

Ramona Community Planning Group  
Ramona State Routes Subcommittee  
FINAL Meeting Minutes  
December 29, 2021

Teleconference Meeting  
Access for Public and Committee Members  
Call-in # 978-990-5330  
Access Code 8612750

1. Meeting Called to Order by Dan Summers at 6:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Lynn Hopewell
3. Establish a quorum  
Attendees: Torry Brean, Lynn Hopewell, Robin Maxson, Elio Noyas, Maya Phillips, and Dan Summers  
Absent: Debbie Foster
4. Assign minute taking – Lynn Hopewell volunteered
5. Identify any speakers from the public  
Oscar Quinones, Ramona resident, is curious about what's happening with Hwy 67. Dan Summers said Hwy 67 was scheduled to be expanded about 34 years ago and instead the funds went to the coast for trolley lines and buses, so it never happened. We've been trying to get SANDAG to expand Hwy 67 from Dye Rd to Maplevue in Lakeside to four lanes all the way down. There are places that are four lanes, but the majority of the highway is two lanes. There's been some success. SANDAG established a San Vicente Corridor (SVC) with the intention to expand some of Hwy 67. The time period is over decades. One portion will begin on January 3, 2021, near Mina De Oro and will expand about a ¼ mile south. Oscar said it seems to him that the community pays a lot in property taxes, and we are abandoned in a third world type of state. He also brought up the pipeline in Ramona Acres. He believes something else is happening with the County in regards to Hwy 67. He looks at Hwy 67 where they put a state-of-the-art announcer. There needs to be some type of priority. Dan appreciated his joining the meeting. For the last three years Dan has attended SANDAG meetings in person 23 times. Dan has had all leadership at all levels of government sending letters requesting the expansion of Hwy 67. They've budget \$21 million for design review and environmental studies. The Ramona Community Planning Group (RCPG), Sheriff's Dept., Ramona Chamber of Commerce are all wanting to keep pushing for this. Dan recommended that Oscar get in touch with SANDAG who, he, as a concerned citizen can express his views. Oscar said he'll write a short commentary to the Sentinel and see what happens. He believes that SANDAG isn't getting the

message. Doesn't believe that writing SANDAG will bring any change. Dan again encouraged him to write a letter.

6. Approval of minutes

A. Approval of September 29, 2021, minutes Robin made motion to approve with correction to Item 8h, "Robin Maxson advises that we contact Jessica Turner at the County for advice.", 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynn Hopewell. Motion approved 6-0-1-0 Debbie Foster absent.

B. No quorum for October 27, 2021

C. No meeting in November 2021

7. Monthly update from Victor Mercado (Marvin Canton not available)

Dan asked if Mr. Mercado was with us on the call. Mr. Mercado was not available therefore no update took place.

A. Impact of the December 10, 2021, SANDAG vote on the San Vicente Corridor (SVC) Project

B. Progress on Permission to Enter (PTE) letters for SVC

C. Progress on Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for SVC

D. Progress on repaving State Route 67

E. Progress on Mina De Oro shoulder project

8. SANDAG and San Vicente Corridor (SVC). We need a new game plan moving forward.

Dan Summers spoke to Robin Maxson about this and they're in agreement that we're practically back to square one. The vote was 10-6, with 6 people opposed to the Hwy 67 project. Dan's thought is we need to resume our efforts anyway we can so that they know we're still out there. That we still have safety issues, even after the Mina De Oro project. We have a significant problem with evacuating Ramona residents. Robin shared to approve the 2021 regional plan the yes vote was a federal funding reason, they needed to move forward so that funding wouldn't expire. There's an explanation regarding the SVC in the plan and it gives details in there. We want to make sure that the widening at Mina De Oro isn't the solution to our evacuation issue. It still doesn't give us the four lanes needed for a safe evacuation. As we work with CalTrans and SANDAG it's not a done deal. Dan and Robin have discussed the vote for the regional plan. Dan said we met with all mayors except La Mesa, Imperial Beach, and the City of San Diego. Robin said we had a Zoom meeting with the San Diego Major's representative. Dan said at this point we might want to start over to refresh their memory. There's the pre-regional plan vote and then the post-regional plan vote. Dan plans to attend in person once they open the meetings, thank them for the progress they've made in our direction. And that Ramona is in eminent danger. Dan did look up the regional plan, 2021, and found a SVC section in our Hwy 67 portion from Dye Rd. to

Mapleview. Dan said it's the first time he's seen it in blue which indicates a toll road from Dye Rd. to Mapleview. Robin believes it was managed lanes. Dan said no, it was a single blue line and described in the map index as a toll road, which is the first he's heard of. Robin hasn't seen it described that way. Only managed lane with opportunities to get to the central part. Maya Phillips asked if it's related to the mileage tax. Dan said if she's talking about mileage tax it's for wherever you drive not just Dye Rd. to Mapleview. Lynn Hopewell said they said no to the mileage tax. Dan said yes, they did vote against it. Elio Noyas agrees we're kind of back to square one. On the other hand, the County will want to push out building in our area and with that it gives us the opportunity to bring the expansion of Hwy 67 back to the forefront. Maybe meet in the middle and have a dedicated turn lane from Cloudy Moon to Ramona that could be used for evacuation purposes. They're going to do another \$21 million study and they've done it before with no results. Dan said the \$21 million has been budgeted to do the environmental study for the SVC development. That's what the permission to enter letters are for. It's also for the design project, which was six or seven different designs. Some have been removed due to comments from CalFire and Sheriff's Dept. Elio said with the SANDAG vote we're back to square one and there's been multiple studies done in the past. Those studies disappear. His concern is that this study will disappear like the others have. Want us to have more "teeth". Not getting money that we voted on for Ramona. For us to have more power than just advisory. Dan said he agrees with some of what Elio has said. That CalTrans and Marvin are doing the studies shows they want to move forward. Elio thinks we have the County on our side but believes we're hitting a wall with SANDAG. Dan asked for suggestions from the members on how to proceed. Lynn Hopewell suggested attending Zoom meetings, and speaking for a minute as well as writing emails. Dan likes to go down in person and speak to SANDAG as he has a chance to go up shake hands and talk to them about the issue, as it's another level of communication. Robin said in regards to speaking at SANDAG we need to be organized as any agency in the County and we need to take every opportunity. Even though their message hasn't changed, they're principled. So that we send email/comments, or speak for one minute, beyond the SVC workshop. Dan said when he's gone down in person he speaks and then there's many people for the environment that speak. There's many more than us. If she's suggesting, we coordinate a series of speakers Dan is happy to do that. What's everyone's thought? Lynn thought it's a good idea. Torry Brea is still thinking about it, would like to apply the method that has more teeth. Maya said she agrees with Torry. Robin said when we have the Ramona Community Planning Group (RCPG) meeting and in Dan's report to the RCPG be sure to bring up that we plan to attend meetings and speak on behalf of the community. Need to get approval of the RCPG to speak on the behalf of the RCPG vs. as an individual. Dan

let Torry know that if we're getting in touch with SANDAG we want to be able to say we're speaking on behalf of the RCPG. Dan will bring up at the January 6, 2022 meeting. Dan said in addition to speaking at the meetings are there other suggestions. Lynn suggested having Julie Gallant of the Sentinel put an article in the paper regarding current Hwy 67 status. Robin has written many letters to the editor. Dan has access to a column about being able to talk about SANDAG and give information about how to contact SANDAG. Dan believes he could get updated information regarding accidents on Hwy 67. Robin said the other thing related to that, they're all in the city of Poway jurisdiction so in their enforcement. That area is enforced by Poway Sheriff's not CHP. It's another pressure point. Asked us to give that some thought. Dan remembers the accident information wasn't jurisdictional, but all of Hwy 67. Dan would be willing to attend meetings of local organization, i.e., Chamber of Commerce, the Elks, Kiwanis, etc. and give them an update on Hwy 67 and give a handout with information on who to contact at SANDAG. If we come up with other ideas either call or send an email to Dan with the idea.

9. Concerns of members

Dan Summers said Elio Noyas and Torry Brean brought up what our legal position would be as a community dealing with the Hwy 67 issue. In that we paid our taxes and there's been no improvement. Can't do it as a group, must do it individually. Elio is going back to see how it was worded. Dan believes it was 1988. Elio may want to talk to other planning groups that are paying taxes without road improvements. This is a topic not appropriate for the RCPG, have to do as a private citizen. Robin said what Elio is going to do is research where the money has gone. Dan encouraged Elio to do that. Robin suggested he contact Voice of San Diego. Dan is going to look at the SANDAG schedule of meetings, both transportation and general meetings. He will share with our committee and see how many people we can line-up to speak and assign different topics. Lynn Hopewell said similar to what was done when we talked to the Mayor's.

10. Future agenda items – None

11. Date of next meeting will be telephonic on January 26, 2021 at 6:00pm.

12. Adjournment – motion to adjourn made by Elio Noyas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lynn Hopewell. Motion approved 6-0-1-0 (Debbie Foster absent). Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm