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## MEETING SUMMARY

### SOUTH COAST SUBREGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

March 2, 2005

1:00 PM

SBMTD Conference Room  
550 Olive Street  
Santa Barbara, CA

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District; Dan Secord, Councilman, City of Santa Barbara; Donna Jordan, Councilwoman, City of Carpinteria; Marty Mariscal, Councilman, City of Santa Maria; Jonny Wallis, Councilwoman, City of Goleta; Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Dan Herron, Community Planner for Gregg Albright, Director, Caltrans District 5.

**Members Absent:** Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District.

**Staff Members Present:** Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Gregg Hart, Public Information Officer.

**Consulting Team Present:** Bob Bramen, PBQD.

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Secord asked for public comment and there was none.

#### 3. MEETING SUMMARY

There were no board comments on the Meeting Summary of February 2, 2005.

#### 4. 101 IN MOTION

##### A. Summary of evaluation results for 7 alternative packages

Bob Bramen presented the performance criteria and the 6 remaining alternative packages. Chairman Secord asked how the busway improved auto trip times and Mr. Bramen replied there are other elements in the package that benefit other modes. Councilman Mariscal asked if eminent domain would be used to secure additional rail right of way and Mr. Bramen replied that the land would be

leased or purchased. Mayor Hicks asked why the benefits of package 8 seemed better than a combined 3 and 5. Mr. Bramen replied that there are synergistic benefits to some of the alternatives. Phil Demery emphasized that the overall value in the package is a combination of factors.

Barry Siegel asked about the impacts of the improvements on the off-ramps and Mr. Bramen replied that since interchange design is not being addressed at this stage some of the details would be examined following project selection. Marc Bradley asked if the six-lane widening south of Milpas Street and commuter rail were sufficient to address congestion north of Milpas and Mr. Bramen replied no. Lisa Plowman asked if costs were available for each alternative and Mr. Bramen replied yes. Board members expressed interest in obtaining more information on discrete project costs. Mr. Bradley asked if an employer based parking pricing policy was considered. Mr. Bramen replied that various pricing options were considered but no mandatory pricing options were deemed by the TAG and the SAC to be acceptable to the public and worthy of further study.

**B. Review progress and possible recommendations of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to identify 304 alternative packages for public input and provide direction**

Mr. Bramen provided a summary of progress on this item. Chairman Secord asked about the benefits of voluntary restrictions on truck delivery hours. Mr. Bramen replied that a local ordinance would be required to have significant effects. Councilman Mariscal asked about the impacts of rail accidents on that mode of travel and Mr. Bramen replied that a “bus bridge” is used as a temporary solution until passenger rail service is back on schedule.

Jim Kemp asked if the general trends in findings were deemed acceptable and indicated that the committee members would have to address the policy issues associated with a package that did not solve all the forecast congestion problems. Mayor Hicks and Councilwoman Willis stressed that the reasons for excluding alternatives need to be clearly documented. Councilwoman Jordan stated that public review of three vs. eight or six options will be easier to explain to the public. Supervisor Firestone emphasized the need for leadership and resolve in selecting a package and stressed the need to avoid working on proposals that won't work.

Lisa Plowman from Planning and Development advocated for a greater role in the local paper. Barry Siegel requested access to the background data.

Chairman Secord indicated the TAG was going in the right direction. Councilwoman Wallis concurred but emphasized the public needs simple explanations.

**C. Review subsequent steps in public outreach process**

Gregg Hart reviewed the public outreach process and stressed staff's ongoing outreach to various groups. He stated that staff had not received any significant concerns about the deletion of prior alternatives. He concurred with board comments that simplicity was key in explaining the process and the alternatives. Councilwoman Jordan recommended responses to local editorials such as the recent one on the ferries. Supervisor Firestone expressed concern about too

many meetings and the need to drop projects that do not work. Councilwoman Wallis stated that part of the message must indicate that alternatives are being examined, that studies need to be available, staff needs to brief city councils, and staff should consider a workshop. Mr. Hart replied that staff has been out to the cities and plans repeat visits and additional documentation will be available. He added that the workshop option was tried early on and it drew insufficient attendance.

**D. Review land use sensitivity testing proposal recommended by TAG and SAC**

Michael Powers summarized the staff report. Mayor Hicks and Councilwoman Jordan indicated this should proceed but cautioned about future steps given the sensitivity of local land use concerns. Mr. Powers replied that this would provide some baseline level of analysis.

Mr. Kemp highlighted the upcoming board workshop on Measure D on March 11.

**6. ADJOURN**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.