

NIVA MEETING RECORD

December 12, 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS The City Council approved Traffic Engineering's recommendation for change in post speed limits on the following segments of roadways in North Irvine at last night's meeting. The revised postings should appear sometime in the near future.

Roadway Segment	Speed Limit	
	Existing Posted	Recommended
Bryan Ave. -- Culver to Yale	50 mph	45 mph
Irvine Blvd. -- Jeffrey to Sand Canyon	60	55
Jeffrey Road -- Roosevelt to Bryan	55	50
Portola Parkway -- SR-261 NB Ramps to Culver	55	50
Yale Ave. -- Irvine Blvd. to Meadowood	45	40

The date for the dedication of the Wheeler Library located in the Irvine Historical Agricultural Park at Marketplace and Irvine Blvd. is tentatively set for Sat., Feb. 23. Some disgruntlement has risen over the removal of a large section of the honeysuckle hedge along Irvine Blvd. in front of the Wheeler Library. Apparently officials of the Orange County Public Library System, which wanted greater visibility of the library to the public from Irvine Blvd., approved the removal while the County's Harbor, Beaches and Parks Dept. wanted to retain the character of the Park and the screening of the outside (including the Marketplace Center and associated neon signs. In addition, the County's Harbor, Beaches and Parks Dept. is renovating the old Irvine Agricultural Hdqtrs building at the Historical Park and is planning to move its County offices to it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PA-40 R & D DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE [_____] - A progress presentation meeting is scheduled by TIC for Jan 24 for the Community Task Force. Per TIC's Robin Leftwich there have been some changes to PA-40 plans. The Draft EIR is expected to be ready for public review in Feb.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - At last night's meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution regarding the Regional Transportation Improvement Program For Fiscal Year 2008-09 Through Fiscal Year 2013-14 which included in the Trabuco/SR-133 Interchange in the listing. However, the listing is not year specific and only indicates that the project is regionally significant and therefore qualifies for State and/or Federal funding.

2. NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY - At the Dec 4 meeting of the City's Library Services Advisory Committee, a short-term (1-3 years), mid-line (3-10 years), and long-term (>10 years) program was developed and will be sent on to the City Council for approval.

Asst. City Mgr. Kreutzen briefed the Committee on recent meetings with the OCPLS Administration at which he mentioned that, due to current financial situation, the OCPLS would not assume the O&M expenses of any new libraries that the City might construct. This position contradicts that stated previously by the recently-retired OCPLS administrator John Adams. He had indicated that though the County has no funds for construction of new libraries, the County would assume all O&M costs for any new libraries which the City would decide to build. Kreutzen also mentioned that even though the County acknowledges that Irvine is a "donor city" to the OCPLS, there is great disagreement about the amount of that "donation". Essentially, of the 24 cities in the OCPLS, 8 are donor cities and all of these are in the southern part of Orange County and have more recent residential development and consequent higher real estate evaluations.

There also was discussion about the desire of the Federal Government to find a new and larger facility for the western U.S. Archives. El Toro is one of the considered locations. The discussion pertained to the feasibility of some sort of combined U.S. Archives/Metro Library at the closed Base. However, per both Kreutzen and Goffen of GAFCON, which is working with the Ken Smith Great Park Design Team, the U. S. Archives officials do not think a library and archives are compatible. A second and more critical problem is that the U. S. Archives desires to be in a new facility by 2012 -- a date much too early for any possible construction of a Metro Library.

3. COMPLETION OF PETERS CANYON WASH AND WALNUT TRAIL "GAPS" - Though NIVA had been awaiting a response to its May 17 letter to the City about the suggested trail signage, including submission of a reminder to PWs Dir. Gomez on Oct 31, no response was received to those specific communications until receipt of a Nov. 28th letter from Cindy Krebs, PWs Mgr. of Transit & Transportation. She states that the NIVA-requested signs for the North Irvine trails have been ordered and will be installed before the end of the year.

However, in the meanwhile the Community Services Commission [CSC] approved a resolution at its Nov. 7 meeting adopting official names for the various existing off-street trails in the City and a procedure for naming future off-street trails. This action is the result of NIVA's long effort to get the City to name and post names of the various off-street trails for both the convenience of trail users and for location identification in the event of need for emergency response. (NIVA had been given no notice of this pending action by the CSC. That is unfortunate as NIVA probably would have wanted to actively support the staff recommendation.) The procedure identifies the CSC as the final approval authority for all future names. It leaves the discretion to the Director of Public Works for location of signage for the trails. Standard street signs will be used. Additionally, once a name has been established for a trail, staff will examine the feasibility of embedding trail markers in the pavement at one-tenth intervals to improve identification. The recommendation for the program came from a committee established by the City made up of Community Services, Public Works, and Public Safety Departments.

4. HICKS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING - As of the meeting, NIVA had not received a response from Councilmember Kang to NIVA's Nov. 19th letter requesting he take action as a councilmember from the neighborhood to have the City initiate an effort to secure the center for the community park. The master plan anticipated a center and a site was designated for the center though it would be an undersize center of only 5,000 sq ft. *[However, a letter dated Dec 11th was received from Kang on Dec 15 responding to NIVA's letter. He relates that the City intends to include this community center in the City's Strategic Business Plan [SBP] for 2008. As the SBP looks at a 5-year window, the particular year of start of construction is not specifically mentioned. But it is progress. Per Debbie Means of Com. Services Dept., the plan is currently for a 5,000 sq. ft. facility costing roughly \$2 Million excluding the additional necessary parking. The parking study recently performed by Rafiq & Associates concluded that additional parking would be required but that there was sufficient space. However, as the City normally maintains a minimum of 50' clearance between fields and parking and in this case it would be only about 25 feet, the current full-sized soccer fields might have to be reduced in size. Source of funding has not been specified. It is in the interest of the community that NIVA monitor the progress of this item in the SBP-development process for next July.]*

5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING - The City held a series of 3 public meetings throughout the City. One had been scheduled to be held at Northwood Community Park community center [NCP] last October but was canceled as a result of the occurring brush fires. It was to be rescheduled. However, the rescheduled public meeting was held at the Lakeview Senior Center -- not at NCP. [Incidentally, this is just another example of the need for another center in North Irvine west of Jeffrey, i.e., at Hicks Canyon Com. Park.] Consequently, no public meeting was held in Northwood even though we are the neighbor "recipients" to the majority of recent residential development and will continue to be such in the future. Amongst these development projects, is the overwhelming majority of previously built affordable housing units. It is also

likely that a vast majority of any future affordable housing, if built, will occur in North Irvine as this is the location of most potential sites. The largest such site is in the closed El Toro MCAS. Noting that one of the methods used by the City to assure "affordability" is in relieving developers from many of the usual requirements involving both zoning standards and impact mitigations. These can translate into uncompensated or mitigated impacts on the adjacent community. It is in this regard that NIVA has been interested in the City's plans.

6. **WB BRYAN BUS-STOP AT YALE** - On Nov. 21, Melvold received an e-mail from Cindy Krebs of the City apologizing for the late response re. the inquiry about the noticed temporary flag placement as she thought someone else followed up on the matter (she never identified the "someone else"). After checking with both City and OCTA staffs, she was unable to find out anything. Upon further inquiry by Melvold, she said she checked with both landscape and construction divisions of City staff and came up negative. The mystery remains!! In any case, this matter drags on as no progress seems to be occurring. Buses continue to sit at the location. The City has acknowledged this to be a safety hazard in its Sept. 28, 2007 City letter to OCTA which would seem to warrant immediate attention. It was agreed to have this matter taken to the City Council by way of a presentation to the Council at the first meeting in Jan.

7. **REFURBISHMENT OF NORTHWOOD SHOPPING CENTER** - NIVA received a letter from Tim Gehrich, Mgr. of Planning & Development Services of Irvine's Com. Dev. Dept., dated Dec 10 notifying NIVA that the City had received a "pre-application" from Business Properties. The applicant is proposing the complete demolition of the 4,909 sq ft building formerly leased by Coco's and replacing it with a 2-story 9,600 sq ft office retail building. If formally applied, a revision to the original Conditional Use Permit (#78-CP-0220) would be required. Staff would make a determination whether the change is major or minor. If determined to be major, the CPU amendment would require a public hearing before the Planning Commission. At the meeting, there was discussion about (1) whether this could be the first of a series of changes which eventually would convert the shopping center to essentially an office complex and (2) what impacts this might have on the required number of parking spaces versus the number of existing spaces. It is noted that the current spaces are much bigger than current City standard and the owner might seek to simply reduce their size to accommodate more spaces in the same area.

8. **CULVER DRIVE/WALNUT AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** - No response whatsoever has been forthcoming to NIVA's Nov. 14th letter to the City Council questioning use of summarization in the Response-to-Comments. Additionally, without public noticing or any specific notice to NIVA, the project was agendized for yesterday's City Council meeting under, once again, the Consent Calendar. Per the staff report available on the City's web site, there is no mention of anything that transpired since the item was previously agendized last Sept. 25th. Melvold faxed a letter commenting on the project and requesting the Council, if it should approve the proposed project, to (1) make a commitment to the Scottsdale to I-5 SB Culver Off-ramp Intersection and (2) assure simultaneous construction of both projects to minimize construction period. At the meeting, however, the Council approved [5/0] the project as staff proposed under the Consent Calendar with no comment or discussion. It should be noted that even though NIVA was unsuccessful in getting a favorable response from the Council on the above 3 issues, **NIVA was successful during previous discussions with staff on the following significant concessions none of which would have occurred without NIVA efforts:**

(1) **Reduction in widening of Culver by only one NB lane. The original plan was another lane in each direction which would have meant another SB lane and loss of what little landscaping and pine trees exist on the west side of Culver.**

(2) **Succeeded in getting the City to acknowledge noise impacts on adjacent residential and consequently a commitment for noise mitigation -- replacement of 2nd floor Culver-facing single-pane windows with double-pane -- at a cost to the City estimated at \$115,000.**

(3) **Succeeded in convincing staff of the need to have the widening of Culver**

continue beyond Scottsdale through to Trabuco. As a result, staff recommended funding of \$130,000 in the City's 2008-09 Capital Improvement Budget for the preliminary engineering and environmental clearance effort for the widening of the Scottsdale to I-5 SB Culver Off-ramp Intersection segment of Culver.

9. WIDENING OF JAMBOREE UNDERPASS OF I-5 FREEWAY - [Awaiting a response from PWs Dir. Gomez to NIVA's e-mails sent May 31 & Sept. 3 seeking to find out if this project is included in the OCTA's current 5-Year Transit Plan which was expected to be considered by the OCTA Board last Sept.] Per Dave Simpson [12/5], OCTA Mgr. of Local Government Relations, the project is not in the 5-Year Transit Plan. If it were an 8-year plan, it would be. It is current planned for start of design in year 2011 with construction expected within 2 years after that. Simpson [714-560-5570] is one of the OCTA people who drafted the 5-Year Transit Plan after meeting with local government reps. It was agreed that NIVA should request the City via an e-mail to PWs Dir. Gomez to work with the City of Tustin to get this project moved earlier.

At last night's meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution on the Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2008-09 Through Fiscal Year 2013-14 which contained this project in the listing. However, the listing is not year specific and only indicates that the project is a regionally significant project and qualifies for State and/or Federal funding. In any case, the City's schedule is not in agreement with that of the OCTA. The e-mail to Gomez should inquire as to the discrepancy .
[E-mail sent to PWs Dir. Gomez on Dec. 14.]

10 INTERSECTION SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION CABINETS - NIVA has received a Nov. 28th letter from City Mgr. Joyce summarizing the results of an internal review of staff prior actions on this item. It does not clearly state who made the investigation. More critical is the lack of identification of any of the key City players by name nor any mention of PW Dir. Gomez's original commitment to the Council last Feb. It should be noted also that there clearly is no apology included in the letter to NIVA for any lack of clarity, lack of feedback, or even a possible misunderstanding. It should also be noted that there is no reference or response regarding Gomez's commitment to place funding in the budget for either moving or constructing another sign should an agreeable location of the cabinet not be found. A review of the City's internal review summary enclosed with the letter has serious omissions and distorted facts. It is evident that one or more City staff persons are simply protecting themselves through false statements. The end result may be that due to the lack of integrity, or simply lack of memory, demonstrated by certain staff members, NIVA may have to employ audio taping of all future meetings between NIVA and City reps.

Melvold is expecting to meet with the City Mgr. to discuss not so much the cabinet situation itself but the actions of City staff members and the misrepresentation of the events by City staff in this internal review. Following a discussion on the need and benefits of an audio recorder and whether NIVA secure a tape recorder for future meetings with City staff, it was decided that it would be in NIVA's interest to procure a tape recorder.

11. TRANSFER OF ACCOUNT AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE - McFadden reported that to date 3 HOAs have yet to pay the Year 2007 dues.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting would be Wed., Jan. 9 at The Groves.