

**SUMMARY MINUTES
FOR THE
TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
GENERAL PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

Meeting #24

**AUGUST 21, 2003
COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M.**

“pacificmunicipal.com/cortemadera”

LOCATION: Town Hall Council Chambers, 300 Tamalpais Boulevard, Corte Madera, CA

All the documents relating to the following agenda items are available for public review in the Environmental Services Department of the Town of Corte Madera Office at 300 Tamalpais Drive, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; phone (415-927-5064). In some instances, packet materials for the General Plan Steering Committee may be produced and will be available on Tuesdays preceding the meeting.

One of the primary purposes of the General Plan Steering Committee Meetings is to ensure the public is provided with an opportunity to address the Committee on issues related to the General Plan Update. Each person desiring to speak on an agenda item will therefore be given an opportunity at the appropriate time. Please state your name and address as the meeting is being recorded.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
The meeting convened at 6:40 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
Those in attendance were: Chair Condon; Alden-Crowe; Chin; Fillpot; Harlock; Josehart; Kunhart; MacLean; Madden; Vaughn
Staff included: Lorraine Weiss, Brian Millar (PMC) and Wayne Shijo (CCS)
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
The public is invited to address the General Plan Steering Committee on any matter in the Committee's jurisdiction for issues not on the Agenda.

No public comment.
5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY NOTES**

A. July 31, 2003
Changes were made to the summary notes for July 31: Stronger statements about lights at the Corte Madera/Redwood Avenue (page 3) were recommended, and that the corner was not safe and needed action, or an accident was bound to happen.

The committee then approved the summary notes for July 31, 2003.

6. STATUS OF GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Millar indicated he would provide status of the General Plan Update later in the evening.

7. OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Wayne Shijo, transportation consultant, presented a traffic overview and Level of Service (LOS) issues regarding the Paradise/San Clemente Commercial area and Tamalpais Drive/San Clemente Highway 101 Interchange, and commented on changes that occur according to the seasons. Questions and concerns from the committee included:

- “What can we do to effect change?”
 - It was recommended to prioritize the issues and pursue them through the local governing body. Vote on and adopt goals in the General Plan for the long-term effort.
- “What is one of the things we can do?”
 - Using Caltrans as an example, it was suggested that inclusion of construction plans in the STIP is an effective Caltrans tool.
 - Involvement of local influence, such as elected officials, is also key in effecting change.
- Regarding the Larkspur/Caltrans issues, suggestions included:
 - Prioritizing preliminary policy VI.1.G .
 - Reducing traffic flow by getting traffic off the freeway before it gets to the Tamalpais exit.
 - Limiting turns onto San Clemente.

Wayne Shijo suggested, as an option, an over-crossing south of the Highway 101 bridge. Advantages could include east/west connectivity, avoiding an interchange, the addition of a bike/pedestrian route, a primary route for local traffic, and economic development opportunities. This could cost in the range of \$7 million to construct. TPAC has also looked at this option. Questions and concerns from the committee members included:

- “Is the goal for east/west connectivity, or for northbound vehicular traffic flow?”
- An overpass at Highway 101 is a safety issue: Can we narrow lanes, i.e. Highway 101 east to the Village; Highway 101 to the northbound freeway?
- The four-way intersection at Tamal Vista and Meadowsweet may back up with an over crossing.
- Will the construction cost include signalization?
- Were larger area flows into the bridge looked at?
 - Yes, but an overpass takes pressure off the Tamalpais/101 interchange.

Corte Madera and Larkspur residents previously posed the question to Caltrans regarding a full interchange at Warnum, with Lucky to be closed.

- How will this affect the Tamalpais exit? (No numbers have been developed yet.)

Committee members inquired about a visit from the Congestion Management Agency, or, at least reviewing the report.

- How would traffic from Hanley make a left turn? (The area Specific Plan would look at the issues.)

The committee members voted yes to explore the goal for a Casa Buena over-crossing.

Committee members will need to vote on:

- An exit on northbound Highway 101 at Kochs service road to help east Town residents.
- Improvement of the Warnum/101 access from Med Gardens.
 - Signalization may help this.
- Addressing the Tamalpais/101 improvements with the goal for pedestrian, bicycle, and northbound vehicular traffic safety.
 - Cantilever

Committee members also discussed whether to hold or improve Levels of Service on Town streets. It was decided to maintain at current levels, but to allow for new development in Corte Madera. If feasible, traffic can be mitigated.

Brian Millar and Wayne Shijo will write up and present the following issues regarding LOS to the GPSC at a future meeting:

1. Don't quantify Levels of Service for the Town, per se, instead setting a range of LOS and policies on how to manage traffic.
2. Focus on improvement measures that don't necessarily require physical inputs.
3. Focus on out-of-town traffic impacts upon Corte Madera.
 - Require development to mitigate impacts (including dollar amounts)
4. Develop a transportation plan (such as a transportation demand management system) with schools and others to reduce traffic problems.
 - Could transit options for the Christmas Tree area be built into the Plan?
 - Is the General Plan to include a transportation study that may guide how these approaches could work?

Other areas of discussion by the committee members included Residential Street impacts. Wayne Shijo indicated that LOS on local streets might not be useful.

- Instead, the TIRE index was discussed as an option for measuring traffic impacts to residential neighborhoods.

- How many residential streets in Corte Madera would or could experience this change?
 - Some; residential areas may change over time, seeking out side streets, etc., as alternative access routes.

Final discussion focused on the following:

- Can you have a Granada School *and* a general policy regarding reuse? If so, perhaps there may be a way to quantify or standardize “low traffic” in some way with safety/driveways?
- Encourage School District to build fully within Town limits.
- Consider use of shuttles to minimize traffic impacts throughout the Town.

8. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

The next planned meetings will be on September 17 or September 24 and October 16 with locations to be determined.

Suggestions were made regarding the modified list of preliminary Committee goals and policies relative to the San Clemente/Paradise Specific Plan issue, including to pare down the list of items since some were duplicative and to clarify key goals.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The General Plan Steering Committee meets as needed, generally once per month in the Corte Madera Town Hall, 300 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera, CA. A meeting agenda will be published in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.