



**SANTA VENETIA COMMUNITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Summary Minutes**

Tuesday, March 11, 2014
7:00-9:00 pm
Marin County Civic Center, Room 315
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Members Present

Giselle Block
Bonnie Monte
Jane Brand
Russ Greenfield
Mary Hanley
Roger Heller
Tami Hull
Gary Robards

Staff

Jack Liebster, Planning Manager
Christine Gimmler, Senior Planner

1. Summary Minutes

The Advisory Committee accepted the summary minutes from February 11, 2014 as presented.

2. Traffic Issues

Committee member Gary Robards reported that he had arranged a meeting with San Rafael City Councilmember Damon Connolly to discuss potential improvements to the North San Pedro/Highway 101 interchange, which is located within the San Rafael city limits. Chris Thomas from the San Rafael School District also attended. Currently, there are two westbound lanes between the San Pedro Road interchange and Civic Center Drive. However, the curb lane becomes a "right turn only" lane accessing the northbound entry ramp onto Highway 101. Since a greater number of vehicles travel west under the freeway (toward the southbound 101 on-ramp), the curb lane tends to be underutilized, which exacerbates congestion at the North San Pedro Road/Civic Center Drive intersection. During the meeting, Gary presented the idea of improving traffic flow by providing two continuous westbound lanes through the 101 interchange. Widening the roadway as it approaches the freeway could also provide an opportunity to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. Although these type of roadway modifications would require further study, funding, and the approval of Caltrans and the City of San Rafael, Gary indicated that Councilmember Connolly was interested in exploring the idea further and supportive of efforts to reduce traffic congestion on North San Pedro since it affects the residents of both Santa Venetia and the City of San Rafael (particularly those with children attending various Santa Venetia schools). Gary indicated that he would report back to the committee with further updates on this issue as needed. Staff noted that the idea could be included in the community plan as a concept which warrants further consideration.

3. Review of Single-family Design Guidelines, Design Review Triggers and Ridgeline Development Standards

Committee members had no further comments or follow up questions on the material distributed and discussed at last month's meeting.

4. Discussion of Draft Summary of Issues

Staff distributed an updated version of the draft "Summary of Issues", which is intended to summarize the status of the various topics that have been discussed and identify "tasks" to be completed in the community plan. As noted previously, the summary is organized into the following topic areas:

- Flood control
- Transportation
- Bicycle and pedestrian circulation
- Public transportation
- Community character
- Parks and open space
- Natural resource protection
- Noise
- Neighborhood maintenance/nuisance issues

During review of the summary, some of committee's suggestions and additional ideas for inclusion in the Community Plan included the following:

- Consider mapping or providing a written description of historical inundation areas and past flooding events (Flood Control)
- Clarify that the "worst case" peak hour traffic occurs on weekday mornings during the school year (Transportation)
- Identify the "jury parking lot" as a potential vehicle drop off location for Venetia Valley School from Civic Center Drive (with pedestrian access via Madison and Roosevelt Streets) which could reduce traffic congestion on North San Pedro Road. It was noted that this area is already used as an informal drop off area. (Transportation).
- Indicate the location of the existing Bay Trail (along North San Pedro Road) and suggest possible alternative routes closer to the Bay that would provide an improved user experience (Bike and Pedestrian Circulation)
- Provide information on the County's standards for acres of parkland per person and whether this standard is met in Santa Venetia as well as an explanation of how parkland dedication fees are allocated within the County.

Following discussion of the summary, committee members volunteered to work on several of the identified tasks as follows:

- Develop a description of Santa Venetia's community character (Bonnie and Jane)
- Identify desired bike and pedestrian improvements (Roger and Russ)
- Identify natural resources that should be highlighted in the plan (Giselle)

5. Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8, 2014

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.