



## *CITY OF RIDGECREST*

### **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

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

**Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.**

#### **Agenda**

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

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** September 11, 2007  
The minutes were approved.
4. **COMMENTS: (PUBLIC COMMENT)**  
Dorothy Brown mentioned the school zone sign at the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist School may need to be moved east.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
  - a. Traffic plan for new location of Rite Aid (Morgan) – Member Morgan expressed concern with the traffic flow. CE Pollock reviewed the drawings with the committee; there will be a median with a left turn pocket into Rite Aid which will also take care of the left turn conflict into Bank of America. The committee discussed and received public comments. Mr. Robb requested the left turn pocket be turned around because the radio station loses left turn access; there will be problems with stopping and making legal left turn thus creating accidents. Member Morgan questioned if the current plan is the safest and commented that turning the left turn pocket to allow access to a dirt lot vs. a legal paved lot makes things worse. Member Beres indicated she didn't see a problem with the plans; understand there will be no access to dirt lot. Member Jeglum commented that the public hearing was the time to bring this issue up; understand concern, once used we will find out if it works. Member Morgan asked staff what the safest solution. PW Director Speer responded a solid median is the safest; ACM Avery agreed. ED Mgr. Parsons indicated that the median is paid by developer with the agreement of a left turn; could be looking at litigation. PS Director McRea commented that the

project went through the required process and it's a little late to do what's proposed. ***This item will be forwarded to Council***

b. Infrastructure Sales Tax initiative/Creation of the documentation (Sales Tax Measure- Wiknich) – Items b&c were combined. Chair Wiknich distributed hand-outs and discussed options to move forward with initiative. Council didn't like the idea of not doing a survey. Chair Wiknich explained how he did survey when campaigning for Council. City may need to hire someone/company to promote the initiative. The proposal will have three requirements which included specific projects, no discretionary funds, and a sunset clause. It's estimated that \$750K per year will be collected. CM Rose indicated Council will need to decide if they want to do pay as you go and it needs to be explained that costs go up resulting in less projects. Can get more done with a bond but that amounts to debt.

- Member Beres suggested by not borrowing there will be no evidence of doing anything. Either way it will be 2-03 years before start seeing anything.
- Member Jeglum indicated she liked the list and sunset clause; need to be clear that if passed things won't start tomorrow.
- Member Morgan commented that you can get more pavement by combining projects; not opposed to initiative, just concerned.
- Jim Fallgatter suggested making documentation available, showing how numbers are stacked and rationale. Put on website; it shows homework is done.

The committee reviewed the proposed public hearing schedule and recommended this item be moved forward to City Council with the proposed projects as listed.

c. Initiative survey discussion (Wiknich) – combined with item b.

d. General plan update (Beres) – Member Beres distributed handouts; still in planning stage. Group is looking at long, short, and midterm planning. Predicting growth in the south and west; fill everything except 5% before annexation. City will need to coordinate with County on Bowman out to Hwy 395.

e. Bowman Road - Corridor plan, cost of 4-lanes; Walmart-Norma (Pollock) and Fill dirt excavation plan (Morgan) – Member Morgan inquired about the plans to dig channel. CE Pollock commented it shouldn't be piece mailed; retention basin will be needed, the ground rises at Forrest Knoll.

f. Median program for China Lake – Member Morgan asked if staff has looked at the possibility of the City paying for solid median. Staff indicated it has not been looked into; City would be paying approximately \$1.5 million. *This item was continued*

- g. Intersection of French and China Lake (Jeglum) – Member Jeglum commented that there is a big change in pavement. CE Pollock indicated Caltrans is aware and have been working on it.
- h. Stop Sign at Balsam & Argus (Jeglum) – Member Jeglum indicated that the neighbors have been complaining about people speeding. ACM Avery commented that the Police Department has looked at the intersection and didn't see a problem.
- i. Gas tax funds (Speer) – PWD Speer handed out and reviewed the Gas Tax Fund manual.
- j. Dot Programs (Speer) – continued to next meeting
- k. 2008 RTIP (Speer) – PWD Speer reviewed letter from Kern Cog regarding projects. There is no funding available, but we have to resubmit for Ridgecrest Blvd. 7<sup>th</sup> Standard Road will likely consume 40% of funding available to outlying Kern Co. cities. Member Morgan requested staff gather all information possible including pictures for his meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We will lose environmental if 7<sup>th</sup> Standard Road is approved.
- l. Ridgecrest Blvd Project/Plan update (Morgan) – this item was combined with item J
- m. Update on pothole patching machine (Speer) – PWD Speer presented an update. The Committee directed staff to forward to Council with recommendation that the purchase be sole sourced.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PWD Speer handed out street/traffic sign information and standards. Bids are out for the Downs Landscaping. Met with SCE, there is \$2 million for undergrounding. District needs to be formed and public hearing held. It will take SCE about 18 months to develop plan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.