earmarked for some other projects, and now they want to spend it on trails; that there are a lot of things that need to be done around Bay Point besides walking trails; plus the area they are looking at around the waterfront is already trying to be cherry-picked by Pittsburg, so if we spend all of this money and then it might end up being annexed by our neighbors next door. He stated he wanted to know what this was going to generate for Bay Point besides someplace for people to walk and ride their bikes.

Mr. Greitzer stated that it would hopefully give residents a safer place to walk and ride their bikes; it will improve the morning commute traffic from Bay Point to Clyde and Concord; and these are things that meet the same purpose that the Port Chicago Highway used to meet. He stated that it would not directly generate any revenue for Bay Point; but that the purpose of the funds was to mitigate the loss of Port Chicago Highway, not to generate revenue.

An East Bay Regional Parks District staff stated that he works in the Parks and Open Space business and they had found around the Bay that one of the most important things a community can do to revitalize itself is to provide and improve access to its shoreline. He stated that in Bay Point, for many years, unless you owned a boat you wouldn't even know there was a shoreline because you couldn't get to it. He stated that if you look at other bay communities, like Hercules, Pinole, and Richmond, where they built very nice, interesting waterfronts, such as the county is proposing to do in the MacAvoy area; it tends to bring in additional development and dollars. He stated projects have proven to create a kind of synergy that can bring up the entire community; like the Pittsburg Marina. He stated he thinks this is a real opportunity; the spark that lights the match, that sets the fire.

Mr. Garabedian stated that he was hoping there was a plan besides this just being a place walk or ride their bikes.

Mr. Greitzer stated that in the long term he certainly hopes it will be more. He stated that he thinks by making these improvements, not only for pedestrians, bicyclists but motorist as well; and by improving the aesthetic look to it, that it could in the long-term help to stimulate community revenue.

Chairwoman Magleby stated it has always been her opinion that when you improve the image of a community you can bring in more funding to the community.

Chairwoman Magleby stated she was closing this portion of the meeting, as Mr. Greitzer had to get over to Clyde to make this same presentation there. She also asked Mr. Fitch to speak on his item not on the agenda at this time.

Mr. Bruce Fitch stated that he was a twenty-five year resident of Bay Point and was growing concerned about foreclosures that are occurring, that on his particular street there were four vacant houses on it, that the next street up has three vacant houses (Sky Harbor and Waterview Lane). He stated that these foreclosed houses are having their water and power shut off, people are abandoning the homes, that he has taken a weed-whacker to some of the lawns because they look so bad; and now they're looking at possible water rationing this summer; and that he's concerned also because in Antioch and Pittsburg the vacant homes have become a magnet for crime. He stated the other matter was that the banks that were foreclosing on these homes weren't doing anything about the vacant homes.

Chairwoman Magleby stated that time was running out but that this issue deserves more attention at another meeting also.

Report by Contra Costa County Public Works - Jerry Fahy Update on current and upcoming events

Mr. Jerry Fahy stated he had touched on upcoming and current projects at the last meeting; one that is ongoing is the Crossing Guard program that is being funded by the Supervisor's office; that Public Works administers the contract of the outside consultant who hires and employs the crossing guards. He stated that to date he has heard only positive feedback; that they have ten crossings overseen by crossing guards that are paid.

Mr. Fahy stated the second one, that Mr. Greitzer had also mentioned, is the signal at Willow Pass and Evora Road that is being put in by the Business Park developer there. He stated he was getting calls about why it wasn't done as the poles are up, but one is too tall for the power lines in the area and they are waiting for the welder to shorten that pole.

Mr. Fahy stated the other one where they are at the 65% design phase for the Delta DeAnza Trail crossing at Bailey Road where there will be a signal light at the trail crossing and the median will be opened up. He stated they are having issues with East Bay MUDD and their aqueducts that are underneath the ground and they need to coordinate with them about putting the foundation for the signals in. He stated he doubted it would be done this summer but maybe next year.

Mr. Fahy stated they had received an application for a potential Walgreens which would be the fourth leg of Bailey and Willow Pass Road; so that could open up a fourth leg that would enter into and exit out of the Walgreens right there; that it is very early on but they are looking at signal lights and commute wise what that would do. He stated that the vacant lot where Bailey and Willow Pass "T" is where the application is applied for, has been reviewed and approved for a small sub-division for a few lots and a small commercial area. He stated a traffic study needed to be done, that it is a long way off, but that it is something different.

Mr. Fahy stated that the stop-signs on Willow Pass Road by the Highway 4 on and off ramps have been in for a couple of months now, with only positive feed-back about them.

Mr. Fahy stated that today on the Supervisor's Board meeting agenda was the Traffic Resolution to allow sections of Willow Pass Road in Bay Point to be closed off for the parade on May 26th that had been approved. He stated he knew there is still issues with traffic control plans and those will have to be worked out, but they have a few weeks to iron those out.

Mr. Fahy stated that the last one is Clearland Drive, which is not an upcoming but rather an ongoing or current project. He stated that about ten (10) years ago the residents on and around Clearland Drive approached Public Works, prior to his being involved, about trouble they were having with kids, side-shows, speeding, and donuts; what was generated out of that was the median islands that are there now along Clearland Drive. He stated you can call it what you want but it was a process that was put in by the County Public Works and the community.

Chairwoman Magleby stated that the community had come to them and asked that this be done to eliminate the problems.

Mr. Fahy stated that Mr. Ben Laskari had called him about the recent Carnival that had been on the vacant property and caused some parking and traffic issues; a lot of congestion in

that area, including parking along the left side of the medians. He stated that it is illegal to park with your left tire on a left curb, so it is a ticketable offense.

Mr. Fahy stated that they need to become more informed about how the carnival comes to be there and see if when they do come; they could add some things for the carnival to do like maybe put up some barricades in those areas, just to help the residents that might be impacted the most. He stated that Mr. Laskari had several negative rude experiences with persons blocking the road, some waiting to pick up their kids. He stated that the carnival space has to be rented through Ambrose, but there are no permits county-wise that have to be issued; if it is through Ambrose he would ask that they contact him and they could provide some guidance on how to get the residents through that area safely.

Chairwoman Magleby stated that Ambrose would definitely contact Mr. Fahy.

Mr. Fahy stated that the other issue brought up by Mr. Laskari to be addressed is the islands that are in front of the Casa Serena entrance/exit. He stated that the whole idea of placing them had been to narrow the road and slow traffic down; that the islands were doing what they were meant to do in calming and slowing down traffic.

Mr. Laskari asked about lights by the islands as so many people are hitting the islands because it is so dark; that it is dangerous.

Mr. Fahy stated he could resolve that problem by placing some reflectors on the corners of the islands.

Chairwoman Magleby stated this portion of the meeting was closed. She stated we owe Mr. Fahy a lot, that though we only hear from once every three months, she knows he is busy every day working on our problems.

Chairwoman Magleby asked that all the MAC members sitting in the audience take their seats at the dais, so they might finally become a quorum. She stated that the record will show Council members Hoagland, Seigfried, Kopitar and Garcia were now seated.

STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Sheriff's Department – Lt. Mahoney

Lt. Mahoney passed out copies and reviewed the statistics for the month of April, with comparisons from the same time last year.

Lt. Mahoney stated that on April 17th the Sexual Predator Apprehension and Compliance Enforcement (SPACE) Team, made up of members from every law enforcement agency in the county, did a sweep through Bay Point and Pittsburg. He stated that total number of targets, 136 registered sex offenders in the area, they were able to contact 65 of them to verify that they were at the correct location; they found 13 registered sex offenders in violation; more than 30 cases were separated for further investigation; 3 arrests; and 16 probation searches. He stated the goal for the sweep was a 5% reduction in sex offender registration violations; that in Bay Point there was a significant 10.8% reduction.

Lt. Mahoney stated that lastly, the county had their meeting on their budget two weeks ago, and he wasn't sure what the final total was, but because of budget cuts the Sheriff's office has had to make some changes. He stated one of the changes are that they have lost their

Abandoned Vehicle program; no more towing cars off of private properties, and they have also lost their Crime Prevention program, meaning we are losing our Crime Prevention Specialist, Heather Burdick. He stated that it was a real shame because Heather had made a real impact in Bay Point and Clyde, and had made it a lot easier for other officers, especially him. Lt. Mahoney stated the Board of Supervisors were going to lose out too because a lot of the information they get comes from Heather.

Chairwoman Magleby stated that everyone was a loser there.

Lt. Mahoney stated that it was a real shame, and they were very sorry to lose her. He stated she would be in a different position in the Sheriff's office.

Councilwoman Seigfried stated that at least they were going to keep her so that he could get her back later. She stated it was too bad they didn't ask the taxpayers what they wanted.

Heather Burdick stated she would be around until May 23rd if anyone wanted to contact her before then.

Report by Highway Patrol

Not present

REQUEST FOR ITEMS ON NEXT AGENDA:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the February 5, 2008 TAC meeting Minutes

M/Kopitar

S/Garcia

Members present approved the TAC Minutes of February 5, 2008 Vote: 6 - 0

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Bay Point Municipal Advisory Council Traffic Area Committee, Chairwoman Magleby adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. to the next regular scheduled Traffic Area Committee meeting on August 5, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the Ambrose Recreation and Park District Board Room at 3105 Willow Pass Road.

Submitted by,
Debra Giles, Reporting Secretary