



HSR City Council Subcommittee

Members

Patrick Burt
Larry Klein
Nancy Shepherd
Gail Price

Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2010
8:30 am – 10:00 am
Council Conference Room
Civic Center
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA

Minutes

1. Oral Communications: None
2. Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding with Peninsula Rail Program with City Attorney:

Gary Baum presented. He discussed issues with the MOU's. CAHSR would like MOU. It was not clear why an MOU was needed and who would be the parties involved. The pros and cons were weighed out. The City Attorney needs direction whether or not to pursue MOU or not. The PCC would move on MOU as a collective bargaining unit. Mayor Burt's concern was the content and purpose of the MOU, the problem would be the MOU would be so bland. He asked if copies of the MOU from Gateway Cities be provided.

It was decided to go back to the PCC and put the MOU on the agenda for the next Friday's meeting.

Chair Klein asked if CSS gives us what we want. Mr. Baum said that an MOU would formalize CSS assumptions. Mr. Baum said PCC is client but he doesn't represent the PCC.

CM Shepherd asked how fixed the CSS is in the HSR process. She also wondered what would be done with the outcome of CSS and could this be part of the MOU. She said they needed the Gateway Cities MOU as a reference point.



HSR City Council Subcommittee

Ms. Naik said that Gateway Cities received money for studies. She asked if there are MOU's used of the other CSS road projects and could those be used as references.

Mr. Baum received direction to go to the PCC for direction. Mr. Baum is to report back to the subcommittee at the next meeting.

3. Discussion of Impact of HSR Project on Caltrain Service

Mr. Emslie gave the Caltrain perspective regarding economic viability.

Mayor Burt discussed options that do not involve peninsula HSR connection. He said Caltrain 2025 also has impacts on the peninsula. He suggested there should be a discussion of plan B for Caltrain because HSR may not happen.

CM Price asked how Measure "A" and VTA short range plan address electrification. She said there needs to be a conversation with Caltrain even if they can not discuss alternatives, is there a way to implement Caltrain 2025 plans without HSR on the peninsula. She said there is a lack of representatives of PCC on the Caltrain Board.

Chair Klein said a letter should be sent to the formal Caltrain Board to set a meeting.

Ms. Naik would like to have a Caltrain presentation after the Alternatives Analysis comes out on March 4 and thinks an individual meeting with Caltrain is needed.

Mr. Carrasco said a HSR and Caltrain alliance is valuable because it enables Caltrain to implement electrification correctly.

Mr. Beecham said HSR is a long shot and we need to look at Caltrain as the only option for the peninsula.

CM Shepherd asked if HSR could meet the travel time requirements set out in Proposition 1A by running an occasional train overnight which would enable the hybrid option, stopping most trains in San Jose to meet the legal requirements of the Prop 1A.



HSR City Council Subcommittee

Mayor Burt said there is some public discussion about this and the Alternatives Analysis needs to be seen to explore further. The ridership question casts concern on all alternatives.

Ms. Wespi said there are other technical issues with train sites. She asked why they need to be different.

Action: the Subcommittee will ask to present at the next Caltrain meeting in April and will report back on their response at the February 25 meeting.

4. Report on Visit to Washington D. C. by Council Members Klein and Espinosa postponed due to weather and will be rescheduled
5. Discussion of February 9 Alternatives Analysis Release Briefing
Bunneberg spoke as the individual on impacts. He said Greenmeadow national historic district is another possible impact of HSR. He asked to support underground option in South and North Palo Alto.

Chair Klein said Mr. Spaethling seemed to be supportive of the hybrid options. He said the program EIR will be released at the same time as the Alternatives Analysis.

CM Shepherd said there is a gap between the community and the HSR actions

Ms. Naik said they should started planning to engage the public and start preparing the community on the Alternatives Analysis.

CM Price said she wants to make sure the right groups get engaged on the sub segments within Palo Alto and that it should be done in a timely fashion.

Ms. Naik said HNTB staff will meet with any of the community groups.

Ms. Wespi said there are city experts involved and we should use Public Works and Utilities to understand water issues, water tables and they can help engage with the community on the Alternatives Analysis.



HSR City Council Subcommittee

Mayor Burt said there are 45 days for comments and an extension to 90 days should be asked for. He said they should begin a broader outreach at the meetings and engage community leaders sooner rather than later. He said Public Works needs to be involved in future meetings. He said we need to ask for San Mateo County footprints study to create a list of questions to send to Mr. Spaethling. He said they need to start setting up the community meetings.

CM Price said the purpose of the outreach meetings needs to be clear.

Chair Klein said we need North and South Palo Alto Community meetings on Alternatives Analysis which is why we need more time. He said we need to identify stakeholder departments and wants to add it to the 2/25 agenda but have the community meetings after the Alternatives Analysis is released.

6. Report by Mayor Burt on recent PCC meetings

7. Legislation Update

It was suggested to propose legislation to change governance of HSR. It was also suggested to have a subcommittee of the HSR Council Subcommittee explore proposal to change governance structure and CM Shepherd and Mayor Burt will report back on 2/25.

8. Items for Upcoming Meetings

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, listening assistive devices are available in the Council Chambers and Council Conference Room. Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request with 72 hours advance notice.