

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 6, 2014**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 6:04 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Public Works Director Weisser, Finance Director Wong, Police Chief Brand, City Attorney Wolfe, City Engineer Peters

There were no public presentations.

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION: ALIGNMENT CHANGES TO GOLDEN STATE BOULEVARD (GSB) BETWEEN ADAMS AVENUE AND SOUTH AVENUE

Representatives from the Quad Knopf Engineering firm gave a presentation on the proposed realignment and improvements for the Golden State Corridor. The improvements are part of a 14 mile project along GSB from American Avenue to the north, down to the City of Kingsburg. The plans are based on a vision developed several years ago by representatives of the cities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Selma, and Fresno County. Fresno COG will now be retaining a consultant to prepare the construction drawings for the improvements.

Plans include shifting the road and merging sections of it with 8th Street to improve traffic flow, and opening up areas in the Corridor to place businesses and parking areas. The realignment calls for converting 8th Street between Vine and Peach Streets to one-way southbound only, abandoning 8th Street between Peach Street and South Avenue, and providing parcels to the west with direct access to GSB. Artist renderings showed parcels that will serve as an extension to the downtown, with commercial and mixed use space, and walkable areas with restaurants and cafes. It was noted that plenty of additional off street parking can be placed behind buildings. Improvements will also include paving and landscaping, bicycle lanes, and a walking path.

Art Ramirez, 8th Street business owner, made several suggestions for better access from GSB, and changes to the proposed landscaping for the realignment.

After a discussion, the consensus of the Council was to move forward with the proposed plans, incorporating suggestions made by Mr. Ramirez.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Simonian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Hammer. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p. m.