

**LODI CITY COUNCIL  
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION  
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, August 12, 2014, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Nakanishi, and Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen

Absent: Council Member Mounce, and Mayor Katzakian

Also Present: City Manager Schwabauer, City Attorney Magdich, and City Clerk Robison

NOTE: Council Member Nakanishi arrived at 7:07 a.m.

B. Topic(s)

B-1 2014 Signal Priority Study (PW)

Deputy Public Works Director Charlie Swimley and Assistant Traffic Engineer Dorothy Kam provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2014 signal priority study. Specific topics of discussion included overview, background, signal installations and upgrades, study methodology, existing traffic signals and study locations, study results, and typical signal design, construction, and maintenance costs.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Ms. Kam responded that Lodi Avenue is the only coordinated intersection in Lodi, and Mr. Swimley added that it operates between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Transportation Manager Paula Fernandez explained that a coordinated intersection takes into consideration vehicle spacing, traffic flow, and volume and the reason for the coordinated intersection at Lodi Avenue was to improve traffic flow and reduce delays. Ms. Fernandez further explained that some intersections, including those along Lower Sacramento Road, are equipped to have the necessary conductors installed for a coordinated intersection, but they are not needed at this point because the traffic volume and spacing does not warrant it. Once they become necessary, staff would coordinate the project and apply for grants. In further response, Ms. Fernandez stated that all intersections, with the exception of those in the downtown area, have sensors to control the traffic signals.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Fernandez stated that video sensors work along the same method as loop detectors in that a car activates the controller, the signal has a controller box with a computer, and the light changes.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Fernandez stated that the City routinely uses Caltrans signal guidelines and when an intersection meets any one of the criteria it is placed on the list, although not every signal project will have funding in place.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Ms. Fernandez confirmed that, out of the 24 intersections that were studied, 13 met at least one of the criteria for a signal, after which staff prioritized the projects. The list was first prioritized in 1970 and is updated periodically.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen reminded Council that at one time it was considering a signal at the intersection of Elm Street and Mills Avenue, but decided against it because of the two schools nearby and the high volume of children crossing at that intersection, and he questioned why this

remained on the priority list. Mr. Swimley explained that it was ranked and placed near the top of the priority list for a variety of reasons; however, Council has the authority to either approve the signal installation or decide not to proceed with it. The list represents a ranking based on the study, this location met the criteria to be placed on the list, and the City can use its judgment to determine whether or not the signal should be installed.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated that the City could potentially receive outside construction funding for the Turner Road and Highway 99 ramp project as it ties in with the scheduled corridor work and staff continues to meet with San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) regarding the design portion of the project. It is, however, premature at this point, and even though this project ranked number one on the list, it would not be considered until the Highway 99 study is complete.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen reported that SJCOG discussed this project at its recent meeting and it is expected that the widening of Highway 99 will go through Lodi. SJCOG representatives asked during the meeting if the abandoned railroad tracks over the freeway were planned to be removed as that could potentially reduce the cost of the construction project. In response, Public Works Director Wally Sandelin stated he would look into the matter.

Council Member Johnson suggested adding a subset to the prioritization list of intersections over which the City has control and keeping the other projects, which may require outside funding or are tied to another project, separate in order to move those projects higher on the list. Mr. Swimley stated that staff continually reevaluates intersections on the list if it receives citizen complaints or the number of collisions increases and intersections do not remain in limbo on the list until another study is completed.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated that the top three projects scheduled next for installation are the intersections of Victor Road and Guild Avenue, Lockeford and Stockton Streets, and Hutchins Street south of Harney Lane primarily because the funding is in place; however, Council has the ability to choose another priority if it wishes. City Manager Schwabauer added that the Hutchins Street intersection is tied to an agreement with the property owner. In further response, Mr. Swimley stated that the Lockeford and Stockton Street intersection has not been a priority for some time due to necessary studies on the project and it will most likely be tied to the widening and grading work scheduled for that area.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Mr. Swimley stated that funding is the major determining factor in when a signal will be installed; however, the City's goal is to do one every one to two years.

Mr. Sandelin stated that the signals are not always installed in the order they appear on the list, there is 100 percent funding through impact fees for the Victor Road and Guild Avenue intersection, and the Lockeford and Stockton Streets intersection will occur with the Lockeford Street widening project for which the grant funds have been committed. In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. Sandelin stated that the Lockeford Street intersection would likely be two years out, the project is designed, and the City needs to obtain a small portion of land from the railroad.

## B-2 Roundabout Presentation (PW)

Deputy Public Works Director Charlie Swimley provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding roundabouts. Specific topics of discussion included history of the roundabout, reasons for and against a roundabout, Lodi's first roundabout, Rose Gate roundabout, roundabout geometry, and an example of a similar roundabout in the City of Oakdale.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated that roundabouts have crosswalks but they are further from the intersection and are uncontrolled. In further response, Mr. Swimley stated that the Rose Gate subdivision will have a reverse frontage wall along Lodi Avenue.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated that the Lodi Avenue entrance to the subdivision was best suited for the roundabout based on anticipated traffic volumes, which would be higher than the entrance to the west.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Mr. Swimley stated that the Rose Gate subdivision will have three outlets with the main outlet being the roundabout on Lodi Avenue.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated that the proposed roundabout in Rose Gate will be larger than the roundabout in Woodbridge and vehicles would not be permitted to drive over the center. The roundabout is proposed to be 40 feet curb-to-curb, the developer is paying for the installation, and the Fire Department has provided its positive feedback on the roundabout.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Mr. Swimley stated that former City Manager Rad Bartlam first suggested the roundabout.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Robison  
City Clerk