

**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, March 2, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bajaj, Furey, Habel, Sargent, Siani, Thomas, and Chairperson Rudolph.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan, Associate Engineer Sedadi, and Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2014

MOTION: Commissioner Siani moved to approve the November 3, 2014 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5b. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to approve the February 2, 2015 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Furey abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

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

6a. Sarah Ramsey-Duke, Camino de las Colinas, expressed concern about the intersection of Palos Verdes Boulevard and Catalina Avenue/Monte D'Oro. She stated

that the crosswalk on the west side of Palos Verdes Boulevard is dangerous for pedestrians crossing north or south and that vehicles have hit three people in the past year. She explained that drivers entering the intersection from Palos Verdes are trying to make left turns quickly into the Village and are not watching out for pedestrians. She distributed letters from Rosetta Borgie, Palos Verdes Boulevard, and Frances Ford, Camino de las Colinas, both struck by vehicles when crossing this intersection. She requested that staff investigate the crosswalks and consider installation of turn signals.

Chairperson Rudolph received clarification from staff that the intersection is in the City of Torrance and that the northbound left turn is not protected.

6b. Wade Bureson, Camino de las Colinas, 7th grade, Riviera Hall Lutheran School, stated that drivers are speeding and it is scary to cross the intersection from school to the Village.

6c. Brandy Scott, Palos Verdes Boulevard, 8th grade, Riviera Hall Lutheran School, stated that students go to the Village every Thursday and that the crosswalk is unsafe.

6d. Amanda Gonzales, Via Los Altos, 8th grade, Riviera Hall Lutheran School, stated that it is frightening to cross the street and that students are not allowed to run.

6e. Sydney Barry, Palos Verdes Boulevard, distributed photographs of the intersection and described how dangerous it is to cross the street. She recommended the installation of a fourth crosswalk and left turn signals.

Commissioner Sargent stated that it appears that there should be protected left turn signals for vehicles going north and south.

Engineering Manager Semaan responded that there is a construction project scheduled for Palos Verdes Boulevard from Pacific Coast Highway to the south City limit. He noted that plans include signal upgrades and installation of a fourth crosswalk. He stated that a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for March 11 and that staff would investigate the accident history with the Police Department.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. TRAFFIC COMMISSION 2014 WORK PLAN – FOURTH AND SIXTH PRIORITIES: 182ND STREET TRAFFIC ANALYSIS AND PARKWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Associate Engineer Sedadi reviewed the background and analysis in the material of record and requested that Commissioners concur with staff's recommendation to combine the fourth and sixth priorities of the Commission's 2014 Work Plan. She stated that 182nd Street is classified as a Minor Arterial and identified Truck Route only between Crenshaw Boulevard and the I-405 northbound ramp. She noted that 182nd Street is 60 feet wide, has two lanes of traffic in each direction, eight signalized intersections, and a posted speed limit of 35 MPH. She referred to Table 1 that summarizes the number of lanes, volume, and speeds along 182nd Street as well as Tables 2 and 3 that summarize zoning, parking, two way left turn lanes, overhead utilities, and sidewalk/landscaped parkways along 182nd Street. She noted that 182nd Street is predominantly residential and that Edison Elementary School, North High School, and Hamilton Adult School are

located along the south side. She stated that 182nd Street is envisioned as a Class III bike route as shown in the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan in Attachment A3.

She presented information regarding three currently programmed projects that impact 182nd Street: 1) 182nd Corridor Feasibility Study; 2) 182nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard Intersection Improvements; and 3) 182nd Street/Crenshaw/I-405 Intersection Improvements. She stated that the Feasibility Study is a Measure R Highway Program, would look at the entire corridor, and is programmed for fiscal year 2016/17. She explained that the Hawthorne Boulevard Intersection Improvements project is being managed by Caltrans and is expected to begin shortly. She described the third project that is in preliminary design and is managed primarily by Caltrans, adding that Caltrans needs to complete environmental documents and identify funding before it can proceed.

Engineering Manager Semaan reviewed supplemental attachments showing graphical images of elements that were presented. He called attention to the Roadway Classification Map in Attachment A1 and Truck Routes and Rail Lines in Attachment A2. He described the existing, near-term forecast, and long-range future forecast Level of Service (LOS) Summary Tables in Attachment C. He noted that the PPLT flashing yellow arrow at Prairie Avenue has relieved congestion tremendously. He provided additional information about the three currently programmed projects for 182nd Street. He asked that Commissioners drive the entire corridor and identify their concerns. He stated that their input would be given to the consultants to analyze for the Feasibility Study programmed for fiscal year 2016/17.

Referring to Attachment C, Commissioner Sargent inquired why the LOS long-range future forecast is better than the near-term forecast for 182nd Street and Crenshaw Boulevard.

Engineering Manager Semaan explained that near-term forecast uses a growth factor for the next five years and for long-term forecast a model is used that has different parameters and looks at vehicular trends for the future. He explained that the model has made the projection that there will be less cars on the roadway in 2035.

In response to Commissioner Habel's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that the City did the pavement rehabilitation underneath the I-405 freeway on Crenshaw Boulevard near 182nd Street. He discussed Caltran's plan to construct a new southbound onramp on the east side of the street and to utilize the west side for only southbound traffic, making it two separate onramps.

Commissioner Habel expressed interest in having the pavement rehabilitated on 182nd Street from the I-405 north to Western Avenue, and Engineering Manager Semaan stated that it could be accomplished with the Feasibility Study or it might fall under the capital budget.

Commissioner Siani inquired if it would be possible to add a lane between Crenshaw Boulevard and the I-405 north onramp.

Engineering Manager Semaan responded that the suggestion may be a potential improvement but cannot be identified until Caltrans completes the environmental process, probably by the end of 2016. He stated that once the document has been

completed, the City would have the ability to move into the design and construction phase for improvements.

Commissioner Siani discussed the turn restrictions during rush hour that impede drivers from getting onto the freeway, and Engineering Manager Semaan stated that part of the goals and objectives of the project is to make storage enhancements and increase capacity of onramps, offramps, streets, and receiving lanes.

Chairperson Rudolph initiated a discussion about parkway improvements and Engineering Manager Semaan described physical limitations on 182nd Street. He stated that parkway widths range from 8 feet to 12 feet and that there is parking on both sides of the street. He pointed out that two lanes are needed in both directions because of the volume of traffic, that parking would have to be eliminated to create left turn lanes, and that there are utility poles with overhead wires along both sides of the street. He noted that it is important to look at consistency, and not to go from a single lane to double lane and back to single lane.

Commissioner Thomas inquired about 182nd Street west of Hawthorne Boulevard, and staff informed him that it is within the City of Redondo Beach but that it may be possible to corroborate with them to make improvements.

Commissioner Habel suggested eliminating bricks and flowers in medians and left turn lanes.

Responding to Chairperson Rudolph, staff stated that they have applied with Metro to construct a dedicated right turn lane from Hawthorne Boulevard to 182nd Street, adding that, if granted, funds would not be available for five years.

7B. QUARTERLY TRAFFIC COMMISSION SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

Engineering Manager Semaan presented the Quarterly Traffic Commission Summary of Requests encompassing October and November 2011; and, March 2014 to March 2015. Referring to the intersection of 182nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard, he stated Caltrans advised staff that construction was scheduled for February 2015 and that they have received no new updates. He stated that consultants for the first entry, split phasing of the Lowes/Costco signal, have provided plans, signal phasing, and timing for review and is under design. He noted that all other items have been completed with the exception of Commissioner Siani's suggestion on February 2 that illuminated street name signs be installed at Carson Street and Cabrillo Avenue. He stated that her concern was looked at; however, illuminated signs cannot be installed because of the type of poles but that regular street name signs would be installed to enhance visibility.

In response to Commissioner Thomas's inquiry about the split phasing, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that Costco's new development is being taken into consideration.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Engineering Manager Semaan reminded Commissioners to complete their Form 700s.

8b. Engineering Manager Semaan confirmed that Commissioners Siani and Thomas are planning to attend the March 14 City Traffic Engineers workshop in Buena Park.

8c. Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the students who spoke and stayed for the whole meeting.

8d. Commissioner Siani stated that the street name sign on Teri Avenue at Maricopa Street is illegible.

8e. Commissioner Sargent relayed a resident complaint regarding speeding on Palos Verdes Boulevard and that the sign and light for Riviera Hall is obscured by shrubbery. He stated that he called staff about the concern and that it was taken care of it.

8f. Commissioner Furey relayed residents' complaints about U-turns to go westbound on 190th Street just east of Hawthorne Boulevard.

8g. Commissioner Bajaj submitted a letter dated December 12, 2014 from residents on Mansel Avenue requesting that sidewalks be constructed between 182nd Street and 186th Street.

8h. Victoria Yager, Marshallfield Lane, Redondo Beach, thanked the Commission for listening and making the students feel so welcome this evening.

8i. Chairperson Rudolph informed staff that one of the in-ground reflectors at 182nd Street and Bailey Avenue is twisted.

8j. Engineering Manager Semaan informed the Commission that the crossing guard program would be considered at the April 6 Commission meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:18 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph adjourned the meeting to April 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall and, hearing no objection, so ordered.

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Approved as submitted April 6, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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