Regular Meeting
of the
San José
Transportation & Environment Committee
held
April 2, 2007 at 1:30 P.M.

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

Chair Forrest Williams opened the meeting by stating that he is going to make some adjustments to the Agenda. Chair Williams moved Item #9, Verbal Update Report on Taxi Cabs, to occur first on the agenda because of the large amount of speakers on the item.

1. **Review of Urban Environmental Accords Strategic Plan and Progress Goals Attainment (ESD)**

   Environmental Services Department staff presented the report on the Urban Environmental Accords Strategic Plan and progress towards goals attainment. The Accords were developed by cities and consist of 21 Actions that cities can pledge to complete which address energy, waste reduction, water, urban nature, transportation and environmental health. Depending on how many Actions a city completes, it can achieve a designation of either Local, National, Regional or Global Sustainable City. A preliminary analysis of the 21 Actions have been completed and indicate that 16 actions could be accomplished with some additional effort (Regional Status). In order for the City of San Jose to achieve Global Sustainable status, additional resources would be required. In 2006, the City Manager's Office requested that departments identify department leads to work with ESD's UN Accords coordinator to develop a work plan. Working together we can achieve the actions, take our place as an environmental leader, enjoy the benefits of working together and do our part to "Save the Planet". Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco the Committee voted to accept the report.

2. **Las Plumas Household Hazardous Waste Facility Site Plan Development (ESD)**

   Environmental Services Department staff presented the status report regarding the Household Hazardous Waste Program and the development of the 1608 Las Plumas warehouse site. The only permanent site in San Jose for residents to drop off household hazardous waste (paint, batteries, pool chemicals and other common materials) closed in November 2006 due to the City's need to expand the Central Service Yard. A workgroup consisting of staff from ESD, General Services, Public Works, Housing and the County began analyzing several potential sites for relocation of the facility. A shortlist of potential sites was identified.

The City of San Jose's vacant former warehouse site at 1608 Las Plumas Avenue was identified as the best site for relocating the San Jose HHW facility. This site's more important advantages were that it was available, centrally located and was already zoned for compatible uses. When the City Council approved ESD's purchase of the Las Plumas warehouse at its June 6, 2006 meeting, staff reported that they will evaluate the use of the warehouse for a material reuse facility. Staff retained the Center for Training and Careers (CTC), and a Graduate class from the San Jose State University Urban and Regional Planning Department to develop a master plan for the entire Las Plumas site. CTC has been conducting extensive community outreach in the neighborhood, businesses and schools surrounding the site. Representatives from California Waste Sollutions (CWS), Green Team of San Jose and Garden City stressed that HHW facilities are important not only to reduce the tonnage of such materials from reaching local landfills and materials recovery facilities, it also serves to protect their employees who are employed at these facilities as the materials can pose potential health and safety risks during the handling process if the materials are hidden within the garbage. A County representative, Greg Van Wassenhove, made himself available to answer any questions that the Committee may have as they pertain to the County. One member of the public, William Stauble, Therma Corporation, spoke against the item. Mr. Stauble urged the Committee to not go forward with the Las Plumas site. He feels that the site poses danger to human health and the environment. Employees at the Corporate Headquarters of Therma walk in front of the proposed HHW site and enjoy their lunch on the adjacent lawns. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Vice Chair Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to accept the report.

3. **Update on Transportation Infrastructure Maintenance Needs Master Plan (DOT)**

Department of Transportation staff presented the status report on the Transportation Maintenance Master Plan (TMMP). Current funding investments are not sufficient to adequately maintain, operate, and improve the City's transportation infrastructure. On February, 27, 2007, the City Council authorized an agreement with APEX Strategies to work with staff to develop a TMMP that updates and documents maintenance and funding needs, identifies priorities and determines the level of community support for potential funding alternatives. A public outreach plan that includes community and stakeholder meetings, along with a public opinion survey and web-based feedback is the foundation of the development of the TMMP. DOT staff intends to present a draft of the TMMP to the Committee for review in Fall of 2007. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco the Committee voted to accept the report.

4. **Report on Progress of Project Delivery with PG&E on Undergrounding Utility Program (PW)**

Public Works staff presented the report on the progress of the City's undergrounding utility program. In April 2006, staff submitted to Council a report on the undergrounding utility program. The approval of the report guided Public Works staff and the utility companies to program funds, assign project priorities, and establish, design, and construct the proposed overhead-to-undergrounding utility conversion projects.

Three methods are used to fulfill this goal:
Rule 20A program – Uses PG&E rate-payer money for the conversions.
Rule 20B(In-Lieu Fee) program - Undergrounding may be accomplished through the City's establishment of large aggregated projects rather than requiring developers to perform the undergrounding on a piecemeal basis.
Rule 20C – Conversions are typically less than 600 feet long and coordinated directly with the utility companies and are completed by developers and other agencies. These conversions do not meet the criteria for Rule 20A or 20B and are coordinated directly with the utility companies.
Due to PG&E's past bankruptcy, insufficient resources, and the aboveground cabinet and no-cost easement issue, project delivery has been challenging. Public Works project staff will continue to meet with the utility companies monthly to discuss project and schedule. Councilmember Judy Chirco asked that staff look into collective action with other cities in order to expedite project delivery. Deputy City Manager Ed Shikada responded that staff will incorporate this into the annual report being prepared for full Council review in May. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco the Committee voted to accept the report.

5. **City Hall and Other Facility Maintenance Issues (GS)**

General Services staff presented the update report on the maintenance of City facilities. General Services provides facility management services to not only City Hall, but also to fire stations, libraries, community centers, Police Administration and Communication Buildings. The introduction of the new City Hall to the facility management inventory brought with it new responsibilities in event support and security. A number of projects are underway to advance Green Building and energy efficiency goals. General Services, along with the Environmental Services Department are working together to develop an RFP for a consultant to assist the City with pursuing LEED-Existing Building certification for City buildings. The first building to undergo this process will be City Hall. Seven energy efficient projects are now in the pipeline and are funded by PG&E rebates the City has already received. The City and the Redevelopment Agency continue to work with The Tech on a project to install solar panels on the new employee garage on 5th Street. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Vice Chair Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to accept the report.

6. **Update on Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Review (CMO/PW)**

Ed Shikada, Deputy City Manager, requested that this item be dropped from the agenda. Mr. Shikada explained that there would be a full report to City Council in Spring on the item. Chair Forrest Williams asked for the Committee to approve the motion to accept the Administration's recommendation to drop this item. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Vice Chair Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to drop the item.

7. **Stormwater Program Status Report and Discuss Needs for Storm Water Collection System/Reserve and Potential Fee Adjustments (ESD/PW/DOT)**

Environmental Services, Public Works and Department of Transportation staff presented the report on the City's stormwater program and storm sewer. The City of San Jose has two separate sewer systems. The sanitary sewer systems that flows through 2,200 miles of pipeline to the Water Pollution Control Plant for treatment and stormwater that is conveyed untreated to local streams and ultimately to the San Francisco Bay through a separate system. The City's storm sewer system was constructed primarily as a means to convey rainwater away from developed areas. The City's stormwater Program aims to protect local creeks and rivers by minimizing pollution and erosion from the storm sewer system. The stormwater program is comprised of 15 program elements; including enforcement, inspection, outreach, education, maintenance activities, controls on new development projects, and activities to address specific pollutants. Since 90% of the storm pipes within San Jose are already undersized, an evaluation is needed to determine how upcoming developments such as the Coyote Valley Specific Plan and Evergreen East Hills Vision Strategy will affect the existing storm system capacity. City staff will continue to conduct outreach efforts to the development industry as the Municipal Regional Permit progresses to keep consulting engineers, planners and developers aware of pending regulation changes that may affect development projects. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Sam Liccardo and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco the Committee voted to accept the report and direct staff to proceed with a detailed assessment of activities, programs, and funding needs associated with the Stormwater Program priorities and develop a scope of work and funding resources needs in order to complete a comprehensive analysis of the condition and infrastructure needs of the Storm Sewer System.

8. **Update on Key Aspects of Recycle Plus Transition (ESD)**

Environmental Services Department staff presented the monthly status report on the 2007 Recycle Plus Hauler Transition. Highlights in the report included information regarding the Job Fair that was held on March 31st, Transition Outreach Planning, Customer Service training provided to new haulers and the IBS Integration Status. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Vice Chair Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to accept the report.

9. **Verbal Update Report on Taxi Cabs (AIRPORT/DOT/PD)**

Chair Forrest Williams stated that the Committee will hear all of the speaker's issues and concerns. The Committee will take no action but they will listen to what the speakers have to say on the item. Tony Alexander, Local UFCW 5, started the public comments as a representative of the Taxi Cab drivers. Mr. Alexander explained the reason why almost 200 Taxi Cabs were circling City Hall this morning. These Taxi Cab drivers were frustrated and wanted to bring to Council and staff's attention the source of their frustration. Several Taxi Cab drivers voiced their concern that the TAT (Taxicab Advisory Team) does not listen to the drivers. The City needs to eliminate TAT and replace that Team with one individual or commissioner that would represent the City of San Jose. The drivers also feel that they

are excessively regulated and the City of San Jose needs to consider the drivers' future and happiness. The drivers appreciate the Councilmembers and reminded the Committee that visitors to San Jose's first experience are with the Taxi Cab drivers.

Chair Williams closed the item by thanking the speakers for their input. He stated that he will ask staff to get answers to the issues raised and help to find solutions to the problems. Chair Williams also reminded everyone that the customers are first priority and we can all work together to achieve success. He understands that our goal is to be a 24 hour city and in order to achieve that goal some changes are needed. One immediate change should be the allowance of customer pick up and drop off in front of the train stations. Chair Williams knows that the challenges are work in progress and urged everyone to review their responsibilities.

10. **Oral Petition**

There were no Oral Petitions at this time.

11. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

NOTE: If you have any changes or questions, please contact Sandra Cranford at (408) 535-8173. To arrange an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act to participate in this public meeting, please call (408) 535-8173 (voice) or 408-294-9337 (TTY) at least 48 hours before the meeting. Access the video, the agenda and related reports for this meeting by visiting the City's website at www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/MeetingArchive.asp

Forrest Williams

Councilmember Forrest Williams, Chair
Transportation & Environment Committee