Planning Commission Meeting Minutes - Final August 10, 2015

2 15-0719

Adopt a Resolution Recommending Approval of the Official Plan Lines of Mathilda Avenue between El Camino Real and Washington Avenue; Refer to City Council for Approval and Introduction of Ordinance to Adopt Plan Lines

Jennifer Ng, Assistant City Engineer in the Department of Public Works, and Marcelo Cosentino with BKF Engineers, presented the staff report.

Vice Chair Harrison and Ms. Ng discussed Comm. Simons' comments during the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) meeting, and confirmed that the current plan line meets the City's approved standard details. Vice Chair Harrison confirmed with Ms. Ng that implementation of bike lanes and movement of the curbs and sidewalks would not occur until an aggregate of property owners decide to redevelop or until a significant portion, such as a blocks worth of properties, have completed the dedication.

Comm. Olevson confirmed with Ms. Ng that decisions regarding using color to indicate bike lanes would occur at implementation time, and Ms. Ng added that the City's bicycle plan will be revisited in 2016.

Comm. Klein and Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer, discussed an overview of plan lines in the City and why it is now appropriate to implement the plan line on Mathilda Avenue. Comm. Klein confirmed with Ms. Ryan that the process to prioritize plan lines and determine the locations for street widening occurs when properties are redeveloped. Comm. Klein also confirmed with Ms. Ng that parking will be removed on northbound Mathilda Avenue between Olive Avenue and El Camino Real. Comm. Klein discussed with Ms. Ryan who would cover the costs of project completion in the future, and confirmed with Ms. Ng that levels of service for turn signals at individual intersections were not analyzed as part of the official plan project, but that they will be looked at as properties redevelop.

Comm. Rheaume confirmed with Ms. Ng that adoption of a plan line for roadway wide enough to support bike lanes could allow the City to apply for grant funding. Comm. Rheaume commented on bike lanes that start and stop along roads and discussed with Ms. Ng how the City determines when enough dedications have been done on a certain plan line. Comm. Rheaume verified with Ms. Ryan that approval of elements of the right-of-way configuration would not be given by the Planning Commission, and discussed with Ms. Ng that the plan line does not go all the way to train station as the intent of grant was to look at the segment connecting downtown to El Camino Real. In response to Comm. Rheaume's inquiry, Ms. Ryan explained that redevelopment of a site includes the demolition of existing buildings and that before construction of a new building the City would then ask for a

right-of-way dedication.

Chair Melton confirmed with Ms. Ryan adoption of official plan lines does decrease the size of a parcel until dedication occurs.

Chair Melton opened the public hearing, and upon seeing no speakers for this item, closed the public hearing.

Comm. Klein moved to recommend to City Council Alternative 1: Find that the environmental impacts of the project were considered in the Addendum to the DSP Program EIR adopted on October 22, 2013 (Resolution No. 617-13) for amendments to the DSP; Adopt a Resolution Recommending Approval of the Official Plan Lines of Mathilda Avenue between El Camino Real and Washington Avenue; and Recommend that City Council Approve the Resolution and Introduce an Ordinance to Amend SMC Section 19.06.050 to incorporate the revised Official Plan Lines, and direct that the Plan Line map be filed with the County Recorder's Office.

Comm. Olevson seconded.

Comm. Klein said this is an easy and unique item to review, and that the more we can do for bike lanes along major arterial roads in the City, that even experienced bicyclists have trouble riding on, is a positive thing. He said as the downtown area is redeveloped and the City looks at sidewalk widths, which should have been done in 2003, and we determine what we want the vision of downtown and this gateway through Sunnyvale to be, the plan lines will put in place a much better path for pedestrians and bicyclists. He said this is step one toward that vision, that hopefully we will have the funding to look at the other 57 plan lines and that he is hoping staff can provide that info to City Council.

Comm. Olevson said he will be supporting the motion, that this is the first of many steps to improve the safety for bicyclists as he sees more sharing the roads with cars. He said as he drives down the road at the speed limit and passes by 5,000 pound trucks going much faster than that, he is hoping that giving more leeway to pedestrians and bicyclists will encourage the City to find a way to slow down the rest of the cars. He added that he cannot see speed bumps on Mathilda Avenue but would support them at this point.

Chair Melton said staff has done a great job, and he hopes everything goes well with their presentation to City Council.

MOTION: Comm. Klein moved to recommend to City Council Alternative 1: Find that the environmental impacts of the project were considered in the Addendum to the DSP Program EIR adopted on October 22, 2013 (Resolution No. 617-13) for amendments to the DSP; Adopt a Resolution Recommending Approval of the Official Plan Lines of Mathilda Avenue between El Camino Real and Washington Avenue; and Recommend that City Council Approve the Resolution and Introduce an Ordinance to Amend SMC Section 19.06.050 to incorporate the revised Official Plan Lines, and direct that the Plan Line map be filed with the County Recorder's Office.

Comm. Olevson seconded. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Melton

Commissioner Olevson Vice Chair Harrison Commissioner Klein Commissioner Rheaume

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Simons