



AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
STUDY SESSION
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2004

Present: Council Members - Campos, Chavez, Cortese, Dando, Gregory, LeZotte, Reed, Williams; Gonzales.

Absent: Council Members - Chirco, Yeager. (Excused)

Staff: City Manager Del Borgsdorf, Assistant City Attorney William Hughes, Director of Aviation Ralph Tonseth, Airport Senior Civil Engineer David Maas, Airport Design Manager Doug Jones, Facilitator Eileen Goodwin, Assistant City Clerk Nancy Alford, Legislative Secretary Susan Davis.

Documents Filed: (1) Memorandum from Director of Aviation Ralph Tonseth, dated April 5, 2004, transmitting information for the April 12, 2004 Study Session. (2) Bound printout of the San José City Council Airport Study Session slide presentations. (3) CD ROM of the the San José City Council Airport Study Session slide presentations.

Mayor Gonzales called the Airport Improvement Program Study Session to order and welcomed everyone. Mayor Gonzales introduced the Facilitator of the Study Session, Ms. Eileen Goodwin. Ms. Goodwin remarked that she would keep the program on time, and ensure everyone has an opportunity to give input. She introduced Director of Aviation Ralph Tonseth.

Director Tonseth presented the Council approved Design Parameters which impact the Airport currently. He remarked the masterplan was revised from the original concept of a unit terminal to a centralized terminal concept adopted in November 2001. He commented in the masterplan as a policy of the implementation ordinance a square foot limitation of 1,075,000 square feet was established, along with 40 gates. He stated the building was to be designed for 17.6 million passengers in 2010, and the Council has adopted a specific route from First Street to the terminal for the Automated People Mover (APM), along with a specific technology which is robust enough to also go from the terminal to the BART Station, either underground or above ground. He added Council indicated a preference for a two level roadway in front of the central terminal.

Policy Decision Points and Schedule

Airport Senior Civil Engineer David Maas gave a slide presentation of the Policy Decision Points and Schedule.

Program Framework

Airport Design Manager Doug Jones gave a slide presentation on the Program Framework. Facilitator Goodwin asked for input from Mayor Gonzales and the City Council Members on the Policy Design Points and Schedule and the Program Framework.

Council Member Chavez, referring to the approved design parameters, asked if they are problems to the overall project, for instance the square footage limitation, and whether that is connected to the 40 gate limit and passengers, and asked whether Staff could bring forward information in regard to capturing those impacts and if there are opportunities to be more flexible.

Vice Mayor Dando remarked there were issues from her District 10 Community Meeting on March 30, 2004 she would like to discuss with Staff, and also when the Airport Staff has community meetings, she requested that the input being received is reflected somewhere in the report. She asked when would the Budget become associated with the timeline, and when is it broken down to various components that have a cost or a budget associated with it. She commented in regard to communication, there are a number of good facts sheets on the Airport website but a fact sheet to hand out at community meetings would be more helpful. She remarked in regard to Security, and the way that Staff is looking at the terminal now because of its single terminus and primary entry points, that if one gate has to be closed, they all have to be closed, and that is a huge obstacle. She commented that the Airport needs good security zones, and suggested talking to other airports that have had this problem. She commented during the construction period, as Staff is going through construction with the roadway and the facility torn up, requested Staff to use good signage and outreach to the community. She remarked one of the biggest issues that has come to her attention is public art, and it is important to know the amount that is being spent on public art. She added the public art process is going to be more important than ever, and there is a strong sense in the community that the art process is going without the community, and for the most part, that it is focused on the type of art being considered. She commented the City of San José may be losing an opportunity to have historic art that reflects what the airport is, what it has been, as well as where it might be tomorrow. She expressed alarm to hear Staff is flying people in from Europe to take a look at the art project, and she does not want to see outsourcing of art projects to Europe, as California has great artists and consideration should be given to use local artists.

Council Member Williams remarked many of the items that Vice Mayor Dando raised have also been raised in his community meetings regarding the public art, and the community would like to participate in this in this solution. He remarked in regard to the schedule, he would like to understand how realistic the timeline is and what are the impediments that will impact the timeline.

Council Member Reed remarked the budget should be a separate category. Council Member Chavez remarked that in regard to project implementation that includes phasing, stating construction impact and mitigation should have its own category. Council Member LeZotte expressed agreement in regard to the budget and the arts, particularly the point of the amount of money being spent, and asked what is the framework for looking the art. She remarked under the sustainability, there is a Public Art Green Building Education Innovation Credit that can be obtained under LEEDS and mentioned the West Valley Library is a combination of art and green building. She asked for an explanation of sustainability of phasing. Council Member LeZotte referring to the LEED Certification, stated she was told those are policy decisions that Council will make when it comes to designing in or out sustainability based on the life cycle cost, and when Staff is talking about the length of time that this building will be used it far exceeds the thirty years of the bonding. She asked when will that policy decision be coming to the Council and hopefully it is the Council and not Staff that are making the decisions with regard to sustainability at the Airport.

Travel Trends – Impacts on Airport Design

Rob Steinberg, an architect on the design team gave a slide presentation of the Travel Trends and Impacts on Airport Design.

Discussion of Aesthetic Design and The Airport in Transition

Steve Weindel from Gensler Architecture of the master plan team gave a slide presentation of the Aesthetic Design, the Airport Site and the big picture, and the North Concourse. Airport Design Manager Doug Jones gave a slide presentation of the Airport in Transition.

Summary and Next Steps

Facilitator Goodwin asked for comments from Mayor Gonzales and the City Council Members.

Council Member Reed commented in terms of the user experience, the seats should be comfortable, and the Canopy allows the user the experience of a park, with soft, filtered light.

Mayor Gonzales agreed the user needs to be comfortable, and the Canopy has potential, adding it is not expensive, and very unique. Mayor Gonzales remarked that a type of educational display with the history of San José and Santa Clara County would be powerful.

Vice Mayor Dando remarked the way the Airport affects the passenger, is that the “user” spends more time on the inside of an airport. She expressed preference for the Canopy design, which has a garden like atmosphere, natural light as in a park setting, with the façade and stretched canvas porous light that filters through. She commented it is difficult to separate out the architectural versus public art, and perhaps Staff can use additional funds on the items that make the building work well in the inside.

Council Member Chavez indicated a preference for the Canopy, and commented on the next steps in which Staff could build and plan for the average day, but to also plan for the peak times. Council Member Gregory remarked the Canopy gives the user the pleasure of open space, and agreed with an art display of the history of the City of San José. Council Member LeZotte remarked the Canopy gives the user the physical feel of a paseo-like shopping atmosphere. Council Member Cortese preferred the Canopy, and to integrate the public art educational component, memorializing the history of San José, perhaps utilizing “fruit box art” in honor of the City’s rich canning history. Council Member Williams preferred the light airy feeling of the Canopy. Council Member Campos remarked the Canopy gives the user a calm feeling. She added San José is a beautiful City; bring the California sun indoors, with the paseo-like atmosphere and the space.

Mayor Gonzales referring to the Transitional Architecture Schemes starting on Page 36, remarked the City is striving for a safe, practical functional airport. He commented it is the City of San José’s port of call, the place where people are initially introduced to the City, and last place they leave. He advised Staff to be budget wise but creative.

Vice Mayor Dando expressed concern that the transitional area should not be the area in which to spend an excess of money on, and did not particularly like the two schemes indicated. She remarked the Airport should be easy access in and out, the seats comfortable, easy access to luggage, a well functioning building, as more classic traditional comfort works well. She mentioned on Slide 42, she did like the concept of the roof to “pop up”.

Council Member Chavez mentioned Scheme Two was interesting, and the North Concourse should be functional with or without the light on. Council Member Gregory agreed that an interesting visual is something to grab people’s attention, even if it is temporary for 10 years, however there are budget constraints. He added the airport should be comfortable and memorable for travelers.

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Council Member LeZotte expressed concern with the inside of the Airport, stating the outside should not be the focal point, and preferred Scheme Two. Council Member Cortese remarked he did not like either Scheme for the North Concourse, but likes the concept, perhaps if Staff added more detail to Scheme Two. Council Member Reed remarked most of the traffic to the Airport is in the daytime and suggested Staff work with more color. Council Member Williams remarked that Airport should make a statement; Staff should be creative and innovative, and is looking forward to see the concepts come back. Council Member Williams asked why is the parking lot located where it is, and asked if there was another location for the parking lot.

Facilitator Goodwin commented that Staff would take all the comments and input received from Mayor Gonzales and the City Council Members, work with the Mayor's office to summarize it, and return to Council.

Mayor Gonzales adjourned the Airport Improvement Program Study Session at 3:58 p.m.

NANCY ALFORD, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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