



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
November 9, 2004

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Todd Rogers
Vice Mayor Wayne Piercy
Council Member Joseph Esquivel
Council Member Larry Van Nostran
Council Member Robert Wagner

TRANSIT STOPS UPDATE

Director of Public Works, Lisa Rapp, displayed slides and gave a presentation on a proposed project to improve transit stop conditions in Lakewood. She advised that there were currently 253 transit stops within the City, some shared between transit lines or operators. She noted that although the City's NPDES permit from the State required that all transit stops be equipped with a trash can, the stops varied widely on other furniture such as benches or shelters. She reported that a photo inventory had been completed on all transit stops in the City to document present furnishings. She outlined proposed improvements at eight, high ridership locations. The improvements would include: new shelters; street furniture; hardscape repairs, where needed; and landscape improvements. The proposed shelters would have an ivy green, perforated metal canopy and solar lighting. The proposed street furniture would be matching color seats with arms and sized appropriate to the site ridership. Each site would also have matching trash cans. She presented illustrations showing the proposed improvements for each of the sites.

Council Member Van Nostran, noting the high ridership at the west-bound Del Amo Boulevard site, west of Lakewood Boulevard, suggested increasing the shelter size.

Council Member Esquivel inquired about the funding source for the proposed improvements. Ms. Rapp responded by stating that the City received funds annually that were restricted for transit uses. Finance Director Larry Schroeder advised that the City would have about \$600,000 in available transit funds by the end of the fiscal year.

In response to a question from Council Member Van Nostran, City Manager Howard Chambers stated that this project had been conceived as a multi-year project based not only on funding availability, but on work load and staff levels since the assembly and installations were to be accomplished using a City work crew.

TRANSIT STOPS UPDATE - Continued

Ms. Rapp advised that the plan for the project included hardscape repair and footings to be done by the City's hardscape contractor; trees planted by the City's tree maintenance contractor; minor landscaping and irrigation put in by the Recreation and Community Services Department; and the assembly and installation of benches and shelter to be done by a Public Works Department facilities maintenance crew.

Council Member Piercy inquired about the plans for other high ridership locations in the City. Ms. Rapp responded by stating that 15 of the old-style shelters would remain in place, new benches and trash cans would be placed installed at other selected locations for a total cost of \$126,000.

Ms. Rapp advised that City crews would remove twelve surplus shelters and benches at 58 stops where there was low ridership. She noted that some of the concrete benches would be kept in storage to be placed at locations upon request.

Council Member Van Nostran expressed concern that consideration be given to the nature of the riders and not numbers alone, so that appropriate furniture would be placed in locations where needed due to the age or disability of the riders. Ms. Rapp responded by stating that the removal process would proceed slowly, with benches being eliminated first from locations showing no riders.

Ms. Rapp confirmed for Mayor Rogers that staff would do a complete analysis before taking the seating away and would also consider the impacts on the surrounding properties.

Responding to a question from Council Member Wagner, Ms. Rapp stated that the Transit Stop Improvement Program would take two or three additional years to complete.

In response to questions from the City Council Members, Ms. Rapp advised that the rationale for the proposed funding level included other demands of the same transit funds, including funding for the DASH transit buses serving Lakewood senior and disabled residents.

Mayor Rogers noted that a budget analysis would be needed before additional allocations from transit funds could be considered.

Mayor Rogers inquired about the difference between the solid and perforated shelters. Ms. Rapp stated that the solid shelters were slightly less expensive than the perforated shelters recommended by staff, but it was felt that the perforated shelters would be more attractive and easier to maintain.

In response to a question from Mayor Rogers, Ms. Rapp advised that there was no funding available currently from any of the transit operators to assist the City in improving the transit stops. She also assured the Council that high ridership locations in the eastern portions of the City would be receiving new benches during this first phase of the improvement program and scheduled to receive shelters during the next round of improvements.

TRANSIT STOPS UPDATE - Continued

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER WAGNER SECONDED TO ALLOCATE \$300,000 IN PROPOSITION A TRANSIT FUNDS FOR THE TRANSIT STOP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF SHELTERS, BENCHES AND TRASH CANS UNDER THE CMAS CONTRACT; AND AUTHORIZE THE REMOVAL OF SURPLUS SHELTERS AND BENCHES. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Wagner, Esquivel, Piercy, Van Nostran and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk