



**City of San Diego | Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment
Uptown Planners Subcommittee Meeting | June 17, 2021**

CHAT LOG

OVERVIEW

The June 17, 2021 Uptown Planners Subcommittee Meeting for the Hillcrest Focused Plan Amendment was held via Zoom. The meeting included a presentation and discussion on Mobility Network Scenarios including: the Mobility Planning Process, Network Development, and Draft Mobility Network Scenarios within the Focused Plan Amendment Area.

The meeting was conducted with the Zoom videoconference platform. Attendees typed comments and questions through the “chat” tool. Each chat submittal includes the time and the participant’s name, which are provided in this document.

CHAT LOG

- 00:27:00 Katie Witherspoon, Planning Department:
<https://www.planhillcrest.org/meetingsandupdates>

- 00:32:38 Lu Rehling: While I appreciate the intention to recognize community input, I want to strongly question putting a lot of weight on polling results from the previous meeting. The poll was skewed in design and those polled were not necessarily representative of our community. An ad hoc/informal poll of whomever showed up & chose to do the poll should not overwhelm the reasoning and evidence that might support (or not) different options.

- 00:33:14 Tom Mullaney: Yes, understood

- 00:37:12 Oscar T: I agree with the poll, I definitely believe it is representative of the community's voice

- 00:37:51 Mary McKenzie: How was it taken?

- 00:38:53 Mary McKenzie: Speaking to the pedestrian options, are accessibility concerns heard?

- 00:40:02 Tanner French - Mobility Department: Polls give us a general amount of information, but we understand that they should not be looked at singularly.

- 00:41:23 Oscar T: Reducing Washington lane would be a great idea!

- 00:42:02 Nevo Magnezi: Isn't Bachman Place getting a class IV bike lane with SANDAG soon? Is that considered in these plans?

00:42:07 Michael Donovan: Washington between 5th and El Cajon needs to be made safer for walking and biking, this provides some space to do that

00:42:16 Amdahl Design @KyleAmdahl.com: Page 15 specified light rail on 5th ave. It's confusing now as I hear 6th ave? Please clarify vision for light rail.

00:42:30 Tanner French - Mobility Department: Yes, accessibility is always a consideration in our approach. It is mainly handled at an operational level, rather than at a high-level concept or network level. But the plan will make recommendations for continued accessibility concerns.

00:44:35 Nevo Magnezi: Happy to see the class IV bike lanes go along the full length eastward along University Ave. Previous proposals showed the class IV lanes end before the intersection with Park Blvd

00:44:44 Tanner French - Mobility Department: The current vision for north/south rail would be that it would be on 6th Ave. This has been preliminarily vetted with SANDAG. But would need much more vetting.

00:45:22 Mary McKenzie: Thanks, Tanner. But one thing I've come across is that during the actual construction process, there's very little concern for mobility or accessibility. Maybe that could be emphasized somehow.

00:45:59 Mat Wahlstrom: Strongly agree with Lu. My comment about this are missing from the Chat Log of that meeting, but here is the relevant part of what I emailed Michael Prinz on 1/21: "3.) Nowhere on the agenda is there a notice that "polls" would be conducted during the meeting. Further, the entire discussion was agendized as an "information item" not an "action item," and so appears to be in violation of both the Brown Act... I therefore request that any resultant 'poll' results be struck from any future policy considerations."

00:47:21 Oscar T: very supportive of removing parking on university to make way for a bike lane

00:47:27 Nevo Magnezi: ^agree

00:48:00 Sanjay Stone: Agree as well. It's currently not safe for bicyclist in that section. (I ride that route everyday)

00:48:06 Amdahl Design @KyleAmdahl.com: please adjust page 15 to reflect light rail on 6th ave rather than 5th. Unless Im incorrect?

00:49:36 Ian: Agree with Mat's comment.

00:50:19 Katie Witherspoon, Planning Department: Hi Mat, thank you for your comment. The polls used during the virtual meetings can be thought of more as an activity than an action item. Similar to how we would use boards and stickers in-person for feedback, we use the poll to gather informal feedback. We recognize that there is other feedback that is important and therefore we're happy to take your comments as well. But polls are not

only for advisory committee/subcommittee members and are not thought of as an "action item."

- 00:50:46 Mary McKenzie: The bridge over the 163 is horribly dangerous for everyone. If nothing structural is going to change, that bridge needs to be maintained regularly.
- 00:50:51 Nevo Magnezi: Is the (narrow) sidewalk on the robinson bridge over SR-163 part of the purview of this plan? Also, as I recall SANDAG proposing a "robinson bikeway" for a block or two as well to connect the University Ave bikeway to the Landis bikeway?
- 00:51:05 Marc Bielas: Is there a plan to beautiful the bicycle land buffers with any sort of landscaping?
- 00:51:15 Michael Donovan: I think the polls are just a sense of the group and are not binding in any way. As was stated earlier there will be a formal community poll release in Sept time frame, so don't think any violaitons have occurred
- 00:51:55 Ian: Herbert St. an attorney's dream
- 00:52:00 Nevo Magnezi: @Marc, Bankers Hill is getting landscaping due to their agreement to maintain it. Unfortunately, Hillcrest folks are not getting landscaping because no agreement to maintain it.
- 00:52:24 Marc Bielas: Shame :/
- 00:53:23 Mat Wahlstrom: To Katie Witherspoon: Disagree. And the fact remains that no poll or "activity" is mentioned on the agenda, https://dd48e4fb-db0c-46a1-b903-50d8bf1516b6.filesusr.com/ugd/987270_d9baa946fef24c56b00ad1645a82e82b.pdf
- 00:53:34 Gail Friedt: @Nevo and @ Marc - absolutely correct. Bankers Hill will have landscaping, but Hillcrest not so much.
- 00:55:37 Katie Witherspoon, Planning Department: Thank you, Mat. Your comment is noted and we will seek clarification about agendas and activity noticing.
- 00:55:44 Gail Friedt: Unfortunately some people want to talk about agendas or lack there of and Brown Act Violations. Can we look at what will affect the community and future generations.
- 00:56:19 Oscar T: I agree with Gail
- 00:57:35 sharon gehl: The light rail was estimated to cost \$200,000,000 when the report was done some years ago. it was expected to operate as a circulator only, not as a way to get to work. Has that changed?
- 00:58:38 Gail Friedt: Monique - very nice presentation. Thank you.
- 00:59:06 Nevo Magnezi: @sharon, as I recall there used to be a proposal to run a "trolley" (i.e. single car, as they existed in SD a century ago) around Balboa Park. This light rail proposal would be part of the regioinal transportation infrastructure much like the light rail that goes through downtown.

00:59:25 Mary McKenzie: I can wait.

00:59:46 Mat Wahlstrom: Unfortunately some people want to ignore the laws that ensure transparency, perhaps to cover for the fact that they got a heads-up behind the scenes to skew the decisions made?

01:01:54 Lu Rehling: Because of another meeting, I may miss the closing discussion. I hope that there will be discussion of impacts on traffic. Safe biking is important. Reducing the pollution, negative effects on businesses, etc. of traffic backups also is important. So it would be good to see discussion of both together. Thanks!

01:02:35 Amdahl Design @KyleAmdahl.com: thanks Brer. I think we need to discuss more about 5th and 6th Light rail.

01:02:54 Mat Wahlstrom: Thanks, Lu. And at least some consideration of the disabled!

01:03:36 sharon gehl: The study I'm referring to went from Hillcrest to the 8 freeway and then back. It would not connect to the downtown trolley. I still have it if you want to read it.

01:03:58 Nevo Magnezi: Love the wide bike lanes on university ave, btw. Great for a wide range of micromobility users; fast or slow, individuals and families

01:06:14 Brer Marsh: Agree Nevo, We need to start referring to these "bike Lanes" in a way that better represents their true multi modal potential. Mobility Lanes would be a better description.

01:08:29 Ian: Light Rail or Street Car?

01:09:39 Lu Rehling: Are you referring to the Eitol Bldg as the one that would have to, what, move?

01:09:45 Michael Donovan: What does increasing the curb to curb with on university do to pedestrian space?

01:10:51 Lu Rehling: or would we lose the sidewalk on one side of the street? not clear how you widen?

01:12:49 Michael Donovan: there was a plan presented to UP that involved closing one lane of washington under the flyover

01:13:35 Brer Marsh: General comment on presentation, Sections would benefit from having a keyplan to help orient the viewer. Its difficult to follow the presentation.

01:14:55 Phuong Nguyen:
https://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_4607_26060.pdf

01:15:09 Tanner French - Mobility Department: Lu: we would not lose sidewalks. Widening would have to occur as redevelopment occurs.

01:15:35 Lu Rehling: Thanks, Tanner. I'm just not sure what that means for existing buildings. Are you suggesting they would have to go?

01:16:55 Oscar T: I think it is important to prioritize people walking, in bikes, in transit over having car lanes

01:17:42 Ian: Yes, still seems to be auto centric. Think last mile.

01:18:30 Tanner French - Mobility Department: No, they wouldn't have to go. Likely if redevelopment doesn't occur along a whole stretch lesser (or interim) improvements would have to occur until that point.

01:20:11 Lu Rehling: Thanks for explaining. I'm concerned it would be confusing to have flow for pedestrians, cyclists, and cars changing from block to block.

01:22:51 Michael Donovan: This seems like it would be very logical to a person traveling through Hillcrest. Moreso than the other 2

01:23:26 Oscar T: To Brer's point, option 3 has great biking options on Robinson. I like it

01:25:32 Mat Wahlstrom: If tonight's "activity" is selective pre-noticed participants about it choosing from one of three options that were baked in at the January meeting, then it's just as illegitimate as not being properly noticed in tonight's agenda.

01:33:53 Nevo Magnezi: Appreciate your answer to my question Tanner

01:34:28 Ian: Is the city in concert with the UCSD master plan?

01:34:40 Mary McKenzie: Not only CALTRANS, but also DMV, I would expect.

01:35:59 Mat Wahlstrom: Mobility decisions are momentous decision. If we're being asked to assess these three options, there should at least some traffic data analysis presented about the consequences of each, if not also bumped against the CEQA default consideration of doing nothing.

01:36:04 sharon gehl: The Hillcrest Business District proposed years ago making the Washington bridge wide enough to create land for buildings that could be leased to pay for the bridge.

01:36:16 Shannon Mulderig, Planning Department: Ian, yes we have and will continue to coordinate with UCSD on their Long range plan.

01:38:30 Mary McKenzie: Where does the eastern section of university begin?

01:38:31 Oscar T: Matt has a great point, this is planning for the future. no overnight impacts

01:38:53 Ian: Great points Mat.

01:42:27 Ian: Brer, perhaps massive traffic calming.

01:45:30 Mat Wahlstrom: Has anyone asked the Hillcrest Business Association what they think about these proposals? They have been adamant about preserving the landscaped (mature urban tree) medians

01:46:14 Ian: A question to Ben Nichols.

01:46:43 Nevo Magnezi: @Roy, we haven't eliminated parking in buildings. We have eliminated minimum parking requirements in transit priority areas. It is up for each property owner to determine the amount of off-street parking that is appropriate for them.

01:46:53 Oscar T: you don't need to build expensive underground parking.... you could just not have a car and support local

01:48:05 Brer Marsh: you're not old Gail! :)

01:48:07 Nevo Magnezi: Transit and Micromobility lanes will be able to carry many many more commuters into our community, and support our businesses, than can currently get here via single occupancy vehicles.

01:48:40 Shannon Mulderig, Planning Department: For those of you who were not able to ask their questions/provide their comments, please email me at SLMulderig@sandiego.gov. We look forward to your additional feedback and will respond to any questions.

01:50:11 Nevo Magnezi: Excellent presentation. Thank you City of San Diego staff!

01:50:22 Gail Friedt: thank you.

01:50:35 Brer Marsh: Thank you everyone for your great work!

01:50:36 Matt Medeiros: Thank you for the time and energy you've put into this.

01:50:37 Stephen Scherer: Thank you!

01:51:03 Oscar T: 4times, lol

01:51:09 Oscar T: savage!

01:51:25 Mat Wahlstrom: Please make the Chat Log copyable