



# CITY OF RIDGECREST

## INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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

**Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.**

### Minutes

Present: Chair Tom Wiknich, Members Steve Morgan and Nellavan Jeglum, City staff, 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 November 13, 2007  
The minutes were approved
4. COMMENTS: (PUBLIC COMMENT)  
Mr. Dave Matthews asked about the status of making the speed limit lines visible on Las Flores. CE Pollock indicated staff plans on painting a "stop ahead" on the street.

Mr. William Howard commented on the recycling mandate and questioned whether recycling bins could be put at commercial sites.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:
  - a. Request to move stop sign on Balsam and French – PW Director Speer explained that the issue with this stop sign is that a street light is in the way – there are 3 or 4 that exist. The committee and public offered options including bigger sign, putting a sign in the middle of street, dots on street, putting led lights on top of sign, designating parking close to sign for compact cars only. Member Jeglum commented that she doesn't think it's a problem. *Action: staff to develop a solution/proposal.*
  - b. Update from Lahontan – CE Pollock reviewed the letter received from Lahontan and explained the ongoing problem to the committee. Drywells work with no nuisance water; trash will plug up the well. Member Morgan asked if we could block off the channel. CE Pollock indicated then the water would just puddle; it would cost \$700K to remodel the street. Chair Wiknich suggested the City keep pushing and if needed going to the state level; the committee concurred.
  - c. Project updates for FY07-08 – PW Director Speer presented and overview of projects and distributed handouts spoke about CDBG and state funding and what's attached to them. Bids opened for Downs Landscaping, we're out for bid on the wheel chair ramps, and the engineering is about done for the traffic light on Church and China Lake. Projects in progress include College Heights, the Ward and China

Lake traffic signal, and the Bowman bike stations. Ridgecrest Blvd. is programmed for 2010; money may not be available until 2015. There's a meeting next week to look at creating a Version 3 that will be forwarded to Kern COG. Member Morgan commented in the future Kern COG will only look at regional roads and explained what this means for Ridgecrest; our only regional road will be China Lake Blvd.

Mr. Mike Neel commented there will be no money in 2015; money will go to entitlements.

Member Morgan indicated there is an issue with the CNG refueling station. Funds are programmed and the City is not using it; it is a viable project in conjunction with the corporate yard. *Action: Put on next agenda with timeline, projected cost, and required matching funds*

- d. 3-5 year projection – CE Pollock stated when you do this you make a list with no meaning for two reasons: no funding sources and increase of construction costs.

Mr. Fred Hawkins inquired into the funding process; CE Pollock explained the process and stated the City is pretty much up to date with funded projects. PW Director Speer described the pavement management system; CE Pollock commented ours was updated 5 years ago and PCI 62/63.

PW Director Speer explained there are things that need to be considered and looked at including TDA funds, safety lights (possibly turning some these off), street sweeping (it's necessary for maintenance and road work, but also a luxury). Gas tax funds requires carryover, City doesn't do it. Member Nellavan asked if new tax (i.e., hotel) could be diverted to certain projects. *Action: Staff to find out if new taxes can be designated for certain projects.*

- e. Update of Council action on Roads Initiative – Chair Wiknich reported the discussion that took place at Council and asked what's next.
- Member Morgan – City can get there without consultant. List was a draft. Doesn't think the point got across. No question money is lost to transit because of perceived unmet needs. If no measure, suggest TOT split be abolished; eliminate quality of life slush funds. The Council should have taken a vote; this doesn't necessarily mean a measure on ballot.
  - Member Jeglum – concurred with Member Morgan. Committee made request to do survey without consultant. We're not talking about parks; only roads. If not limited to just that, won't win.
  - Mr. Dave Mathews – Felt disappointed and betrayed. Citizens won't be able to get it done by next election; this has to rely with the City.
  - Mr. Frank Hawkins – There's enough public spirited citizens to put together. Questioned how Council would feel watching citizens to this. Some of the council need adjustment in attitude; lead or be led.
  - Mr. Mike Neel – Council to lead; get the job done. Not against tax but need to do what can be done first.
  - Mr. William Howard – Look at Steve's suggestions and start fixing roads, we'll be better off. Questioned whether the initiative is a tax which goes into the General Fund which would then require only requires 3 votes of the council to

divert it. Member Morgan commented that it would be a specific tax. Don't think any council can divert it; will look into.

The committee requested the council vote on this issue; interested in infrastructure only. Additionally, the committee requested that the City Organization Committee look at discontinuing the TOT split.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
PW Director Speer updated the committee on the utility district.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.