

Expanded Community Advisory Panel (XCAP)

January 27, 2021

Summary - Special Meeting (virtual, through Zoom)

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Present: Gregory Brail, Phil Burton, Tony Carrasco, Inyoung Cho, Larry Klein, Nadia Naik, Keith Reckdahl, David Shen, Cari Templeton

Absent:

2. Staff Updates

Ripen Bhatia, Senior Engineer, noted that a letter was received from the Palo Alto Council of PTAs (PTAC) and it was included in the Packet.

3. Oral Communications

None.

4. XCAP Member Updates and Working Groups Update

[This item was heard with Item 5]

5. Writing and Editing of Final Report

Chair Naik called for public comment. Seeing no public speakers, she suggested that XCAP review Churchill Avenue Chapter 3.2. She announced that XCAP had taken three separate votes for Churchill Avenue. One was on the closure of Churchill, one on the mitigations, and the third on the preferred bicycle/pedestrian option. The Summary of the Actions paragraph was the only paragraph she made edits to, to reflect the votes properly.

XCAP Member Carrasco suggested that Chair Naik provide some introductory language to provide context to the Summary of Actions.

XCAP Member Templeton clarified to include an opening sentence that states that Churchill Avenue had three separate motions.

The discussion commenced among the XCAP Members regarding adding additional context to the Summary of Actions.

XCAP Member Templeton announced that the Churchill Avenue section was redrafted to reflect the discussion that took place in the meetings and the votes as they took place.

XCAP Member Cho found the words additional mitigation confusing in the Summary of Actions.

XCAP discussed the language and decided to include a hyperlink for additional mitigation and add additional clarifying language to the Summary of Actions.

XCAP Member Shen articulated that XCAP Members should have been notified that the Churchill Avenue section received revisions and those revisions should have been tracked.

Chair Naik shared that the intent was not to edit the document, but folks had different opinions on how the motions took place for Churchill. For these reasons, the transcripts were re-read and the meeting videos were re-watched to figure out what happened. Due to the Brown Act, the XCAP Members working on the edits could not inform the other XCAP Members of any changes made. She summarized that the Summary of Actions paragraph and the Minority Opinion were the only areas that received substantial changes. The section regarding traffic was copied and pasted from the copy that was reviewed at the last meeting.

XCAP Member Shen emphasized that he had inserted a paragraph in the traffic section for Churchill Avenue that XCAP Member Klein had written and now it was not there.

XCAP Member Cho reported that her comments had disappeared as well.

Chair Naik restated that the XCAP had reviewed all comments at the last meeting and if they were not included, she did not know where they went. She requested that all XCAP Members state their comments during the meeting so that the full XCAP can review and approve them.

The XCAP continued discussing the Summary of Action language regarding the three motions and if context language should be added or not.

XCAP Member Templeton requested a context sentence be added. XCAP Member Cho agreed.

XCAP Member Klein disagreed.

XCAP Member Shen agreed that a context sentence should not be added.

XCAP Member Templeton suggested language for a context sentence and all XCAP Members agreed to the language change.

Chair Naik moved to the Compared with City Council-Adopted Criteria for Churchill Avenue section.

XCAP Member Carrasco felt that the language under facilitates movement implied that the pedestrian experience has been significantly enhanced and that was not true. He suggested deleting the words pedestrians because the improvements were only benefiting cyclists.

Chair Naik suggested changing the words significantly enhanced to more efficient.

XCAP Member Shen noted that the language used came from the matrix and if the language is changed then the matrix may need to be changed as well.

Mr. Bhatia emphasized that the report can deviate from the matrix because it's XCAP's report.

XCAP was in consensus to change the language to safer and more efficient.

XCAP Member Carrasco wanted to see the words 8 percent slope be included in the minimized right-of-way acquisition.

Mr. Bhatia confirmed it was an 8 percent slope.

Chair Naik included the suggestion and XCAP agreed to the change.

XCAP Member Carrasco suggested defining how long the duration is for each alternative under minimized disruption and duration of construction. He wanted to see language that specified the duration the intersections would be closed for each alternative.

Chair Naik did not believe that was too detailed for the document.

Mr. Bhatia added that it is too preliminary to know how each intersection will be impacted.

XCAP Member Carrasco reiterated that Council needed to be reminded that construction during unclearable queues is going to be difficult. He wished to see that be included at the beginning of the section of Local Street Circulation Impacts in the Construction section for Churchill Avenue.

XCAP discussed it and decided to move the sentence to the end of paragraph Local Street Circulation Impact during Construction. They came to a consensus on the language for that sentence.

XCAP Member Carrasco pointed out that Table 1, Alma and Churchill Grade Separation Alternatives – Existing Traffic Volumes, does not include traffic volumes. He wanted to eliminate the conclusion in the text that Level Of Service (LOS) is better when in fact the closure handles fewer cars and that is why it scored well.

Chair Naik shared that Table 1 is important to have because it shows the LOS conclusions.

XCAP Member Cho and Templeton wished to keep the language as is.

XCAP Member Carrasco suggested edits to the text, XCAP and Staff discussed other language and they came to a conclusion on additional text to add to the paragraph discussing Table 2 under Churchill Avenue.

Chair Naik moved to the Recommendations and Majority Opinion for Churchill Avenue.

XCAP discussed whether to keep in XCAP Member Templeton's suggested edit of including the language 'based on the current information' in the first paragraph of Recommendations.

XCAP Member Klein felt that if based on current information is used in the section, it should be included in other sections of the document.

XCAP Member Cho, XCAP Member Brail, and XCAP Member Shen agreed with XCAP Member Klein.

XCAP Member Reckdahl wanted to review the meeting video to determine if deleting the language took the recommendation out of context.

Chair Naik agreed with XCAP Member Reckdahl.

XCAP Member Templeton explained that during the meeting many people had stated the phrase and she felt it was important to include it in the text to reflect what happened.

XCAP decided to remove the words based on current information.

Chair Naik continued through the edits of the Recommendation section.

XCAP Member Klein did not agree with the language regarding mitigations proposed by the consultant.

XCAP Member Templeton clarified that the designs are not plans. They are concepts and the language intends to explain that the concepts need more work. She suggested to improve upon the wording of the motion and clarify it. She put forth suggested clarifying language.

XCAP Members were in consensus to reflect the minutes of the meeting and clarify what was meant by the motion.

Chair Naik addressed XCAP Member Shen's comment regarding his understanding that XCAP was not requiring a bicycle and pedestrian crossing at Seale. She stated that the motion was copied and pasted from the transcript.

XCAP Member Shen added that it sounded like XCAP was demand a study be done at Seale.

Chair Naik suggested it read: add a bicycle/pedestrian crossing study at Seale.

XCAP Member Templeton felt uncomfortable changing the motion and Chair Naik agreed.

XCAP Members discussed potential edits and came to a consensus regarding wording.

XCAP Member Cho wanted to understand the reason for the two abstentions in the vote for bicycle/pedestrian Options 1 and Option 2.

Chair Naik explained that XCAP Member Carrasco abstained because he did not believe any of the bicycle/pedestrian crossings were great. XCAP Member Burton abstained because he is opposed to closing Churchill Avenue.

XCAP Member Cho suggested the reasons for the abstentions should be included in the document.

Chair Naik agreed and added them.

XCAP agreed to remove potential mitigations from the motion language regarding Bicycle/Pedestrian Options 1 or Option 2.

Chair Naik moved to the Majority Opinion for Churchill Avenue.

XCAP discussed a paragraph under Lowest Cost Option in the Majority Opinion section regarding the Partial Underpass.

XCAP Member Reckdahl felt that one of the sentences was the Majority Opinion putting words in the Minority Opinions' mouths.

XCAP agreed to delete the last sentence.

XCAP Member Carrasco did not understand Table 5, Churchill Closure – Mitigation Intersection Level of Services under Existing Conditions, in the Majority Opinion.

Chair Naik disclosed that the table came from the Traffic Study, but agreed that the table is confusing.

Mr. Bhatia gave a brief explanation of the table.

XCAP Member Brail suggested to include language that explained that the table comes from the Traffic Report.

XCAP Member Carrasco concurred and also suggested that Table 5 be removed.

XCAP Member Shen announced he would review Table 5 and the paragraph on Page 49 of the Traffic Report.

XCAP Member Cho requested to have her comments heard in the Minority Opinion section before members leave for their other obligations. She did not believe that the bullet point regarding potential delays to public transit was important to include in the document under Incomplete Traffic Study.

Chair Naik explained that in the future, another traffic study should look at how LOS impacts the network which may or may not have an impact on public buses and transit.

XCAP Member Carrasco did not agree with calling the traffic study an incomplete traffic study.

Chair Naik suggested it read additional traffic information is needed.

XCAP Member Burton wanted the emphasis to be that the Traffic Study, as designed, did not cover all the issues that should have been covered and as a result, there were information gaps.

XCAP Member Cho wanted to see simpler language for the Minority Opinion regarding bicycle/pedestrian mitigations. She suggested removing the text saying, to be able to decide to permanently close Churchill.

XCAP Member Carrasco wanted to see the bullet point left as is.

XCAP discussed potential changes and came to a consensus.

XCAP Member Cho emphasized that her voice was not heard in the Majority Opinion and felt it unfair that the Minority Opinion was able to express their dissent in great detail.

XCAP Member Cho felt that the title Embarcadero Grade Separation is confusing in the Minority Opinion.

Chair Naik suggested including the word concerns at the end of the title.

XCAP Member Reckdahl suggested it read Embarcadero Bridge Concerns.

XCAP agreed to the change.

Chair Naik and XCAP Member Cho reviewed XCAP Member Cho's questions/edits regarding the Minority Opinion.

Chair Naik was comfortable removing a sentence that XCAP Member Klein suggested be removed.

XCAP Member Reckdahl and Burton agreed as well.

XCAP discussed the paragraph regarding Table 5 and the minority opinion.

XCAP Member Brail wanted to remove the wording that implies that there are harsh feelings between the majority and the minority.

XCAP Member Klein suggested language and XCAP agreed.

XCAP Member Carrasco wanted the title to read a safer experience for cyclists and pedestrians.

XCAP agreed with the change.

XCAP discussed whether additional language is needed for Table 5 or if the table should be removed altogether.

XCAP Member Shen suggested that XCAP discuss Table 5 at the next meeting.

Chair Naik requested XCAP Members review the Executive Summary and XCAP Member Carrasco's graphic.

XCAP Member Cho requested to review a section under the Minority Opinion at the next meeting.

XCAP Member Carrasco disclosed two grammar edits which the XCAP accepted.

Chair Naik announced that XCAP will be meeting again on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 P.M.