

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

Urban Transportation Plan Amendment – Padre Island Area, Aquarius Street

Transportation Advisory Committee, January 23, 2012:

**2. Discussion of Aquarius Street Alignment with Possible Action Taken:** Mr. Cardenas said this is a follow up from another item that was previously discussed by this committee. Mr. Cardenas said Mr. Bob Payne would discuss the proposed alignment of Aquarius St. Mr. Payne said this plan is a little behind and we need to keep our plans updated and consistent with what we are going to construct. The idea here is to go to the Planning Commission and City Council as soon as we are able. Ms. Beard asked if the funds for this are from a previous bond issue. Mr. Payne responded that he is not totally up on the funding but that is what he understands. Mr. Payne showed and explained an aerial of the proposed realignment. He said the proposed realignment will allow for circulation as intended by directing traffic from the neighborhood to Commodores Dr. and connection with Park Rd. 22. The purpose of a collector street is to direct traffic to the arterial street system with minimal disruption to areas of low density. Mr. Payne said the proposed connection will reduce increases in traffic along a portion of Commodores Dr. compared with the existing adopted alignment. The proposed alignment will allow for more direct emergency response, particularly from Fire Station 15, to neighborhoods on either side of Whitecap Blvd. The proposed alignment is consistent with the preliminary designs for the proposed Schlitterbahn Water Park/Resort Development. He said this is something that is going to happen and we are updating maintenance on one of the plans. He asked the committee to recommend approval; therefore, they can move forward with this. Mr. Payne said if the committee would like to take action on this today, please do so, if not then it can wait.

Planning Commission, March 28, 2012:

### **Aquarius Street:**

Mr. Payne stated the realignment of Aquarius Street has been proposed to deviate from the current adopted Urban Transportation Plan and would extend the existing Aquarius Street dead-end at Dasmariñas Drive, north eastward of its current location to connect with Commodores Drive across from Fire Station 15. Mr. Payne stated the realignment would be done according to the City Council approved construction plans. Mr. Payne continued that the proposed amendment was presented to the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) at their January 23, 2012 meeting and it was approved. Mr. Payne continued that Staff recommended approval of the amendment. Vice Chairman Huerta stated from the TAC's standpoint, would the realignment affect their flow of traffic and Mr. Payne responded that the flow of traffic would go directly to Whitecap Boulevard. Extending the street would allow high speed traffic, the area would be impacted less to speed traffic and fire protection would be enhanced because of quicker response time. Vice Chairman Huerta stated that Staff needed to make sure the realignment met

all guidelines. Mr. Pete Anaya, Planning Director, addressed the commission. Mr. Anaya stated the long-term impact on the area was that Aquarius Street will dead-end at the canal. Commissioner Castillo asked if the area had been platted and Mr. Anaya answered yes and the old alignment was vacated. Mr. Anaya continued that with the new realignment, the property was also platted. After Mr. Anaya's comments concluded, the public hearing was opened. After all comments and discussion concluded, the public hearing was closed and Chairman Garza called for a motion. Motion to approve the proposed realignment of Aquarius Street as an amendment to the Urban Transportation was made by Commissioner Tamez and seconded by Vice Chairman Huerta. Motion passed with Commissioner Nadkarni absent.