

## **Pacifica Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum**

### **Question #8:**

What is your position on Highway One widening and why? The current council returned the funds to Caltrans. Would you ask for Caltrans to reinstate the project?

#### **Sue Beckmeyer:**

I think Highway 1 is extremely dangerous during periods of heavy traffic because there are no shoulders for police, fire, and ambulance vehicles to get through backed up traffic. I did not support the idea of returning the funds because it makes it that much more difficult to obtain funding in the future. I would pursue an evaluation by Caltrans to determine if there may be one or more alternatives to assist us in improving Highway 1 safety.

#### **Mary Bier:**

If this project was brought before council again I feel it will be important to bring in ideas and examples from communities who have implemented smart development policies. If the project to widen of Highway One fit into a smart development plan that included increasing funding for public transportation and transit oriented affordable housing then I would consider supporting the project. I feel it is important for Pacifica to have a seat at the table in regional transportation planning so that when transportation dollars become available Pacifica can have a voice in how those dollars are spent. The City of Pacifica needs to be committed to working towards getting people out of their cars and onto public transportation. In order for that to happen we need to first begin building the capacity to improve the current transit system. Then we can take a look at land use policies that include transit-oriented development and invest in affordable transportation and housing.

To help advance transportation justice for the City of Pacifica I will partner with leaders in North County and the coast side to engage people who have historically lacked political and decision-making power into the planning process of transit related funding, projects and development. Participation in regional transportation coalitions allows me the opportunity to ensure that Pacifica has a seat at the table if and when funding for transportation related projects becomes available to the county. Relationships created from coalition models can lead to future assessments, capacity building and transparent planning for future transportation related projects. Pacifica's transit system is represented by limited service followed by an hour wait in between buses. The express bus line was also removed and has made it very difficult for people to rely on public transportation. Regional planning can help to access the resources needed to begin to address these issues

#### **Bridget Duffy:**

I've spoken with our firefighters, they are an excellent team, I think we could be supporting them better.

**Vickie Flores:**

1. I am for the Highway One widening project as the traffic situation in Pacifica is really becoming unbearable for residents. The traffic light study was really a waste of time and money. We need to take action before someone loses their life because our first responders just can't get to them in time.
2. It can't hurt to ask, but after speaking with some of our government officials it is highly unlikely for Pacifica to get these funds returned or reinstated.

**John Keener:**

I'm against widening Highway 1, that's part of what I ran on 4 years ago. Previous councils failed to endorse the project, leaving it in limbo, and this council said that it did not support it. I would not ask Caltrans to reinstate it.

**Mike O'Neill:**

I voted against sending the funds back to Caltrans. The Council majority did not want to have a vote of the people to decide this issue. Projections show that traffic will only increase in this critical artery of Pacifica. We have no control of development South of the tunnel. There is no point asking for the money as it has been reallocated to other projects and we will not be able at this time to study "alternatives" that have already been studied and disproven. If "alternatives" were found the money will not be available for us to build or implement for the foreseeable future.

**Adonica Shaw-Porter:**

I'm for widening the freeway and yes I would be in favor of Caltrans reinstating the project. That project alone would create jobs for our local unions, and would ease congestion in and out of Pacifica for residents and tourists.