



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
ATHERTON RAIL COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE
October 6, 2008
6:00 p.m.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
94 Ashfield Road
Atherton, California
REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Janz called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Janz, J. Carlson, McPherson, Lively, Dudley, Maulbetsch, Ringham, Public Works Director Duncan Jones, Bill Alich of Transit Group, John Wilson, Office Assistant Melanie Brabenec

ABSENT: Conlon, Gruber

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Duncan Jones handed out a Footprint Study Organization where received when he had met with Program Manager Ron Holmes, Project Manager South County Sylvia Cox, and BKF Engineer Project Manager Michael Liu. This Footprint Study focuses exclusively on:

- Alternatives for grade separations in San Mateo County, indentifying its impacts and costs, as well as technically feasible alternatives.
- The study will change if High-Speed Rail passes.
- Discusses how high the elevation would be through Atherton.
- Currently looking at two track and four track studies.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. PRESENTATION BY JOHN WILSON ON MAG LEV RAIL SYSTEMS

- Development technology Germans developed and Japanese took on.
- In 2002 Federal Government selected Wilson and Alic and eight evaluations were done. In those evaluations it was found:
 - Suited to be a regional system instead of statewide, 360 mph was top speed which is world's safest H-S system, fast acceleration/ deceleration, reliable in all weather, energy efficient and electric powered, very quiet, smooth ride, low environmental impact, low operating and maintenance cost.

- 60% cost maintaining H-S Rail and 75 year life
- Three Forms – High (above 125) – Medium – Low (less than 60)
- Two Suspension Forms – Push and Pull – two kind of motors
- Two Real Systems – China High 2004 (millions people) – Japan Low 2005 (millions of people) – test tracks in Germany, Korea, and US. In US only studies on small test tracks. Issue is financing.
- TR – Transrapid 280 mph – HSR (High-Speed Rail) 155 mph

5. UPDATE FROM CITY MANAGER JERRY GRUBER AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR DUNCAN JONES ON A MEETING WITH MARK SIMON AND IAN MCAVOY REGARDING QUAD GATES FOR THE TOWN OF ATHERTON

ISSUE: Do medians work? Caltrains medians would work. The project intended to do with what they could for safety across the Peninsula that was cost effective. Fair Oaks was chosen as a demonstration.

CONCERN: There is not enough money and for putting both gates here and funding a quiet zone. Don't want to be put in a position of funding quiet zone and know we would be interested in putting a quiet zone in and everyone else would want it. Some residents want the funds to go into a quiet zone and some into safety. We are in the process of implementing four quadrant gates at Fair Oaks but also an issue of maintenance. We are waiting on bids for project to get cost that we can agree on.

6. DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW UP REGARDING COUNCIL ACTION FROM THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

HSR at Park meeting which Council passed A and no on B which diluted effectiveness of first one. HSR appeared in the fall *Athertonian*.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS (TIME PERMITTING)

Phil Lively discussed article on tunneling. We are on the list for a meeting with Beechen, former Mayor of Palo Alto.

Jim Janz handed out a three day SF Bay Area Rapid Transit District Conference he plans to attend on 10/27/08.

Jack Ringham mentioned Dumbarton rail to Bart passed. He voted to expand the bus service across Dumbarton.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:04 p.m. The next Regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Brabenec