



# County of Yolo

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

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## MEMBERS:

DISTRICT 1 Samuel Bivins  
DISTRICT 2 Bruce Eldridge  
DISTRICT 3 Kevin Spesert  
DISTRICT 4 Steve Zehner  
DISTRICT 5 Hans Strandgaard  
AT LARGE Olin Woods

*Members Present: Bruce Eldridge, Steve Zehner, Hans Strandgaard, Olin Woods, Samuel Bivins, Kevin Spesert*

*County Staff: Panos Kokkas*

## Meeting Minutes

Cache Creek Conference Room; Thursday, April 28, 2016, **4:00 – 5:30 PM**

### 1. Public Comment

- a. No public comment

### 2. Approval of Minutes of March 31, 2016

- a. The meeting minutes from March 31, 2016 were approved as corrected.
- b. Approved minutes will be posted on the County Website.

### 3. TAC Comments on CR 98 Widening Exhibits from Jim

- a. Staff indicated that construction will not begin for another five years, and that the CR 98 widening project is planned to address future traffic issues as opposed to present ones. No environmental work has been done yet and the County is still looking for the construction funding. The power lines will be moved as was done on Phase 1 of the project from CR 29 to Woodland. CR 98 will be moved east between CR31 and Russell Blvd to accommodate the wider road without impacting the houses on the west side of the road.
- b. Since the CR 98 widening project is in early planning stages, many details have yet to be resolved. For example it is unclear whether intersections will be managed through roundabouts or traditional traffic signals. Roundabouts have significant cost advantages over traffic signals since they require very little maintenance and the potential for accidents is significantly reduced compared to a 4-way stop due to reduced number of movements. The County will be hiring a roundabout specialty consultant to help them with any roundabout plans, since staff have little experience with roundabout design.
- c. Current plans show that a bike path will be installed on the widened CR 98

between Russell and Hutchison. If roundabouts are installed, the bike path is likely to be separated from the main road within the roundabout.

- d. Road closures due to construction will be determined further along in the planning process. Soil conditions in the area require more intensive construction and construction of a new road bed. Staff noted that there are significant cost savings if the road is closed and constructed all at once, rather than through piecemeal closures. Cross-traffic issues can be addressed by keeping intersections open during construction so that perpendicular traffic can cross the road.
- e. The project will be approximately 4.5 miles long, from CR 29 to the Solano County border. The length is similar to what was constructed for Phase 1 and that project was constructed over a 4 month period with road closure beginning in September and finishing in December(due to a late start).

#### **4. CR 29-89 Traffic Issues for Proposed Bed and Breakfast Event Center**

- a. This agenda item will be rescheduled for a later meeting since Barbara Dieter was not able to make it to the meeting.

#### **5. Discussion of CR 105 RR Crossing Closure proposal by UP (Panos)**

- a. There have been issues with vehicles taking the curve before the crossing too quickly and running through the guardrail and onto railroad tracks. The average speed of vehicles traveling along the curve or the road is approximately 38 miles per hour. There have been multiple accidents and several fatalities at the crossing.
- b. The guardrail for the westbound traffic making the turn to the north at the curve has been hit multiple times. Replacement of the damaged guardrail is time consuming and expensive because the curvature of the railing is non-standard and it has to be specially ordered.
- c. UP has proposed closing the crossing and dead ending the County roads on either side. Both the City of Davis and the County have stated their opposition to closing the crossing; however, the crossing is owned by the RR and use of it by the County is allowed by license. The PUC will make the ultimate decision on UP's application to close the crossing.
- d. Bruce Eldridge observed that closing the crossing will lead to a major amount of additional traffic on I-80 and Chiles Rd. Olin Woods expressed surprise that UP would consider closing the crossing given the likely traffic problems. Olin Woods suggested that the County consider hiring a railroad consultant to negotiate with UP regarding the proposed crossing closure.
- e. Staff noted that UP has delayed their application for closing until the City votes on the Innovation Center construction project, which could have big impacts on the number of cars using the crossing. Staff noted that a grade separation (bridge or underpass) could cost almost \$20 million, so was not an option for this location.
- f. The TAC will continue this item at a later date and after the elections.

#### **6. TAC Comments on 2016 Budget, Motion for Approval of Budget**

- a. Staff responded to several questions on the County Transportation budget including: standby time is for afterhours work where a designated employee is on-call for accidents and storm related calls; payoff is to buyout vacation time;

- the County rents equipment that they don't have since it is cheaper than owning it-for example an excavator for excavations greater than 15' deep, water trucks, sheepsfoot rollers; the line item for right-of-way is a quirk of the budgeting program, it is project related right-of-way acquisition.
- b. After receiving responses on various line items within the budget, Hans Strandgaard moved to approve the budget and send it to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was approved unanimously.

**7. Chiles Road at I-80 Flooding County/Caltrans Discussion (Panos)**

- a. Staff discussed the flooding issue with maintenance staff from Caltrans. Caltrans sometimes forgets to open the manual valve that drains water from I-80 retention basins and then the County's road floods and deteriorates. Caltrans also can't open the valve whenever water levels in the bypass are high.
- b. Staff recommended that Caltrans replace the manual valve with a one-way swing valve to avoid the issue of someone having to open it.
- c. Staff and Caltrans have not yet come to an agreement that will resolve the flooding issue; however, contact has been made and TAC will discontinue this issue for now.

**8. Follow-up on County posting of Agenda and Minutes on Co. Website**

- a. Staff will post meeting minutes more promptly in the future.
- b. Public comment: a member of the public noted that he was not receiving emails about meetings, even though those emails are supposed to be automated.
- c. Hans suggested that all TAC members visit the website and sign up for the automatic notifications.

**9. Public Works Update (Kokkas)**

- a. Staff indicated that they expect the CR 12 bridge project to go out for bids, but does not know yet how the project will be funded. Staff expressed frustration that left over Caltrans funds are available in November, but not distributed by SACOG until the following April, often shortening the time available for construction. Ideally, the County likes to bid projects in February or March to be ready for spring construction.
- b. Olin Woods suggested that staff work with other local government engineers to put a discussion the disbursement of left over Caltrans funds on the agenda for SACOG's upcoming planning meeting.
- c. Public Works staff have selected Clarksburg Road and South River Road for road rehabilitation. Issues with those roads are severe in comparison to other County roads and the projects are the right size such that they can be done within the County's meager road budget. Staff sometimes have to select rehabilitation projects based on the size of the project versus the budget available. Funding levels may need to be increased in order to repair more of the County's roads more regularly. Staff will continue to update the Committee on the status of this project.

**10. Possible Streetcar Update (Jim to check with Luken)**

- a. Olin Woods provided a brief update on new elements of the proposed

streetcar project. He will send out an article to the TAC that recently appeared in the Bee.

#### **11. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- a. Members of the committee suggested that an update about the Rail Realignment Study be included on the next agenda. Hans will check if David Zehder from EPS can come in to present on the economic study they did.
- b. Possibly invite Renee/SACOG to a future meeting for an update.
- c. Members of the Committee also discussed holding a future meeting at the UC Davis Airport; Olin who is a pilot, will check with someone he knows there.

#### **12. Next Meeting Date, Time and Location- May 26, 2016**

Cache Creek Conference Room 4pm-5:30pm