

Minutes For July 08, 2002 Special Meeting

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

July 8, 2002

The Solano County Board of Supervisors met in adjourned session on this day at 2:00 p.m. for a special meeting. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Kromm. Present were Supervisors Kondylis, Silva, Thomson, and Vice-Chairman Kromm. Chairman Carroll was excused.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2001/2002 SOLANO COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

Surry Poole, Grand Jury Foreman, presented a copy of the 2001/2002 Solano County Grand Jury Final Report, and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve on the Grand Jury. Mr. Poole introduced Jack Morris who will be the Grand Jury Foreman for the 2002/2003 term.

ORDERS

(Item 3A) MODIFIED PLEASANTS VALLEY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN,
APPROVED

Vice-Chairman Kromm opened the public hearing. Paul Weise, Department of Transportation, gave a brief overview of the information contained in the Agenda Submittal from his department dated July 8, 2002, incorporated herein by reference, regarding the necessity to condemn properties needed for road improvement projects on Pleasants Valley Road. Mr. Weise provided the Board with a memorandum dated July 8, 2002 from the Director of Transportation Charlie Jones, incorporated herein by reference. Mr. Weise noted the options presented in the memorandum can be achieved without condemning any property. Some of the proposed project principles are no condemnation of property, and to maximize the safety improvements within the existing right-of-way. Mr. Weise also discussed the shoulder width, right-of-way, the length of the project, striping, speed limits, the centerline location, marking of trees, composition of

shoulders, a separated bicycle path, and signing.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Kondylis regarding the 5 trees that are proposed to be removed, and improvements at the curve near Foothill Road, Mr. Weise noted there is one oak that has been severely topped and is under the power lines, one dead oak tree, and the others are walnut trees. The department is suggesting repairs just north of Foothill Drive, and the owner on the west side of the road is in favor of some alterations. Any trees that are removed in the modified plan will be in the County right-of-way.

Responding to questions posed by Vice-Chairman Kromm regarding removal of trees, Mr. Weise noted that the department would try to save as many trees as possible. Judy Neal, Vacaville, read a prepared statement voicing concerns regarding the previous plan, and questioned about the proposed repair area of 1 ½ miles from Cherry Glenn to Vaca Valley Parkway.

Mr. Weise noted the 1 ½ miles is from Cherry Glenn Road to the bridges south of Foothill Road, and the recommendation to go just north of Foothill Road in the area that has minimal vegetation and noted there would be no further projects north of this area.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Kondylis regarding feelings about the new plan, Ms.

Neal feels there has been a lot of improvement, but questioned the need to widen the lanes from 11' to 12' especially if there is a way to direct the wide RV traffic to I-505. Ms. Neal would like to see 2' shoulders.

Barbara Comfort, Vacaville, feels improvements can be made to Pleasants Valley Road without taking such an aggressive approach. Ms. Comfort suggested a speed limit of 45 mph along the entire road, prohibiting boat trailers and RV's, and ensuring the changes are enforced would dramatically improve safety on this road. Ms. Comfort requested the widening not be done.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Kondylis regarding feelings about the new plan, Ms.

Comfort feels the new plan is a vast improvement, but would like to see no trees destroyed and no condemnations, and the least amount of impact as possible. The real problem is the drivers that choose not to obey the rules.

Patrick Garner, Monticello Cycling Club, noted support of improving the roadway. Mr. Garner suggested signage for reminders to motorists that cyclists also use the

roadway.

Responding to questions posed by Vice-Chairman Kromm regarding the adequacy of a 2' shoulder,

Mr. Garner noted a 2' shoulder is safe for cyclists that ride single file.

There was a brief discussion regarding reminder signage for bicyclists and motorists.

Carolyn Douglas, Pleasants Valley Neighborhood Association, voiced concern with widening the

roadway equally on each side and feels that each section needs to be considered separately, with increased

speeds if the roadway is widened. Ms. Douglas suggested installing a stop sign, and coloring the shoulder

a different color.

Bob Bishop, Vacaville, feels the road is fine the way it is, there are still problems with the new

plan, and voiced concern regarding the lack of space between the pavement and the utility poles, with field

fences that are located in the County easement, with drainage at his property, and feels most residents do

not want this project.

Randall Carlson, Bicycle Advisory Committee, voiced concern regarding the dangers with the

number of ruts on the sides of the road, and noted cyclists are usually satisfied with a 2' shoulder.

As there was no one further who wished to speak on this matter, the public hearing was closed.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Silva regarding the utility poles, Mr. Weise noted the

department would try to move any poles that are close to the pavement for safety.

Supervisor Silva noted that California Highway Patrol will not enforce a 45 mph speed limit on

Pleasants Valley Road, cautioned must be used with signage that could give a false sense of security to

people, likes the idea of working with willing sellers, supports 12' lanes, and supports varying widths of the

shoulder.

Vice-Chairman Kromm commended the department for all the work, voiced concern with the speed

limit issue, feels speeds can be reduced and would like to try a lower speed limit with additional

enforcement.

Mr. Weise suggested separating the speed limit issue to allow time for a traffic order to be prepared.

Supervisor Kondylis agreed with the recommendations in the report, that the maximum number of

trees to be removed would be five, with variable shoulders, with striping for no

passing all through the project, would like to try putting a sign on I-80 saying Berryessa and Lake Solano use I-505, a sign to share the road, and a gentle reminder to bicyclists to obey the law. Supervisor Thomson understands that when the road is widened consideration will be given to stay away from the homes as much as possible, and a shoulder stripe, Mr. Weise noted the residents would be impacted as little as possible, and that a shoulder stripe would be included on this road. Vice-Chairman Kromm suggested replacing each tree with five trees that are the 15-gallon size, and to work with the homeowners association on where they would like more tree coverage.

On motion of Supervisor Kondylis and seconded by Supervisor Silva, the Board acted to support the recommendations in the memorandum from the Transportation Department, the trees are to be replaced on a 5 to 1 ration with 15 gallon trees, no condemnations, and to bring back the speed limit issue. So ordered by a vote of 4-0; Chairman Carroll excused.

(Item 3B) RESOLUTION NO. 2002-148 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO PURCHASE RIGHTS OF WAY FOR ROAD PURPOSES ON THE PLEASANTS VALLEY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ADOPTED

The Board was provided with an Agenda Submittal from the Department of Transportation, dated July 2, 2002, incorporated herein by reference, regarding the purchase of rights-of-way for road purposes.

Director of Transportation Charlie Jones, Jr. noted these are friendly purchases. On motion of Supervisor Kondylis and seconded by Supervisor Thomson, the Board acted to adopt Resolution No. 2002-145 authorizing the Director of Transportation to purchase rights of way for road purposes on the Pleasants Valley Road Improvement Project. So ordered by a vote of 4-0; Chairman Carroll excused. (see Resolution Book)

(Item 3C) DRAFT TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURE PLAN BY SOLANO TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY, FAILED

Paul Weise, Department of Transportation, reviewed the information contained in the Agenda Submittal from his department dated July 2, 2002, incorporated herein by

reference, regarding consideration of the Solano Transportation Improvement Authority's Draft Transportation Expenditure Plan.

Tranquilino Martinez, FELAD/Redwood Family Clinic, feels there is a need to address traffic to prevent gridlock, and cited many reasons why people of color should not vote for the proposed tax measure.

Natalie Dumont, Greenbelt Alliance, briefly reviewed portions of a report "Balanced Transportation Achieving Congestion Relief and Meeting Transportation Needs in Solano County", incorporated herein by reference, discussed the problems that are created when additional traffic lanes are added, and suggested investing in transportation choices to improve moving people and goods. Ms. Dumont suggested caution about I-80 between Fairfield and Dixon and Highway 12 between Suisun and Rio Vista for lane expansions, and noted preference for the plan with the emphasis on transit.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Kondylis regarding adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, Ms. Dumont noted HOV lanes do reduce congestion, but do create some problems during off peak hours.

Daryl Halls, Executive Director Solano Transportation Authority (STA), discussed HOV lanes, noted the area of I-80 between Vallejo and I-505 is eligible for HOV lanes, which will be addressed in further study by the STA. Currently I-680 does not qualify for HOV lanes, but the issue will be reviewed for that area in the next segment of studies.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Thomson regarding congestion getting worse in areas with a lot of road building, Mr. Halls noted many of the suggestions by the Greenbelt Alliance have been articulated in this plan to support alternative means of travel, the STA is working to find a well-balanced plan between roads and other modes of transportation.

Responding to comments by Supervisor Silva regarding augmenting with Federal and State funds, Mr. Halls discussed the funding opportunities for all the projects listed, no projects are fully funded by the sales tax, the operating dollars will greatly benefit the transit projects, and with the serious dedication to fix the highway problems it will send a message to the

State and Federal

government that we are serious about fixing the problem.

Responding to concerns voiced by Vice-Chairman Kromm regarding funding estimate

shortfalls, Mr. Halls distributed sales projection forecasts, incorporated herein by reference, noted the

estimates were done by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) using two different

options. A copy of the staff report for STA was also distributed, and Mr. Halls discussed the

recommendation that a percentage of the funds collected be allocated rather than a specific dollar amount.

Responding to questions posed by Vice-Chairman Kromm relative to the differences in Sales

Tax projections, Nancy Wheeler, Nancy Wheeler Consulting, did an analysis of the newest MTC

projection of \$825 million, discussed the different base years that were used, and further explained the

formulas that were used for the projections.

Vice-Chairman Kromm noted he would like more emphasis on the transit and downtown type

of approaches, and to provide incentives to the communities to do more smart growth transit oriented

development. The current plan will tend to encourage more small type development in the County.

Supervisor Silva noted the many meetings conducted for public input, the sales tax dollars will

be seed money for the projects, the need for a complete circle of public transportation, enhancing the

roadways along with improving public transportation, the need to deal with the increased population in

the area, and improved transportation may entice businesses from the Bay Area to the County.

Vice-Chairman Kromm voiced concern with the expansion of the highways going east.

There was a motion by Supervisor Silva and seconded by Supervisor Thomson to endorse the balanced plan, which failed on a vote of 2-2; Chairman Carroll excused.

Supervisor Silva noted the balanced plan is not perfect, not everyone likes the plan, but that the cities have endorsed the plan.

CLOSED SESSION - The Board moved into Closed Session at 3:45 p.m. to discuss Public Employee

Appointment: Executive Director Children and Families Commission matters.

The Board moved out

of Closed Session at 4:01 p.m.

ADJOURN - This meeting of the Board of Supervisors adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

William J. Carroll, Chairman

Maggie Jimenez
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

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