
Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2009 at 6:00PM

Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Hearing Room

Meeting Called to Order: By Chair Valerie Olson at 6:05PM

1. Roll Call

GVPAC Members Present: Adams, Elliott, Freeman, Olson, True

GVPAC Members Absent: Ezal, Mineau

County Staff Present:

Derek Johnson, Deputy Director, Office of Long Range Planning

David Lackie, Supervising Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

Erika Leachman, Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

Charlie Ebeling, Transportation Engineer, Public Works Dept.

Will Robertson, Senior Transportation Planner, Public Works Dept.

2. Public Comment:

None

3. Minutes of January 21st, 2009 GVPAC Meeting:

Amendments: None

ACTION: Freeman moved, seconded by True, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the January 21, 2009 GVPAC Meeting Minutes, with no amendments.

Yea: Adams, Elliott, Freeman, Olson, True

Nay: None

Absent: Ezal, Mineau

4. Presentation:

Presentation covered basic elements of transportation planning in the Goleta Valley, including the Goleta Transportation Improvement Plan (GTIP), existing roadway networks and intersections capacities and service levels, and future improvement plans, with the aid of two guest speakers: Charlie Ebeling and Will Robertson from the County Public Works Department. Topics also included options for integrating multi-modal transportation planning into the Goleta Community Plan to enhance use of a variety of modes of transportation, the use of human-scale urban form to encourage walking,



biking, and mass transit use, and opportunities to enhance connectivity between roadways, bikeways, sidewalks, and transit lines to decrease total vehicle miles traveled (VMTs), average daily trips (ADTs), air pollution/greenhouse gases in compliance with AB32 and SB375, and impedances to emergency services.

GVPAC discussion topics included the relevance of national trip generation standards to local land uses in the Goleta Valley in determining the direct and cumulative impacts of new development on roadway operation and the ability of the County to condition new projects to make specific improvements to roadways beyond paying a development impact fee. The GVPAC discussed traffic impacts felt by residents of the Eastern Goleta Valley due to development by other agencies, such as UCSB, as a key issue to consider in the County's local transportation planning efforts. Due to planned absence, GVPAC Member Ezal submitted a letter regarding transportation, traffic calming, and speed limits for GVPAC consideration.

Related topics included the opportunity for the County to seek funding from the federal government for transportation projects that are currently needed to remedy existing deficiencies in mobility along the South Coast. Consideration was given to increased allocations of GTIP funds to multi-modal projects such as bikelanes and sidewalks as part of the updated Goleta Community Plan.

Public Comment:

Mary Whalen suggested the GVPAC request a localized traffic study to determine trip generation rates for Goleta Valley land uses due to the unique traffic conditions and land use patterns of the coastal plain. The suggested traffic study could replace national data currently used to determine fees and improvements in the existing Goleta Transportation Improvement Plan (GTIP). Ms. Whalen also suggested that emergency evacuation routes should be determined in local transportation planning, similar to other areas, such as Florida, which have planned evacuation routes over roadways surrounding nuclear power plants. Also, Ms. Whalen expressed interest in knowing which transportation improvement projects will be proposed as part of the 2009 GTIP update.

Eva Inbar expressed support of a multi-modal approach to future transportation improvement planning, but also expressed concern regarding the opportunities to implement bikeway and other improvement due to limited funding and the preexisting traditional roadway system.

Wilson Hubbell, Vice President of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, conveyed the organization's interest in working with the GVPAC to realize improvements to bicycle facilities in the Goleta Valley. Mr. Hubbell referred to past agreements with UCSB to make improvements to bicycle facilities as part of development impacts mitigation agreements, but noted that most of the improvements occurred in areas now incorporated in the City of Goleta; future



agreements with UCSB should focus on improvements for the Eastern Goleta Valley. Mr. Hubbell also expressed concern that traffic studies undercount bicycle riders and do not include students, shoppers, trips to dentist, and other trips that could be done on bicycles. He suggested that existing infrastructure be upgraded and future improvements be implemented with design standards to connect cyclists with the same destinations that drivers frequent.

Patti Close expressed concern about projected future traffic conditions in the Goleta Valley would require significantly widened roads, as she has observed in the Bay Area and Orange County. Ms. Close identified concerns that widened roads would negatively affect the character and function of the Goleta Valley community considering crowded traffic conditions, particularly at Turnpike Rd. Ms. Close also expressed concern that new residential development in the future would cause severe traffic congestion regardless of mitigation and that national trip general rates and peak-hour traffic studies used to determine impacts and mitigations of new projects do not adequately capture the actual number of peak hour trips from households or the travel patterns of salespeople, service providers, mothers, students and others throughout the day. Ms. Close expressed support of making the connections between roadways, bikepaths, sidewalks, and other transportation corridors and discussed lack of safety in general as the primary impedance to children walking to school. Ms. Close recommended restriction of future housing unit development to manage traffic congestion issues.

5. Goleta Valley Van Tour:

The GVPAC members discussed the minutes from the January 24th, 2009 Van Tour of the Goleta Valley and overall reflections of the event as beneficial to the planning process. Bonnie Freeman acknowledged a change in the minutes to include the discussion of an additional 5 acres of Por la Mar Nursery property near Maria Ygnacia Creek that the property owner has expressed interest in rezoning as residential, as well as a map of the proposal being provided to the GVPAC and the County by the property owner.

Public Comment:

Ann Crosby commented on the following van tour stops:

Stop #4: Ms. Crosby provided questions regarding the discussion of the reasons why residential development in the Goleta Valley foothills would not be preferable to new residential development closer to the urban areas and the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara, and referred to a GVC 20/20 determination that higher density developments should be spread around the whole area and not just in one area.

Stop #7: Ms Crosby questioned the discussion of average daily trips (ADTs) and vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) as measures to



assess intersection function and improvements in the future and expressed concern that the minutes were editorialized.

Stop #12: Ms. Crosby expressed concern about transit oriented design (TOD) with regard to Lane Farms.

Stop #14: Ms Crosby commented on County staff example of residential sprinkler systems as conditions of approval for any future development on More Mesa. Ms. Crosby expressed concern that sprinkler systems alone would not adequately address public health and safety without consideration of emergency access and evacuations of the area.

Mary Whalen suggested that identification of park and recreation needs of areas south of Hollister Ave as a priority for the GVPAC during the van tour should be added to the van tour minutes for Stop #6. Ms. Whalen also expressed concern that the van tour agenda did not include all the developable sites reviewed by the Neighborhood Council and the Goleta Visioning Committee, particularly the County's Calle Real Campus, St. Vincent's at Foothill and Hwy 154, and areas along Hollister Ave and North Patterson, and urged the GVPAC and County staff to hold a second van tour workshop later in the planning process to revisit specific sites to discuss land use and development potential.

6. Minutes of January 24th, 2009 GVPAC :

Amendments:

A statement describing the nature of the van tour was added to clarify the minutes as general discussion not necessarily attributable to a specific contributor. Discussion details during the van tour identifying park and recreation needs of areas south of Hollister Ave as a priority for the GVPAC were added to the van tour minutes for Stop #6. Details discussed during Stop #13 concerning an additional 5 acres of Por la Mar Nursery property near Maria Ygnacia Creek proposed to be rezoned for residential, as well as a map of the proposal being provided to the GVPAC and the County, were added to the van tour minutes.

ACTION: None



7. Adjournment

Next GVPAC Meeting (#9) will be held on Wednesday, February 18th, 2009 at 6:00 in the Planning Commission Hearing Room

ACTION: Elliott moved, seconded by Adams, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn until GVPAC Meeting #9.

Yea: Adams, Elliott, Freeman, Olson, True

Nay: None

Absent: Ezal, Mineau

Meeting Adjourned at 9:23PM

Signed _____

Valerie F. Olson

Date

3 March 2009

GVPAC Chair Olson

