

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2011 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Walter.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Galvin, Green, Rudolph, Siani,
Tsao, Walter, and Chairperson Sargent.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Project Manager Sedadi, and
Planning Associate Crump.

The Commission welcomed Commissioners Green and Siani.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Galvin moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2010

Transportation Manager Semaan offered the following corrections to the December 6, 2010 meeting minutes: the spelling of Torrance Police Lieutenant Megeff under Items 3, Item 7b paragraph 8, and Item 7a paragraph 6; Page 2, Item 7b, paragraph 2: "Planning Associate Crump introduced the item and welcomed Marissa Christiansen, South Bay Bike Master Plan Initiative Director..."

MOTION: Commissioner Rudolph moved for the approval of the December 6, 2010 meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Chairperson Sargent explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Don Clouch, West 238th Street, on behalf of Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, requested an update regarding the intersection of Skypark Drive and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that staff received a packet of comments and questions from Caltrans on February 7, 2011 and will be reviewing them with the design engineer.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. SOUTH BAY BICYCLE MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP

Planning Associate Crum provided background and welcomed Marissa Christiansen, South Bay Bike Master Plan Initiative Director, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition. She reported that there have been seven public outreach meetings in the seven participating cities, with the latest one conducted in the City at the Katy Geissert Public Library on January 24, 2011. She noted that approximately 50 members from the public reviewed graphic boards, maps, and plans and distributed a list of their suggestions.

Ms. Christiansen briefly reviewed graphic boards set up around the room showing 1) existing conditions, 2) bicycle counts, 3) existing bike routes, 4) programs and policies that may go along with a Master Plan, and 5) innovative solutions. She requested that Commissioners review the boards and make comments.

Responding to Commissioner Green's inquiries, Ms. Christiansen stated that the main focus is on commuters and that consultants took bicycle counts on a Thursday and Saturday in October 2010 during peak traffic hours. She added that it is a national standard for surveys to be conducted in October as it has the most temperate weather.

In response to Commissioner Siani's inquiry, she advised that commuters include youth bicycling to school.

Commissioner Rudolph inquired about recent maps of bike routes in the City and Ms. Christiansen responded that the most recent map is in the Circulation Element of the General Plan and that no proposals for new facilities have been made yet. She stated that bike routes, lanes, and paths suggested by residents and Commissioners would be submitted to their consultant who would then determine what the most appropriate solutions are.

Transportation Manager Semaan added that the Coalition is looking not only at changes and improvements within the City but also connectivity with surrounding cities.

Responding to Commissioner Rudolph's inquiry regarding Hawthorne Boulevard, Ms. Christiansen advised that this busy arterial is controlled by Caltrans but that they may look at the possibility of adding a bike lane. She noted that, once a series of bikeways is proposed, the plan would be presented to the Commission for approval and, following adoption by City Council, City staff would begin looking into feasibility and implementation. She added that a draft Master Plan is expected the end of April 2011, followed by another round of workshops and presentation of a final Plan in June 2011.

At Chairperson Sargent's request, Ms. Christiansen explained how bike signals work, noting that cities of Long Beach and Portland, Oregon have them.

At Commissioner Rudolph's request, Ms. Christiansen explained that Class I bike paths usually involve right of way issues, that using underutilized railways could be explored, and that the Coalition would help the City identify funding sources as a result of this Plan.

When Chairperson Galvin asked if Commissioners should be looking at what they really want or be more realistic due to budget and open space limitations, Ms. Christiansen responded that they should be as innovative as possible within reason.

Responding to Commissioner Siani's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan explained that sidewalks cannot be turned into bike paths due to the Caltrans design standard that requires physical separation between cyclists and pedestrians.

Commissioner Rudolph received clarification that existing railways would require compacted surfaces for cyclists, that residential streets that parallel arterials could also be considered, that employers could offer incentives to bike commuters, and that private companies are starting to become interested in air, pump and repair stations in the South Bay.

From 7:40 p.m. to 8:03 p.m., Commissioners marked up the graphic boards with their ideas for locations for bike paths, lanes, and routes.

7b. RECONSIDERATION OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN PRIORITIES

Project Manager Sedadi provided new Commissioners with background on the series of meetings since May 2010 to develop a Traffic Commission Work Plan. She requested that the Commission review and approve the set of priorities for the Work Plan in the material of record and direct staff to forward an item to City Council for their review and approval.

In response to Chairperson Sargent's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan briefly reviewed each of the seven priority items and assured him that all are viable and have the potential to develop and evolve. He mentioned that Commissioners have expressed an interest in scheduling a joint meeting with City Council.

MOTION: Commissioner Rudolph moved to approve the set of priorities for the Work Plan as presented, to allow future additions, and to direct staff to forward the item to City Council. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Walter received clarification that the priority to "Review policy on street signage and markings" refers to location of street name signs only.

7c. NOMINATION OF INTERIM VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Tsao nominated Commissioner Walter and Commissioners Galvin and Walter nominated Commissioner Rudolph for Commission interim Vice-Chairperson until June 2011. A 5-2 roll call vote was taken and Commissioner Rudolph was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Commissioners and staff members welcomed Commissioners Green and Siani.

8b. In response to Commissioner Rudolph's inquiries, staff described the establishment of underground utility district #18 A and B and advised that the freeway exit on Artesia Boulevard has been identified for potential improvements and is being prioritized by Caltrans.

8c. Commissioner Galvin announced that City Council is considering the item regarding RV habitation on February 15, 2011.

8d. At Chairperson Sargent's request, Planning Associate Crump provided feedback regarding traffic circulation in Seaside Ranchos during the holiday light display. She stated that staff received a mixed review from residents who called in—some thought the police presence was positive and others felt there was little change.

Commissioner Galvin stated that she visited the area on three occasions at peak hours and never saw a Police officer; however, she saw cars driving without lights and residents who blocked traffic while selling items.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:47 p.m., Chairperson Sargent adjourned the meeting to March 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Submitted March 7, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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