



## HSR City Council Committee

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### **Members**

**Patrick Burt**  
**Larry Klein**  
**Nancy Shepherd**  
**Gail Price**

### **Special Meeting**

**Thursday, April 15, 2010**  
**8:30 am – 10:00 am**  
**Council Conference Room**  
**Civic Center**  
**250 Hamilton Avenue**  
**Palo Alto, CA**

### **Minutes**

CM Klein absent

#### 1. Oral Communications

Public Comment: Received list of stakeholders from Steve Emslie to help with the CSS Toolkit. The response from the community is overwhelming. The City Council Committee should attempt to do anything, if possible, to emphasize the importance of responses to CSS.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes from the April 1, 2010 Meeting

Mayor Burt said to forego the approval of these minutes until the next meeting.

#### 3. Review of the Guiding Principles of the Committee

Mayor Burt stated that Council Member Price recommended an urgent timeline be focused on other times. He moved this item to become item 8b later in the meeting.

#### 4. Consideration of the indefinite deadline to respond to the Alternatives Analysis

Gayle Likens said there is an indefinite timeline to respond. However, City staff would like to comment within 45-60 days of the release of the Alternatives Analysis.

Mayor Burt said an implication exists for no refinement period to revise the Alternatives Analysis. He suggested we question the intent and purpose of the first 45-60 days after the document's release. He



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questioned if there would be a refinement period after the first round of comments.

CM Shepherd questioned what Palo Alto needs to do to see how the Alternatives Analysis will affect the community.

CM Price suggested the Committee establish a soft deadline for the City to respond. She pointed out that if we do not get our opinions in clearly, they will not be weighed as much.

CM Price said we need a vision of the corridor, as it relates to Palo Alto. We need to discuss how this can be accomplished, while staff is very limited.

Mayor Burt stated the focus on Palo Alto and adjacent communities (transitions) is our definition of "the corridor." Our corridor is identified as subsection 6 and transitions to the north and south.

Mayor Burt said we should maintain a strong focus on the Program Level EIR in the next two weeks, and then focus on the Alternatives Analysis after that period.

CM Shepherd wondered if staff can come back with some established scheduling regarding responses.

Mayor Burt said during the next meeting, when we discuss the Alternatives Analysis, we should discuss an internal timeline for initial comments and communicate to the PRP how we think the process can work more efficiently.

Mayor Burt stated if we do not attempt to receive clarity from them on what the Alternatives Analysis process should be like, then we will be behind.

CM Price said our communication to them should only be a few sentences – it should be concise and to the point.



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Mayor Burt stated that during the next meeting, we will hear a staff plan on how to respond to both the Alternatives Analysis and the CSS Toolkit and how they merge.

Gayle Likens said the HNTB sub-consultant is going to meet with each prospective station city in the next month.

CM Shepherd suggested Palo Alto follow a two-strategy process: 1) follow and respond to HSRA/PRP timelines and informational items (continuing to pursue undocumented findings, etc.), and 2) have staff generate a deliberate timeline and guide to study and respond to the Alternatives Analysis including community meetings, corridor study of our segment, etc.

CM Shepherd also stated the Committee should discuss the possibility of generating a corridor study of our segment of the Peninsula right-of-way involving all stakeholders (HRB, Planning, Utilities, Public Works, Canopy, citizens, etc.).

### 5. Discussion of the HSRA meeting in San Jose

Mayor Burt said he attended the HSRA board meeting last week. He spoke to the subcommittee on the Strategic Plan. He was told that some information we have been requesting is included in the Alternatives Analysis. He suggested we send a letter to the PRP and ask where in the Alternatives Analysis are our answers.

Mayor Burt also stated that CM Klein invited board members to our community so they can see some of the potential impacts.

CM Price asked what the goal would be in meeting them.

Mayor Burt said it would be informational. The board has an inaccurate perception of our community and the corresponding effects.

Mayor Burt said there was a desire for the Rail Authority to re-examine the LA to Anaheim segment. He questioned what role Caltrain will have in all this. Southern California was looking at the possibility of a shared-corridor and maybe shared-tracks (but not anymore).



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Mayor Burt continued by saying the PRP is making a presentation on the Alternatives Analysis in the Council Chambers on April 27, 2010. We need to have much more aggressive community outreach for that meeting.

### 6. Discussion of Caltrain Finances/Future

Mayor Burt suggested deferring this item to the next meeting.

CM Price said we need someone who is an expert in this as it relates to our deliberations.

Mayor Burt established that a future date to discuss this item will be determined later.

### 7. Consideration of pro-active HSR legislation to propose to our local legislators

Mayor Burt said there are other areas of prospective legislation that we may want to address, but item #8 is more pressing.

CM Shepherd asked if we could partner with CARD to get an update and/or recommendations on various pieces of legislation.

CM Price said staff has to maintain control over appropriate utilization of hours, etc. over our lobbyist. She pointed out that staff has done well with this so far. She also said we have limited resources.

Mayor Burt stated a legislative agenda is another major element of what we are dealing with.

### 8. Draft Comments on Program EIR

Mayor Burt stated these comments will give us a chance to provide input.

Gayle Likens said this document has expanded greatly since Monday.

Mayor Burt stated the committee was getting two different messages: one was embodied by CARD, and then last Monday we received a response from our consultant. If we aren't concrete and specific with our question, the response will be as vague as the question.



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Gayle Likens said we are open to change and the fluidity of the document.

Mayor Burt asked if we can provide this with a link in the next day to different community organizations we are dealing with. The public can use this document as a basis for comment, but use their own language and ideas.

Mayor Burt stated the more cut-and-paste comments they will receive, the more cut-and-paste answers will be given. Comments should reflect their knowledge-base and opinions.

CM Shepherd questioned if a commission (the HRB for example) would be able to write its own letter and send in their comments.

Mayor Burt answered that we would take their comments and incorporate them into the City of Palo Alto's comments as long as they are a part of our organization.

Mayor Burt asked if the list of stakeholders had been contacted regarding the Program EIR.

Gayle Likens answered no. We do not have a list with contact information included.

Mayor Burt said we should send out an email to these stakeholders to encourage them to provide their own comments and send a carbon copy to the City when doing so.

### 9. Possible HSR Committee Meeting on April 29, 2010

Mayor Burt asked if we should have a meeting scheduled on that day at the regular time slot of 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Everyone agreed yes.

Mayor Burt established a future schedule for meetings will be determined on April 29, 2010.

### 10. Updates and Informational Items: None



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### 11. Future Meetings and Agendas

April 29, 2010

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