

The following are excerpts from the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission.

Urban Transportation Plan Amendment – Westside Area Proposed Martin Street Extension

Transportation Advisory Committee, February 27, 2012:

2. Discussion of Proposed Extension of Martin Street as a Collector with Possible Action Taken: Mr. Cardenas said this is also an amendment to the Urban Transportation Plan. He said Ms. Annika Gunning and Mr. Bob Payne with the Planning Department will be presenting this item. Mr. Payne presented a map of the proposed area. He said the alignment of Martin St. to Frio St. has been proposed to deviate from the current adopted Urban Transportation Plan. Mr. Payne stated that Martin St. should be extended to give us the connectivity we are looking for. He said this promotes smart growth principles, walking to your community or walking to schools in this neighborhood. Mr. Payne said extending Martin St. along this line would be beneficial to getting people to the school. Ms. Beard inquired what would be the reason not to extend Martin St. Mr. Payne stated that he does not think of a good reason not to extend Martin St. The committee agreed to approve the extension of Martin St.

Planning Commission, March 28, 2012:

Martin Street Extension as a Collector:

Mr. Payne showed an aerial view showing continuation of Martin Street to the Crosstown Freeway (SH 286). Mr. Payne stated the proposed realignment of Martin Street to Frio Street would realign the designated collector street to turn onto Dorado Street, then Hacala Street and finally onto Frio Street. The street was also proposed to be extended as a collector. Mr. Payne continued the proposed realignment would allow for circulation by directing traffic from Martin Street and without impacting a proposed “cottage development.” Mr. Payne continued that it was also proposed that Martin Street be extended to provide circulation within the neighborhood to properties abutting State Highway 286; which would allow access to commercial businesses on the freeway without having to take a more circuitous route to Holly Road or Saratoga Boulevard. Mr. Payne stated Staff’s recommendations were approved by the Transportation Advisory Board and also by the developer. After Mr. Payne’s presentation, the floor was opened for discussion by commissioners. Commissioner Castillo asked if this property was located in the AICUZ and Mr. Payne responded that the property was in close proximity, but it was not actually in the AICUZ. Vice Chairman Huerta asked if Martin Street, as a collector, if there would be an issue having a 90-degree turn and Mr. Payne responded that the turn should not be an issue. Mr. Payne continued that Staff felt this was a reasonable change to the Transportation Plan. Commissioner Castillo asked if the land owner had been notified of what was proposed and that with this proposal to extend Martin Street, he would lose some of his property to street right-of-way and Mr. Payne answered that Staff had not met with the property owner. Commissioner Castillo stated, as a courtesy, Staff should let them know what was happening and

that he would be losing part of his property for street right-of-way. Commissioner Castillo continued he completely agreed with the concept, but as a courtesy, the owner should be notified. After further comments and discussion concluded, the public hearing was opened. George Hodge, 6530 Maximus Drive, addressed the commission. Mr. Hodge stated that as one of the developers on the cottage housing development in the neighborhood, they were aware of the proposed extension of Martin Street and felt it would increase the safety factor in the neighborhood. Mr. Hodge continued the corporation constructing the “cottage housing development” was non-profit and he was requesting any assistance the City could provide in funding the project. Mr. Hodge stated with the proposed extension, there should not be any delays to their project. Mr. Hodge continued he was excited to be part of a corporation that provided affordable housing within the area. Chairman Garza told Mr. Hodge they did a great job on the Oak Park Cottage Housing development and it was a needed addition to the neighborhood. After all comments concluded, the public hearing was closed. Chairman Garza called for a motion. Motion to approve designating Hacala Street (between Dorado and Frio Streets) and Dorado Street with a C-1, Collector Street designation and extend Martin Street as a C-1 Collector Street parallel to State Highway 286 to the proposed east/west collector was made by Commissioner Tamez and seconded by Commissioner Kelly. Motion carried with Commissioner Nadkarni absent.