



## *CITY OF RIDGECREST*

### **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

City Council Conference Room  
100 W. California Avenue.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

**Monday, October 22, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.**

#### **Minutes**

Present Chairman Tom Wiknich; Members Steve Morgan, Lois Beres and Nellavan Jeglum, City staff, public and media

1. **CALL TO ORDER**  
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
The agenda was approved
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
N/A
4. **COMMENTS: (PUBLIC COMMENT)**  
None
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
  - a. CDBG Norma project (Pollock) – CE Pollock informed the committee that there is not enough funds for the Norma project. The old numbers, \$500K, equates to \$906K in today's figures. It used to be that we could borrow ahead however HUD doesn't want to do that. Staff looked at the options, the plan has to be amended to reflect changes. We'll have enough funds to do Norma Church to Ridgecrest, may need to eliminate the sidewalk. Member Morgan expressed concern eliminating sidewalk and requested staff to find the \$75K needed.
  - b. Rite Aid left turn lane – CE Pollock presented an overview of what the project entailed. China Lake Blvd is being widened. The original plan for Ridgecrest Blvd. was a solid median with one left turn; due to changes (i.e., Chinese restaurant not moving) the plans changed. We can try the left turn, it eliminates the conflicting left turns and if it doesn't work it can be closed. EM Parsons commented that the planning process was followed; no comments were received from the Police Department and the normal Public Works conditions were followed. The left turn was presented, reviewed and approved at Planning Commission.

- Dave Matthews - thought the left turn was for China Lake Blvd. and it should be that way. Concerned with 2 left turns within a half block.
- Dorothy Brown – Rite Aid has three access points. Only eliminating one left turn, why complain. Don't think they get enough traffic to warrant worrying about it.
- Eric Kaufman – This is a convoluted intersection, your asking for trouble. No left turn.
- Bud Klamp – the Chief's preference was not left turn; agree there should be no left turn.
- John Robb – commented that what's proposed is a backwards left turn.

Member Morgan expressed concern with creating three left turns in close distance (one on Balsam, 200 feet east, and China Lake Blvd.). This is a major safety issue, don't want left turn pocket. Member Beres agreed it shouldn't be done; prefer solid median. Member Jeglum concurred; it's the safest thing to do.

The committee unanimously referred a recommendation to City Council that the left turn at Rite Aid not be allowed.

c. Roundabout (Wiknich) – Chair Wiknich asked for input on whether this item should go to Council or Infrastructure, does the committee have recommendation. Member Morgan expressed concern with this item being discussed in various Council committee meetings; believe we're on the edge of a Brown Act violation. Due to comments and public perception feel this item should be discussed at Council. Member Beres suggested tabling this item until we have a proposal; too many unanswered questions. Member Jeglum agreed.

- Dave Matthews commented that his experience with roundabouts is that you can't get out of them. Doesn't look like there's enough room.
- Dorothy Brown expressed concern with the number of traffic lights and stop signs in Ridgecrest. How many more do we need; look at roundabouts.

The committee unanimously agreed to forward this to the Council with no recommendation for or against the roundabout from the committee.

## 6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.