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AT&I Committee

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Summary

[According to the City Council Committee page](#), the Active Transportation and Infrastructure (AT&I) Committee is responsible for debating, implementing and managing public works projects that help San Diego run efficiently and improve quality-of-life for residents.

For its 7/17 meeting, the Committee had three core items they wanted to address. The first was the body of complaints leveled against the pedicab industry. The second was the crumbling Lake Hodges Dam and the need to replace it. The final item was an update and discussion on the latest draft of the City's Street Design Manual.

Here's what you need to know

[According to the City Council Committee page](#), the Active Transportation and Infrastructure (AT&I) Committee is responsible for debating, implementing and managing public works projects that help San Diego run efficiently and improve quality-of-life for residents.

For this meeting:

- The Lake Hodges Dam is the lowest-rated dam within California, and the AT&I

Committee wants to start working on a replacement as soon as possible.

- The pedicab industry has received too many complaints about noise, deceptive pricing and dangerous behavior, and the committee wants to crack down.
- The latest draft for the Street Design Manual promises to cut San Diego's emissions while improving mobility options.

Immediate Actions

- Consent agenda (passed unanimously)
- Updating regulations regarding pedicabs (passed unanimously)
- Lake Hodges Dam replacement (passed unanimously)

Accessibility Issues

- No accessibility issues were observed at this meeting.

Follow-Up Questions

- How is the AT&I Committee planning to reduce carbon emissions beyond the Street Design Manual?

Notes

Meeting Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at Committee Chair Stephen Whitburn by 9:04 AM.
- The agenda for this meeting may be viewed by clicking [here](#), while a video recording of the meeting may be found by clicking [here](#) or [here](#).
 - **All timestamps below were taken from the video recording.**

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Council Member Stephen Whitburn, Chair
- Council President Pro Tem Joe Lacava, Vice Chair
- Council Member Henry L. Foster III (arrived late)
- Council Member Marni von Wilpert

Staff Present:

- City Attorney Representative Dana Fairchild
- Mayoral Representative Randy Wild
- City of San Diego Office of the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) Representative Erin Noel Representative Erin Noel

Non-Agenda Public Comments:

- [7:30] Blair Beakman called from San Jose to comment about the assassination attempt on former President Trump, and that he hopes it will bring the country together.
- [9:40] TerryAnn Skelley expressed concerns about driving under the influence of cannabis, and to ask the City Attorney's office and council members to send out new warnings about cannabis use.
- [11:40] Judy Strang thanked the committee for their work keeping the roads safe, and to reiterate TerryAnn's call for new warnings about driving under the influence.

Agenda Item #1 (Consent Agenda) [17:19]: Ratification of changes in orders to existing construction contract costs with 3-D Enterprises, Inc. for [Mission Bay Golf Course Clubhouse Demo/Portable Building Installation Project](#). The project intends to remove the existing clubhouse and replace it with portable structures. [3-D Enterprises, Inc.](#) is a local contractor specializing in public works projects. A staff report explains that the action changes the scope of work and increase the not-to-exceed value of the contract by \$459,596.08 and the total amount of the construction contract to \$10,546,978.84 to complete the modular food service building associated with the Mission Bay Golf Course Clubhouse.

- Presentation:
 - None
- Public comments:
 - No public comment.
- Commission, Council, or Committee comments:
 - [19:05] Committee member von Wilpert stated that this project is needed, and will bring more revenue to the city. Also noted that costs for this and similar projects are rising. von Wilpert said the cost of the project was originally supposed to be \$5 million but it is now \$10 million because construction costs have gone through the roof, something seen across the board.
- Commission, Council, or Committee action:
 - [19:49] Lacava motioned to pass the consent agenda, and Foster seconded it. Motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 (Consent Agenda) [18:29]: Award a design contract to Dokken Engineering for [Golden Hill Improv 1](#). The project intends to replace lead water pipes with PVC pipes within the Greater Golden Hill neighborhood. [Dokken Engineering](#) is a civil engineering design firm operating in San Diego, Folsom and Redding, CA.

- Presentation:
 - None

- Public comments:
 - No public comment.
- Commission, Council, or Committee comments:
 - [18:29] von Wilpert expressed her desire to move ahead with this item, and thanked Capital Projects for their work replacing the pipes.
- Commission, Council, or Committee action:
 - [19:49] Lacava motions to pass the consent agenda, and Foster seconds it. Motion is carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 [20:08]: Request to amend Municipal Code and Code of Conduct applying to pedicabs.

- Presentation [23:13]:
 - Presenters [22:49]
 - Terrence Sullivan, policy advisor, Council District 3
 - Michelle Garland, office of City Attorney
 - San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Captain Adam Sharki
 - SDPD Acting Lieutenant Michael Kellington
 - Most pedicabs are operated by individuals, but are owned by larger companies.
 - [23:59] Licensed pedicabs must have one of two types of decal:
 - Pedicab decal allows pedicab to go anywhere in the city except pedicab restricted zones.
 - Pedicab restricted zone decal allow pedicabs to go everywhere *including* pedicab restricted zones, but are much rarer to obtain (only 250 allowed).
 - [25:23] Pedicab Code of Conduct must be signed by operators, but does not apply to owners.
 - [25:42] Resolution to amend Code of Conduct will not go through, after guidance from the City Attorney's office.
 - [26:06] Numerous complaints about pedicabs causing noise late at night; engaging in deceptive pricing; and endangering other vehicles on the road.
 - [27:57] Sullivan explained that the ordinance recommends an amendment that would ban amplifiers and speakers from pedicabs.
 - [29:47] The amendment also recommendeds that pedicab operators be required to produce pre-trip invoices for riders with full breakdown of the fare price.
 - [30:34] Recommended that council staff work with SDPD to revise Rules of Operation and Code of Conduct for pedicabs.
- Public comments:

- [32:35] Joyce Enjada thanked the committee for efforts; asked for clarification on aspects of city policy; and ultimately stated she wants the pedicab experiences to be better for everyone.
- [34:53] Fred Tako with the San Diego Lodging Association said that downtown hotels are negatively impacted by pedicabs, and supported the resolution.
- [36:52] Clayton Fowler with the Downtown San Diego Partnership expressed support for the resolution and thanked the committee for reaching out to their organization.
- [38:05] Sheryl said she and her husband took a pedicab in May from Petco to Gaslamp, and were charged \$209.27. She said horse and buggy rides in her home state of South Carolina have prices listed up-front, and that her experience made her less likely to come back to San Diego.
- [40:21] Blair Beakman put forward his belief that the pedicabs bring a lot to the downtown area.
- Commission, Council, or Committee comments:
 - [20:40] Whitburn thanked residents, visitors and pedicab operators for their input, while also noting multiple complaints brought against the industry.
 - [43:16] Made the motion to pass the resolution.
 - [31:56] Fairchild states attorney's office was still going through legal issues and will update the committee.
 - [43:29] Lacava seconded the motion, thanked staff for the presentation, and said he wants to continue crafting better pedicab policy.
 - [45:48] von Wilpert thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for the resolution, but asked Sullivan how pedicab operators will be held responsible when they aren't the owners.
- Commission, Council, or Committee action:
 - [50:41] The resolution was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 [51:11]: Award a design contract to Black & Veatch Corporation for [the City of San Diego Lake Hodges Dam Replacement Project](#).

- Presentation [52:21]:
 - Presenters [51:44]
 - Elif Cetin, assistant director, Engineering & Capital Projects
 - James Botica,, senior civil engineer for project
 - Tiffany Kirk, assistant deputy director, Public Utilities Department
 - The project intends to replace the Lake Hodges Dam, [which has begun to](#)

- [break down](#) after 106 years in service.
- [Black & Veatch Corporation](#) (B&V) is a global engineering and construction firm that specializes in infrastructure.
- After interviewing three total firms, the City selected B&V for the contract in March 2024.
- The Lake Hodges Dam is the only dam rated “unsatisfactory” by California’s Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD).
- DSOD has assigned a deadline of December 31st, 2029 for beginning construction of a replacement dam, which is planned to be constructed 100 feet downstream of the existing dam.
- Consultant contract is estimated to last nine years and cost almost \$45.2 million.
- Public comments:
 - [1:07:22] Joyce Enjada had questions about ongoing repairs and oversight leading up to the dam's unsatisfactory rating.
 - [1:09:51] Blair Beakman thanked the committee for their work. Asked if the dam needs a full replacement, and not flood mitigation.
- Commission, Council, or Committee comments:
 - [1:12:11] von Wilpert pointed out that the water is in her district, but a break would put the water in Lacava’s district. She said she wants more public input as plans for the new dam are finalized, and confirmed with staff that the dam will not be removed entirely. Clarified B&V’s intentions for asking that the municipal code be changed. Ultimately expressed support for the motion.
 - [1:21:43] Lacava thanked the staff for the presentation. Asked about what agreements need to be made between agencies for the new dam, and how it will be funded. Seconded the motion.
 - [1:26:04] Whitburn thanked staff for their efforts. He stated that he wants to strike a balance between ensuring essential water infrastructure for the county, and keeping water rates low for residents. Also noted how quickly the replacement dam needs to get going, and asked staff how confident they feel.
- Commission, Council, or Committee action:
 - [1:28:58] The resolution was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 [1:29:28]: Update on new [City of San Diego Street Design Manual](#).

- Presentation [1:31:06]:
 - Presenters [1:30:22]
 - Leo Alo, senior engineer, Sustainability and Mobility Division
 - Heather Werner, interim director, Sustainability and Mobility Division

- Shelby Busso, deputy director, Sustainability and Mobility Division
 - Phil Trum, program manager, Sustainability and Mobility Division
 - The Street Design Manual is used across the county from agencies to individual residents.
 - The new version of the manual is intended to provide a basis to cut emissions and provide more mobility options across San Diego.
 - The manual is being developed alongside partners in the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the San Diego Fire Department, and others.
- Public comments:
 - [1:36:22] Joyce Enjada approved of the current draft, and said she loves the walks she takes downtown.
 - [1:38:04] David Moddy/Motti stated that he was formerly involved in utilities, and expressed concerns about the placement of utility boxes on streets.
 - [1:39:19] Sally Small was concerned about Vision Zero numbers, and criticized the City for not doing enough. She suggested more ideas (like permeable pavement and painting roads white) that the committee could implement.
 - [1:41:27] Chloe Lauer, with the San Diego Biking Coalition, appreciates the current draft and recommends looking to European street design manuals (specifically Oslo's) for inspiration.
 - [1:42:56] Andrew Bowen had concerns about new parkway standards, specifically as to what parts would be widened. He also brought up a new study by John Hopkins University on lane width and traffic safety, and the use of "no pedestrian crossing" signs in San Diego.
 - [1:45:09] Blair Beakman spoke about community and how he wanted to see less technical language at future meetings.
 - [1:47:16] Jason criticized inadequate or nonexistent bike infrastructure in San Diego. He brought up issues of costs and health issues related to cars, and that the City can do more to make car ownership optional.
- Commission, Council, or Committee comments:
 - [1:49:30] Lacava brought up the fact that San Diego is already built-up, and asks how exactly a manual could solve these issues. Also brought up concerns about barriers to private developers.
 - [1:59:18] von Wilpert expressed concern about public safety and how the manual covers this dimension.
 - [2:01:34] Foster stated that the City has come up with many designs for roads, yet most end up in concrete, which worsens the urban heat island effect. Asked staff what to expect from this new manual.
- Commission, Council, or Committee action:

- None required.

This writer left the meeting at 11:04, two hours after the start of the meeting.

Adjournment:

- **Whitburn adjourned the meeting at 11:18.**

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at documenters@inewssource.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.