

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
CONVENED THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2010 7:00 P.M.
SOUTH PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
1401 FREMONT AVENUE**

ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The special meeting of the City Council and Community Update on the proposed SR-710 freeway was convened at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Schneider. City Councilmembers present: Cacciotti, Putnam, and Sifuentes; Mayor Pro tem Ten; and Mayor Schneider. Members absent: None. Other officials present: City Manager Davidson; City Attorney Adams; Assistant City Manager Gonzalez; Fire Chief Wallace; Public Works Director Sweeney; Transportation Manager Woods; Human Resources Manager Cody; Administrative Analyst Chiu; and City Clerk Kilby.

Mayor Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED NORTH EXTENSION OF THE SR-710 FREEWAY

Mayor Schneider welcomed the attendees and made announcements. He said questions will be taken at the end of the agenda unless a presenter has to leave prior to the end of the meeting.

REVIEW OF SR-710 HISTORY & CURRENT LEGAL ACTIONS

7:02 p.m. Mayor Schneider introduced South Pasadena Special Counsel Antonio Rossmann, who provided a review of the proposed SR-710 history and status of current legal actions.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS

Ara Najarian, Chair, Metro Board, and Councilmember, City of Glendale, expressed opposition to the proposed tunnel from the perspective of the Metro Board Chair. In addition, he said, the City of Glendale is also opposed.

Mayor Laura Olhasso, La Canada Flintridge, made a presentation about a Southern California Association of Governments' study on the traffic impact of the proposed tunnel. She said that La Canada Flintridge opposes the proposed tunnel.

Edel Vizcarra, Planning and Transportation Deputy for Councilmember Jose Huizar, City of Los Angeles, made remarks about the City of Los Angeles' position on the proposed freeway/tunnel. He said Councilmember Huizar will be looking out for the best interests of the community of El Sereno, which would be impacted by

both a freeway and a tunnel.

Since some presenters on the panel had to leave, Mayor Schneider said that questions for them would be taken now.

Speakers Olhasso, Najarian, and Vizcarra responded to questions posed by the following: Sam Burgess, South Pasadena; Dr. Bill Sherman, South Pasadena; Don Jones, Pasadena; and Odom Stamps, resident and former Mayor, South Pasadena.

Mayor Schneider thanked the presenters.

GEOTECHNICAL REPORT

7:47 p.m. Mayor Schneider asked Councilmember Putnam to come to the podium to introduce the next two speakers. Councilmember Putnam said that the first speaker, Gary Brierley, is a geotechnical consultant for the City of South Pasadena. Councilmember Putnam provided a review of Dr. Brierley's background and described his work for the City in analyzing the previous tunnel technical feasibility study. Councilmember Putnam provided the biographical background for City consultant Richard Gutshow, City resident and engineer and City representative on the Technical Advisory Committee of the SR-710 Tunnel Technical Study.

Dr. Gary Brierley, City consultant, made a presentation utilizing the PowerPoint slides presented previously by the Metro/Caltrans engineering company CH2MHILL. He provided comments on each slide. He said the study fulfilled its purpose.

Richard Gutschow, City consultant, said that in regard to the results of the study as presented by Dr. Brierley, Zones 2 and 3 are the most feasible for a tunnel and will be prioritized for future studies.

Councilmember Putnam said he is the representative on the SR-710 Tunnel Technical Study Steering Committee. He provided an overview of his experience on the committee. The committee members initially believed that they would be consulted on the study, he said, but were told that Metro would make all the decisions on the scope of the study in conjunction with Caltrans. He said the Steering Committee really had no function. This was extremely frustrating, he said.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mayor Schneider introduced the next two speakers.

8:08 p.m. Assemblymember Anthony Portantino, California State Assembly, 44th District, made a presentation about his experience in opposing the proposed 710 freeway extension, about the Federal Highway Administration's withdrawal of support for the freeway, about the subsequent proposal to construct a tunnel, about various claims by Metro/Caltrans regarding the tunnel, about the feasibility studies and the lack of comprehensive analyses, about legislative efforts to declare the tunnel the preferred alternative, about the initial statement that trucks would not be permitted, about the need to urge the impacted communities to oppose the tunnel, and about legislative efforts to promote the tunnel. He said that the region should unite and work together to protect the region.

Mike Roos, City Legislative Analyst and Strategist, made a presentation about direction he received from the City Council to focus on eliminating the surface freeway and returning the Caltrans houses to the tax rolls. He said that Senate Bill 545 met both goals but did not succeed. He spoke about current efforts to return the houses to home ownership.

**REVIEW OF JANUARY
23, 2010 MEETING**

8:24 p.m. Mayor Schneider introduced Zoe Phillips, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College, Los Angeles, who reviewed the efforts of the Institute related to the proposed freeway/tunnel. On January 23, she said, the College held an action-oriented educational forum, "710 on Trial: Uniting Our Community," to focus on increasing awareness of the proposed extension and create a more unified community response, emphasizing non-freeway alternatives. She described the program and said there were 100 attendees.

**CARGO RAIL
PRESENTATION**

8:30 p.m. Mayor Schneider made a presentation, accompanied by PowerPoint slides, about an alternative to truck transportation of cargo goods. The method he demonstrated consisted of an elevated electric guideway with goods being transported on cargo trams. He described the benefits as compared to road transportation.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

8:41 p.m. Mayor Schneider opened the public comment period.

He asked those who wanted to speak to raise their hands and a staff member would bring a microphone to them. He asked presenters to return to the stage to respond to questions. He read one question about the newest Caltrans houses-related bill; presenter Roos stated that this was Assembly Bill 2316.

Speakers responded to questions from the following individuals who spoke during public comment: Bill Clintworth, Glassell Park; Don Jones, 225 Madeline Drive, Pasadena; Gary Coyne, 1033 Garfield Avenue; Trisha Gossett, 1842 Phillips Way, Highland Park; Jan Soo Hoo, 1339 El Vago Street, La Canada Flintridge; Judy Bergstresser, 1945 Meridian Avenue; Joanne Nuckols, 1531 Ramona Avenue; John Larson, 802 Garfield Avenue; Carol Kramer, no address stated; Judy Barbatoe, 1050 S. Pasadena Avenue, Pasadena; Janet Longson, former Caltrans tenant, 4300 Soquel Drive, #99, Soquel; Dr. Tom Williams, 4115 Barrett Road, El Sereno, Los Angeles; Diana Mahmud, 1602 Camden Parkway; James Powers, South Pasadena; Mary Ann Parada, 1710 Ramona Avenue; Odom Stamps, South Pasadena; and Pamela Marquez, El Sereno, Los Angeles.

Councilmember Putnam said that the City Council could not respond to questions tonight, but that the issue of the City's position on the proposed SR-710 tunnel will be on the upcoming City Council agenda on March 3, 2010. He encouraged all who wanted to discuss this to attend.

Special Counsel Rossmann commented that the multimode alternative concept needs to be updated.

9:30 p.m. Mayor Schneider closed the public comment period.

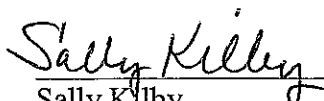
COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS


Councilmember Putnam thanked all for attending and made remarks about opposing the extension of the 710 freeway. He urged all to remain involved in the fight. Councilmember Sifuentes made remarks about his early involvement in the fight and the Council's efforts to remove the surface route. He acknowledged the individuals in the audience who have been involved in the fight for many years. Mayor Pro tem Ten made remarks, correcting statements made by others. He said the tunnel project is allotted not \$780 million from Measure R but \$1.18 billion. He said the surface freeway

is still viable and noted that the Governor said to "leave all options on the table." Mayor Schneider reiterated that discussion of the City's position on the proposed SR-710 freeway is on the next City Council agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.


Sally Kilby
City Clerk


Richard D. Schneider, M.D.
Mayor