

CAG Meeting Minutes

Subject: High Desert Community Advisory Group (HD CAG) Meeting #5
 I-10 and I-15 Corridor Projects, San Bernardino County

Date: November 20, 2013

Location: Victorville City Hall, Conference Room D, Victorville, CA

Participants: A total of 8 CAG Members participated in the meeting.

HD CAG Members in Attendance	Organization
Ann Vanino	Moving Forward Coaching and Consulting
Carol Whitton	Hesperia Unified School District
Holly Noel	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
Kevin Kane	Victor Valley Transit Authority
Michele Spears	Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce
Muhammad A. Bari	US Army, Fort Irwin
Rick Danzey	Self-Employed
Sophie Steeno	Steen Design Studio
Other CAG Members in Attendance (non-HD CAG)	Organization
none	
HD CAG Members not in Attendance	Organization
Bob R. Tinsley	BR Tinsley Inc., R.E. & Construction
Debbie A. Cannon	Academy for Grassroots Organizations/HD Resource Center
Jim Oravets	County of San Bernardino, Special Districts Department
Niru Vangala	Foremost Senior Campus
Oliver Chi	City of Barstow
Raghada Khoury	Commercial Building Owner
Thomas J. Kerman	Hesperia Unified School District
Other (non-CAG Members)	Organization
none	
San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and Consultants	
Chad Costello	SANBAG
John Meiers	Parsons
Jason Lombard	Lee Andrews Group, Inc.
Annette Cortez	Lee Andrews Group, Inc.
Tito Corona	Lee Andrews Group, Inc.

MEETING NOTES

I. Welcome

CAG Members were greeted by Jason Lombard, Lee Andrews Group.

II. CAG Member Reports

CAG member report forms were provided to CAGs prior to the meetings and were returned to the Outreach Team via email. Mr. Lombard introduced Chad Costello to discuss project status and potential next steps. Mr. Costello informed the CAG of the recent development by the SANBAG Board to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review and further discuss the Express Lanes alternative. He announced that the Ad Hoc Committee's first meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 26, 2013.

The following question was asked at the end of Mr. Costello's presentation:

- Sophie Steeno: Who is on the Ad Hoc Committee? *Chad Costello: 7 of the 29 SANBAG Board Members form the Ad Hoc Committee, including District 1 Supervisor Lovingood from the High Desert area.*
- Holly Noel: What's happening with the December 4th meeting? Is it happening or not? *Chad Costello: We'll find out more next week and will notify you as soon as we find out. AFTER-MEETING NOTE: The December 4th will continue as scheduled.*

PowerPoint Presentation – Following the Board update, the remaining agenda items were discussed with the use of a PowerPoint presentation (a hard copy of the presentation was given to each of the CAG Members), which included the following discussion topics outlined in the sections below.

III. Summary of feedback on Equity Study – Presented by Jason Lombard, Lee Andrews Group

Mr. Lombard provided a summary of the CAG member feedback received to the question below.

- Do you have any remaining concerns with regards to the fairness of an Express Lanes Alternative for low-income travelers?

A total of 28 responses were received (EV: 10, HD: 6, WV: 12)

- 18 CAG members responded with “no additional concerns or comments on Equity Study”.
- 10 CAG member provided comments.

Comments received included the following topics:

- Monthly maintenance fee on non-frequent user accounts.
- Financial assistance plan (equity plan) similar to Metro ExpressLanes.
- Employer programs that offer access to express lanes with tax deductible incentives.
- Strong outreach and advertisement campaign on how to use express lanes, purchase and register transponders.
- Improvement in travel speed even in the general purpose lanes used by non-paying travelers.
- Reduced price for low income seniors and disabled drivers.

Mr. Lombard concluded this presentation by thanking the members for providing feedback and also informing them that the comments received reinforced many of the concepts included in the Equity Study Report as well as encouraged the continue exploration of options to reduce the potential cost for low-income users.

IV. Breakout Sessions - Presented by Jason Lombard, Lee Andrews Group

Mr. Lombard explained the goal, discussion topics and format for the breakout sessions.

- **Goal - To discuss and capture feedback regarding project elements presented to date.**

Discussion topics include the following:

- I-10 and I-15 Project Alternatives – Pros and Cons.
 - Questions and comments regarding information presented at previous CAG meetings.
 - Questions and comments received from affiliated groups.
 - Given the Alternatives presented for I-10 & I-15, what message does the CAG want to convey to the SANBAG Board?
- Breakout group format:

Break out group sessions (45 minutes)

- Small group discussions facilitated by Project Staff.
- Select two CAG members to:
 - Record comments on flipchart
 - Report back to entire CAG

Reconvene (30 minutes)

- Selected CAG member to report back to entire CAG.
- What is the overall message this CAG wants to convey to the Board?

V. Breakout Groups Reconvene

Mr. Lombard facilitated the meeting while the selected CAG members reported back to the entire CAG. The 2 selected CAG members shared the responses received to the questions discussed in the breakout groups. The discussion questions and responses reported to the entire CAG are as follows:

1. What have you identified as the Pros and Cons of the three Alternatives for I-10 and two Alternatives for I-15? Why?

Corridor Alternative	Pros	Cons
I10 - No Build	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No cost 2. No environmental impact 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased congestion, poor air quality 2. Economic Stagnation 3. Road rage 4. Unhappy constituency 5. No build on I-15 6. Unrealistic option (“head in the sand”)
I10 – HOV	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No cost to drivers 2. More riders using HOV 3. Faster travel times 4. Less cars in general purpose lanes 5. More affordable for multiple low income riders 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most costly alternative to taxpayers. 2. Eliminates I-15 additional lanes = no build for I-15. 3. Perception of single driver that their tax dollars paid for lanes
I10 – Express Lanes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pays for itself/recoups cost over time (mostly). 2. Two lanes versus one 3. Relieves the most congestion 4. Trip reliability for the long term. 5. Better traffic management/flexible pricing. 6. Allows for I-15 Express Lanes. 7. Pro- growth 8. Reliable commuter bus service 9. Faster trip times 10. Less road rage 11. HOV 3+ = Free 12. Better sociological impact to community 13. Increased quality of life 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low income inequality

I-15 No Build	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congestion gets worse 2. Economic stagnation 3. Inequity to High Desert residents. 4. Property values in High Desert will crash. 5. Politicians would face an unhappy constituency. 6. Emergency services may be compromised in the event of a disaster. 7. Reasonable access to four year colleges in the Valley will be limited for High Desert residents.
I-15 Express Lanes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same as I-10 Express Lane Alt. 2. Increase ability to manage traffic 3. Economic growth prospects for High Desert. 4. Improved air quality. 5. Reduces commuter time. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low income inequality 2. Direct connector to the I-15 Express Lanes not included. 3. Leaves no room for growth of general purpose lanes. 4. public perception/concern that lanes have already been paid for under the I-15 Rehab Project therefore no need for toll lanes) NOTE: it was clarified that the bridges/structures were not modified to accommodate continuous lanes 5. No plan for Express Lanes north of 395. 6. No commuter rail in the Cajon Pass contemplated.

1. Is there any information from the last CAG Meeting that you need clarification on?
 - Are there any checks and balances in place to protect the revenues generated on I-15? (Tolling policy needed – revenues for I-15 stay with I-15).
2. What are some of the most common questions received from your affiliated groups? How have you responded?
 - Skeptical of timelines presented (Many residents feel projects take much longer to complete than originally planned)
 - Recommend reaching a wider variety of groups (youth)
 - Repeat the message with groups who have already attended presentations
 - Increase media involvement
3. Given the Alternatives presented for I-10 and I-15, what message does the CAG want to convey to the SANBAG Board?
 - No build is not an option, Express Lanes on I-10 and Express Lanes on i-15 are needed.
 - Action is needed on I-15 Now.
 - I-15 option should be the driver not the rider (I-15 project should not be contingent on I-10 Project).
 - Public skeptical of decisions/priorities of elected officials.
 - If I-15 is the higher priority for future demands then the decisions made now need to reflect that.

The following questions/comments were made at the end of the break out groups:

- Michele Spears: Your message has to include a statement that the project is 20 years out.
- Sophie Steeno: Recruit younger people to get involved with the project. The public safety groups are not interested but you need other groups represented here.
- Rick Danzey: Garry made a presentation to the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce and after the presentation, I asked how many were in favor of the project and 75% said yes and 25% felt they needed more information – even after an additional presentation with repetition.
- Sophie Steeno: You need to reach additional groups through additional media (Radio and TV spots).
- Ann Vanino: What we're saying is that the High Desert gets neglected and we need it to be a priority. If the I-15 is projected to have the highest future demand, then the decisions made now need to reflect that priority.

VI. Next Steps – Presented by Jason Lombard, Lee Andrews Group

Mr. Lombard announced the following meetings:

- SANBAG Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
November 26, 2013
SANBAG Office – Santa Fe Depot
Closed Session
- SANBAG Board Meeting
December 4, 2013, 10AM
SANBAG Office – Santa Fe Depot
1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92410
- Potential 2014 CAG Meetings
TBD based on December 4th Board Meeting

VII. Action Items – Presented by Jason Lombard, Lee Andrews Group

Mr. Lombard encouraged the CAG members to continue with the following action items:

- Emailing feedback and comments to SANBAG@leeandrwsgroup.com
- Visiting project website for updates
- Recruiting people to “Like” our Facebook page and to “Follow” us on Twitter (@SANBAGnews)

VIII. Additional Questions and Comments

There were no additional questions or comments provided by the CAG members at the conclusion of the presentations.

Project Material Distributed

The following Project materials were provided to all CAG meeting attendance:

- Meeting Agenda
- CAG Meeting #5 PowerPoint presentation copy
- Breakout group discussion questions
- Updated I-15 Corridor Project Fact Sheet (English and Spanish)
- I-10 Corridor Project Fact Sheet (English and Spanish)
- Comment Card
- CAG Meeting #4 PowerPoint presentation copy (available upon request)

Next CAG Meeting

- *2014 EV CAG Meetings*–To be determined based on December 2013 SANBAG Board meeting. CAG members will receive notice via email and phone call about the next proposed CAG meetings.