



Regular Meeting  
Of the  
San José  
Transportation & Environment Committee  
Held  
November 5, 2007 at 1:30 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Forrest Williams; Vice Chair Sam Liccardo; Councilmember Judy Chirco;  
Vice Mayor Dave Cortese

Guests: Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies; Dawn Cameron, Dawn Cameron Consulting; Ruth Bernstein,  
EMC Research, Inc.; Bruce Labadie, Festival Director, San Jose Jazz Festival

**1. Action on Items Recommended for Deferral**

Chair Forrest Williams asked the Committee to take action on the items recommended for deferral. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco, and seconded by Chair Forrest Williams the Committee voted to defer the items.

**2. Status Report on Las Plumas EcoPark Site Development Status (ESD) – Deferred from August**

Environmental Service Department (ESD) staff presented an update on the Las Plumas EcoPark Site Development. In June of 2007, Council accepted a report on the Las Plumas EcoPark programming options. Options identified included a permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) facility, a warehouse of donated reusable building supplies, a green enterprise education center and the Electronic Transportation Development Center. Council also directed staff to report back to the Transportation and Environment Committee with recommendations for facility tenants and a plan for facility programming and development, including cost estimates, timeline and financing. Following Council action, the ESD contracted with Business Cluster Development to develop a detailed conceptual plan. The intent of this plan is to complement the recommendations detailed in the master plan report developed by the San Jose State University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning. An essential element recommended for the Las Plumas facility will be maximizing the use of the space in a manner that promotes environmental sustainability, including LEED design elements. The conceptual plan recommends that the one third of the building be utilized for the County operated HHW drop-off and transfer, one third could house the Redevelopment Agency's proposed Electronic Transportation Development Center and the remaining portion would be used for training and education. Staff will evaluate the feasibility of the Conceptual Site Strategic Plan and complete the environmental review, identify funding and tenants, and return to Council by November 2008 with final recommendation for the permanent facility. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco, and seconded by Chair Forrest Williams, the Committee voted to accept the report.

### 3. Report on the Transportation Maintenance Master Plan (DOT) – Deferred from October

Department of Transportation staff and consultants from Apex Strategies and Dawn Cameron Consulting presented the draft Transportation and Maintenance Master Plan (TMMP) Report. The purpose of this report is to present findings from the public outreach effort and recommendations for future actions. Current funding levels for transportation maintenance do not allow for sufficient investment to adequately maintain, operate and improve the City's transportation infrastructure, which includes City roadway paving, median islands, markings and striping, sidewalks, curb ramps, curb gutters, traffic signal systems, traffic signs, street lights and street trees. The report concluded that significant improvements are needed in transportation system maintenance, and that these improvements could only be fully accomplished by securing additional funding. As a result of the TMMP process, staff has learned that a significant portion of the community considers street and road improvements as important and necessary. One element of the public outreach plan was a statistically valid telephone survey of 803 registered voters throughout the city. The most important finding of the survey was that 58% of respondents would be willing to support a tax measure to pay for currently unfunded maintenance. Unfortunately, the level of support necessary from the community and key stakeholders is not sufficient enough to consider taking a funding initiative to the voters at this time. DOT recommends the following nine strategies that will most effectively maintain the transportation infrastructure system while working to secure additional funding:

1. Prioritize allocation of available resources to assets that directly impact the operation and maintenance of a safe and efficient transportation system.
2. Avoid further reductions in the City transportation maintenance budget.
3. Continue to require that property owners fund the maintenance of those assets that are currently their responsibility, and explore models that may help reduce property owner expenses or encourage maintenance activities.
4. Establish maintenance assessment districts where possible.
5. Align maintenance strategies with Green Vision goals to improve the infrastructure while impacting the environment in a positive way.
6. Pursue a wide variety of funding strategies in partnership with other government agencies.
7. Continue to pursue cost efficiencies wherever possible.
8. Continue to coordinate with the Citywide infrastructure deferred maintenance efforts.
9. Raise awareness of the looming transportation infrastructure crises.

Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Vice Chair Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to accept the report.

### 4. Update Report on the Utility Trench Cut Policy Review (PW)

Director of Public Works, Katy Allen, presented the status report on trench restoration and restoration methods and processes in the City of San Jose. The status report was in response to the Mayor's March 2007 Budget Message request for review and strengthening of the trench restoration guidelines to ensure that the entities responsible for excavating City streets restore the condition of the pavement. The current Council Policy 8-6, ordinance, and construction specifications is to protect City streets from damage caused by trenching. Poor trenching construction leads to reduction of the service life of pavement, poor ride ability and decreased aesthetic conditions. City staff conducted a benchmarking study on trench restoration materials with major cities in California. Based on the benchmarking study, San Jose's trench restoration materials and construction methods are similar to the requirements of other cities. Based on the review of current policies, other jurisdictional practices, technical design standards and inspection procedures, staff recommends that they work with the City Attorney's Office and outreach to utility companies and the development industry to better achieve the following results:

- a) Increase inspection oversight to ensure that all trench construction is in compliance with current standard specifications
- b) Enforce current lifetime warranty provisions for utility companies with trenches in City streets.

Staff will continue to actively enforce provisions in the current Utility Excavation Policy while evaluating existing methods and processes, which include the two-year moratorium prohibiting the excavation of newly

paved or resurface streets. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo, and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco, the Committee voted to accept the report.

#### **5. Evaluation of Current City Special Event & Recycling Services and Options for Service Improvements (ESD)**

Environmental Services Department Director, John Stufflebean, presented recommendations for special event permit requirements for recycling at City venues and events. In June of 2007, Council adopted policy direction which established several requirements for any event that has an average of 1,000 attendees or more and which occurs on City property, streets and/or park land. The policy direction requires event organizers to allow the San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) access to their event to provide a level of recycling service established by the Director of Environmental Services.

Large venues and events generate substantial quantities of solid waste, primarily compostable materials such as food waste, and recyclable materials such as beverage containers, corrugated cardboard, paper and glass. During the summer of 2007, staff assisted with recycling efforts at three large events: America Festival, San Jose Grand Prix, and the Comcast San Jose Jazz Festival. After evaluation of these large event recycling programs, staff identified several key recommendations for improving this service. Those recommendations are:

- Prepare an event planning document that clearly defines goals and responsibilities and hold periodic meetings six to nine months in advance with responsible parties;
- Work with event organizers to include language in their vendor agreements requiring use of recyclable and/or compostable products;
- Perform more comprehensible and frequent crew coordination, education, and supervision;
- Establish a strong public outreach plan including event posters and signs, public announcements, and EcoStation monitors and signage; and
- Hold a post-event debriefing meeting with representatives from each responsible party to discuss the event's successes and solicit recommendations for future improvement.

Staff recommends working with the five largest events for the next two years to implement Zero Waste programs. These events are: Italian Family Days, Tapestry and Talent, Cinco de Mayo, San Jose Jazz Festival and Independence Day. Staff also recommends that we evaluate ways to improve recycling at the San Jose Mineta International Airport, San Jose McEnery Convention Center, and other showcase City venues by providing technical assistance and service. Bruce Labadie, Festival Director, San Jose Jazz Festival spoke in favor of this item. The San Jose Jazz Festival was one of the special events this summer that ESD staff assisted with recycling efforts. Mr. Labadie felt that it went very well and looks forward to continuing the effort next year. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo, and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco, the Committee voted to accept the report and forward the item to the full Council for discussion.

#### **6. Report on Water District Board Actions Related to South Bay Water Recycling (ESD)**

Environmental Services Department staff presented an update report on issues and options for the long-term ownership and operation of South Bay Water Recycling (SBWR). The cities of San Jose and Santa Clara and the Treatment Plant tributary agencies have invested almost \$280 million in the South Bay Water Recycling system, which is comprised of pump stations, reservoirs and more than 100 miles of pipeline. More than 500 customers are served by SBWR, which delivers three billion gallons of water per year. In 2002, the City Council and the Santa Clara Valley Water District agreed to form the South Bay Water Recycling Collaborative to explore the options for long-term ownership and operations of SBWR. The Collaborative included representatives from the City, the District, the Tributary agencies and the three water retailers as well as businesses, environmental, and community stakeholders. The Board and Council reviewed the Collaborative's options and decided that the best option would be for the District and City to become partners in the operations and maintenance of SBWR through a long-term partnership agreement. The Board

and Council directed staff to complete a series of water quality studies and then return with a long-term agreement for consideration and approval. On September 17, 2007, staff presented a report to the Transportation and Environment Committee. The report presented the next steps for expanding the recycled water collaboration effort with the District. The T&E Committee and the Treatment Plant Advisory Committee (TPAC) approved staff's recommendations and requested that the item be taken to the full Council for consideration. On October 2, 2007 staff reported to Council that the District Board had requested that further work on development of the long-term cooperative agreement be deferred until the Board had time to re-review the options. The Board expressed its concern that a long-term agreement did not provide the Board with sufficient control of SBWR and its preference for the option to purchase the entire system. In the event SBWR is transferred to the District, the bonds, loans, and grants will be impacted. The revenue bonds would need to be repaid, resulting in a cost of \$79 million. The State loans outstanding principal would need to be repaid, resulting in a cost of \$42 million. A state grant that was issued by the State Water Resources Control Board in the amount of \$3,654,544 would need to be transferred to another local agency. The plant has received \$27,100,300 in Federal grants. The City would need to contact the Bureau of Reclamation regarding whether grant repayment would be a condition for approval of the transfer of the SBWR to another local agency to ensure that such a transfer does not jeopardize the additional grant funding. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo, and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco, the Committee voted to accept the report and forward the item to full Council for discussion.

**7. Quarterly Update Report on Performance Measurements for General Services, Environment Services And Transportation Departments (CMO) – Deferred from September**

Deputy City Manager, Ed Shikada, presented the 2007-2008 first quarter performance report for the Department of Transportation, Airport, Environmental Services Department, General Services and the Police Department as they relate to the Transportation and Environment. In conjunction with Mayor Reed's recommendations for City Council and Redevelopment Agency committee restructuring, the City Council directed the Council Committees to integrate a regular review of key performance measures for department and city service areas to assist the committees with informed policy discussions and decision making. Overall, first quarter performance is tracking at anticipated levels across departments. Mineta San Jose International Airport passenger activity continues to lag behind other Bay Area airports. San Jose Airport's monthly share of the Bay Area passenger market hovers around 17%. During the first quarter, Department of Transportation, Pavement staff has been focused on delivering the summer pavement sealing program. Staff was diverted to ensure the summer project was delivered so corrective pavement repairs were put on a lower priority. Performance should improve in later quarters with the summer program nearing completion. Through the combined efforts of the Police and Transportation Departments using Engineering, Education, and Enforcement, the number of injury crashes has steadily been decreasing for the last several years. Year to date data is very promising, and we anticipate that the number will again fall. Environmental Services Department solid waste diversions has decreased and yard trimmings collection has dropped. Residential disposal dropped signifying a continued increase in the diversion rate for the Residential sector. Millions of gallon of water per day was conserved and recycled and millions of gallons of water per day was diverted from flow to the Bay through recycled water during the dry weather period. The percentage of alternative fueled vehicles in the City's Fleet increased significantly. The Department of General Services currently has 673 bio-diesel powered elements in the fleet increasing the percentage of alternative and low emission vehicles from 9% to 35%. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco, and seconded by Vice Mayor Dave Cortese, the Committee voted to accept the report.

**8. Report on Tree Preservation Services Requirements (CMO/DOT/PBCE)**

City Manager's Office and Department of Transportation staff presented the status report on tree preservation services review activities. A tree preservation workplan was presented to the Transportation and Environment Committee in May of 2007 and progress reports were presented in June and September of 2007.

Since reporting progress in September, staff has proceeded with the following activities:

- Reviewed community input on the City's tree related policy and services.
- Reviewed all community and staff input in order to refine strategies for improving tree policy and services.
- Refined a vision for the urban forest based community comments as follows: "San Jose residents will live within and value a thriving, sustainable urban forest that will be effectively managed to improve the quality of life and sense of community and maximize environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits".
- Categorized and developed priorities for the proposed recommendations consistent the vision.
- Continue to work on coordination of a team of San Jose State University students to create a City website that will simplify access to tree services, outline proposed changes to the Municipal Code and create a street tree inventory.

A final report is expected at the December 2007 T&E Committee meeting containing proposed policy changes and other key recommendations. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco, and seconded by Vice Chair Sam Liccardo, the Committee voted to accept the report.

#### 9. Oral Petition

There were no Oral Petitions

#### 10. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

  
Councilmember Forrest Williams, Chair  
Transportation & Environment Committee