

FALLBROOK CIRCULATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Tuesday 15 December, 2020

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. via a virtual meeting convened by Chairman Roy Moosa.

Members Present: Roy Moosa, Tom Mintun, Jerry Kalman, Michelle McCaffery, Kim Murphy, Bill O'Connor and Stephanie Baxter. Absent was Jim Loge. Present from the County were Nicholas Koutoufidis and Murali Pasumarthis. In addition 15 to 20 local residents who had a vested interest in the gate project were also in attendance at the virtual meeting.

1. Open Forum. Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Committee on any subject matter within the Group's jurisdiction but not on today's agenda. Three-minute limitation. Non-discussion & Non-voting item.

2. Approval of the minutes for the last meeting in November 10, 2020, were approved as submitted.

3.. PDS2019-AD-19-030 Administrative Permit for one gate on Sandia Creek Drive just north of Sandia Creek and Rock Mountain Road. The subject segment of Sandia Creek Drive (approximately 2.2 miles) would limit access to the privately maintained road to residents only. Currently, the road serves local rural residences and business. It is also as an alternate route to Interstate 15 (I-15) by commuters between Riverside and northern San Diego counties. A section of the road is privately maintained, and area residents have requested it be gated to limit that segment to local residential traffic only. On-going maintenance issues, speeding and collisions are listed among the issues the proposed gate project is intended to address. The gate would control vehicular access in both northbound/southbound directions and emergency access would be maintained. For non-residents, vehicle turnarounds would be provided in both directions. A southbound turnaround area would be constructed, and a northbound turnaround would be accommodated via the Rock Mountain Road intersection. The gate would utilize an access system for local residents only. Circulation Committee. Community input. Voting item. (11/24).

4. Request for a letter from the Fallbrook Community Planning Group and drafted by the Circulation Committee addressed to the County via Supervisor Desmond and DPW asking for a feasibility study for a proposed pathway or trail along Stage Coach Lane between South Mission and Reche roads, with prioritized segments in order of importance. This request arose from a recent community meeting with Supervisor Desmond's Fallbrook Revitalization Committee, DPW, DPR, community members and other community organizations. Circulation Committee. Community input. Voting Item. (11/30)

After stating the purpose of the meeting Chairman Moosa opened the discussion by asking Nick Koutoufidis to give a brief discussion regarding the details of the application. He indicated that the application had been reviewed and approved by the North County Fire District and the Department of Public Works as well as a majority of the affected residents. He indicated that

there was to be a follow up public meeting to further discuss the application and its potential affect on the rural area. This meeting is scheduled to be conducted January 7.

Following that Chairman Moosa opened the virtual meeting to committee members to see if they had any questions for Nick and/or some of the numerous attendees from the affected area of Sandia Creek Drive. A sampling of these questions is as follows:

- a. Who will be paying for this project? The applicants;
- b. Is there any estimate to date of what the cost of the project might be? That is the responsibility of the applicants;
- c. Who will be responsible for maintaining it? The applicants;
- d. Will the fire department and emergency responders have access to the technology/code to open the gate in an emergency? Yes;
- e. Will there be ample distance north of the Rock Mountain intersection for non-residents to turn around? Yes, the distance is about .6 miles but motorists will see almost immediately that the road is closed to non-residents;
- f. What is the proposed technology for activating the gate and how will it be powered? This is still open to determination but the power to the system will be by solar energy with a battery backup so it will always be available should electricity be unavailable;
- g. How will commuters who are not residents be notified that the Sandia Creek Drive route is no longer available to them? Public notices and signage at both the north and south points of the private section will be installed in advance of the project's completion;
- h. How much of the commuter traffic is attributed to military personnel stationed at Camp Pendleton? According to the recently completed traffic study it is estimated to be about one-third of the southbound traffic and 46% of the northbound traffic. On August 30, 2018 a directive from the Chief of Staff of Marine Corps Installation – West directed that Camp Pendleton Commanders “should direct their Marines and sailors to avoid commuting to and from Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton via Sandi Creek Drive until further notice”. It may well be time to re-address this issue because typically military personnel do not have tours of duty that last longer than 2-3 years;
- i. In view of serious visibility issues at night what are the plans to provide “appropriate advance warning signage, roadway lighting and reflectivity at the gate”? Still to be determined following application approval.

Roy then opened the meeting to comments and questions from some of the attendees at the virtual meeting. Below is a summary of these comments/questions:

- a. In the event of an emergency, I use Sandi Creek Drive even though I do not live in the private road section. Will nearby residents in the DeLuz area be able to obtain access? Yes, but there may be a small fee for this privilege.
- b. In addition to commuter traffic, we also note that there is human trafficking and drug smuggling because Sandia Creed Drive is a way to avoid the border checkpoint;
- c. How will service vehicles such as USPS, UPS, Fedex, etc. have access to the gate? Key residents will visit with the major providers of service to give them guidance on how they should proceed. There will also be a call button by the gate.

- d. What will be the impact on East Mission and I-15 if the traffic is directed away from Sandia Creek? The traffic study concluded that there will be decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled while at the same time maintaining the same current Level of Service;
- e. Accidents and fatalities are a major concern of Sandia Creek residents. At the time the Traffic Report was issued on November 10, 2020, there had been 44 accidents along Sandia Creek Drive from De Luz Road to Rancho California Road in Riverside County, two of which were fatalities. In just the past 6 weeks there have been two more accidents;
- f. As a result of the heavy traffic around 6:00 P.M. there are solid red lights on the steeper grade portions of Sandi Creek Drive;
- g. Should there be an emergency which results in the gate being opened, how will nearby residents be notified that this emergency exit is available? It will be posted on social media such as Facebook;
- h. It would valuable information if the residents could try to determine how many large trucks use Sandia Creek Drive to avoid the scales on I-15. (This information is available on the attached Traffic Advisory Committee report)
- i. A presentation was presented by Kelly Gerwig summarizing the current problems and proposed solutions to those problems (see attached presentation, FCPG PPT_1152020.trec);
- j. Finally a quote from Murali Pasumarthis: "At the end of the day safety is paramount!"

At that point in the meeting, Chairman Moosa called for a vote of the Committee members. The application for the gate project on Sandia Creek Drive was approved unanimously.

Item 4 was not discussed inasmuch as it had been withdrawn prior to the meeting. It was voted to continue this item.

The meeting was then adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

Tom Mintun, acting secretary

SDCO TAC Report -
Sandia Creek Overw

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