

City of Corona

400 S. Vicentia Ave.
Corona, CA 92882



Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

3:30 PM

Council Chambers

Study Session

**CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE
CITY OF
CORONA/CORONA PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY/CORONA UTILITY
AUTHORITY/CORONA
HOUSING AUTHORITY MEETING**

**Jason Scott, Mayor
Jim Steiner, Vice Mayor
Yolanda Carrillo, Council Member
Jacque Casillas, Council Member
Wes Speake, Council Member**

Rollcall

Present: 5 - Jason Scott, Jim Steiner, Yolanda Carrillo, Jacque Casillas and Wes Speake

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Casillas.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Scott called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Agenda Items

A. [19-0291](#) McKinley Grade Separation Project Update.

Nelson Nelson, Public Works Director, introduced the item and Michael Thomas, Project Manager from Biggs Cardosa Associates, Inc.

Mr. Thomas provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following: project background which included the timeline, schedule and budget; project benefits which included safety, traffic congestion relief; alternatives considered and current alternative; innovative solutions; progress to-date; the 35% cost estimate; independent peer review; underpass alternative; four lanes with frontage roads; request BNSF Railway design exceptions; and the next steps.

Mr. Nelson provided a brief overview on the agreement with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) including restrictions on the use of SB 1 funds under the agreement and the funding currently available.

Council Member Speake inquired about the schedule and budget, meetings with businesses, and right-a-way process. He expressed concern with right-a-way impacts and affect on local businesses such as those within the Food4Less shopping center: utility relocations, contingency on right-a-way costs, good-will costs, street elevations of frontage roads, cost of a 4-lane bridge versus 6-lane bridge, additional funding/funding eligibility, and political will in general regarding approval of additional funds to the City of Corona.

Mark Mendoza, Project Director from Paragon Partners, Mr. Thomas and Erik Pheifer, Senior Bridge Engineer from Biggs Cardosa, Inc., provided clarification on the inquiries made by Council Member Speake.

Council Member Casillas discussed funding for the project. She expressed concerns with projecting funding for the project that have not yet been procured. She provided comments regarding the innovative design,

the peer review report; changes that may be feasible, controlling costs are imperative, interest in seeking out transportation partners. Council Member Casillas inquired about the status on the contract services for project manager, consideration of BNSF Railway exemptions, and she expressed that her biggest concern is sufficient funding of the project. She stated that she would like to see alternative funding sources other than just SB 132 funding, and questioned firm restrictions with SB132 funding.

Dean Derleth, City Attorney, and Mr. Nelson provided clarification regarding the spending of SB132 funding, stipulated restrictions under SB 132 and the RCTC Agreement regarding the consideration of alternative designs.

Vice Mayor Steiner inquired about the BNSF Railway contributions. Mr. Thomas provided clarification on the inquiries made by Vice Mayor Steiner.

Mayor Scott made comments about the traffic flow with and without the project, four lanes with frontage roads, and 4-lane bridge versus 6-lane bridge. He inquired about traffic volumes, Caltrans, BNSF Railway exemptions, and federal funding that can be pursued. Mayor Scott inquired about comments made by Council Member Casillas regarding changes to the project that are feasible.

Council Member Casillas provided clarification of her previous comments and explained that her statement was based on the peer review results. Mr. Thomas and Darren Adrien, Civil Manager from Kimley-Horn & Associates, provided additional clarification. Mr. Nelson provided clarification regarding the removal of federal funding in order to meet the stipulated deadline of SB 132.

Council Member Speake inquired about the increase on traffic volumes and if it was being based on standard models. Mr. Adrien provided clarification. Council Member Carrillo expressed her support and confidence in the project and stated that the primary challenge is the costs of right-of-way.

Michele Wentworth, resident, addressed the Council and expressed concern with the project deadlines and timeline, questioning what other projects or work the city is sacrificing in order to fund this project. Mr. Nelson clarified that local funds allocated for projects have been dedicated in the city's approved budget in the same manner as other city projects.

Stacy Lee, Property owner PPL, addressed the Council regarding concerns with property owners being compensated.

Ahmed Radwan, business owner, addressed the Council regarding his concerns with the comments made by the presenters, safety of bridges, and buying of the businesses.

Janeen Arreguin, resident, addressed the Council regarding the amount of congestion on McKinley and Griffin being caused by the bridge and the appropriate use of taxes.

Alysia Padilla-Vaccaro, business owner, addressed comments made by the Council and presenters, requesting a traffic study and inquired about possible agreement with RCTC to provide a driveway into their property closer to McKinley.

Stephanie Kai, resident, addressed the Council regarding concerns with the project schedule, additional funding, and the proposed Food4Less driveway.

Michael Kim, engineer, working with tenant Food4Less shopping center, addressed the Council regarding the shopping center, noting that some alternatives will not mitigate impact to businesses, cost of project, and requested a study of the economic impact to property owners and business owners.

Joe Morgan, resident, addressed the Council regarding his concerns with Public Comment time limit and the economic analysis of project.

Tom Richins, resident, addressed the Council regarding his concerns and comments made by Council Member Casillas regarding other options.

Don Fuller, resident, addressed the Council regarding his concern with the bridge design and money being tied to a specific design.

Mr. Nelson and Council Member Casillas provided clarification to comments made by the public. Council Member Speake commented about the uncertainty on impacts and costs. Mayor Scott addressed public safety, length of trains, commute, and uncertainty of consequences associated with options to proceed for business and residents.

3. Public Comments

Joe Morgan, resident, addressed his concerns regarding various Public Works' projects.

4. Adjournment

Mayor Scott adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.