

October 7, 2013

**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, October 7, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Sargent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Furey, Habel, Herring,
Rudolph, Sargent, Tsao, and Chairperson Siani.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan, Associate Engineer Sedadi,
Assistant Engineer Gruezo, 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 Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner Rudolph moved for the approval of the August 5, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Sargent abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATE INFORMATION REGARDING VIA CORONA

Engineering Manager Semaan provided an update regarding the turnaround on Via Corona, continued from the August 5 Commission meeting. He reported that a mediator has met with staff and residents to help resolve the issues of parking restrictions and the retaining wall. He stated that the residents have also solicited price quotes from geotechnical engineers to analyze the slope and retaining wall.

Bill Paul, Via Corona, stated that Hamilton & Associates recently submitted a bid to conduct an analysis and offered ideas for resolution. He relayed their idea to build a low wall four feet from the existing wall, for homeowners to be responsible for cleaning the area, and to install diagonal parking. He noted that residents now have two bids from engineering firms to perform studies and one estimate from a contractor to build a wall. He stated that all residents have met individually with the facilitator but that he has not met with them collectively. He stated that last week representatives from five homes met and agreed to accept Hamilton's proposal; however, one resident opposes the idea and he is unsure about the other two. He stated that the residents are looking for direction from the City and suggested having an informal discussion with staff on site rather than in a formal setting.

In response to Commissioner Sargent's inquiry, Mr. Paul stated that Hamilton's bid to conduct the study is \$1,600 but that he does not know the cost of construction.

Chairperson Siani raised the possibility of having Building Official Segovia review Hamilton's preliminary proposal before the residents pay for the study.

Commissioner Rudolph questioned if this is a land use issue that should be addressed by the Planning Commission and suggested that the Traffic Commission discuss the parking issue once the wall and slope issues are resolved.

Several Commissioners indicated that the Traffic Commission should stay involved and that it has an obligation to see the process through to completion.

Engineering Manager Semaan pointed out that there is no Planning Commission action to be taken and suggested that, once the safety issues have been addressed, the Traffic Commission would be able to make parking recommendations to City Council.

Lauren Perelmuter, Via Corona, questioned the basis for the risk assessment determined by Building & Safety and maintained that the City should quantify any risk and liability to the City and homeowners. She stated that the issue began after a resident on Via Corona sent a letter in November 2012 threatening to sue the City. She stated that the other residents were not involved in writing or sending the letter and expressed concern that this letter caused overreaction.

Engineering Manager Semaan advised that the Building Official has the responsibility of making determinations over private property and that it is the owners' responsibility, not the City's, to hire a geotechnical engineer to conduct an assessment. He stated that it could be a potential slip and fall situation based on complaint and visual inspection, and once the City receives a complaint it has to respond.

Mr. Paul read part of the November 2012 letter and offered to provide copies to Commissioners. He stated that the resident on Paseo De Las Tortugas has ceased the overwatering that originally caused the problem, pointing out that there may not even be a problem now.

Engineering Manager Semaan was directed to bring back another update at the November Commission meeting and it was decided that staff should conduct a formal

notification process. He suggested that Mr. Paul ask the facilitator what his next steps are and offered to pass on his request to meet unofficially with City officials at the site.

7b. STATUS UPDATE REGARDING PROTECTED PERMISSIVE LEFT TURN SIGNAL PROJECT

Engineering Manager Semaan reported that there have been 10 community outreach meetings regarding Protected Permissive Left Turn—Flashing Yellow Arrow (PPLT-FYA) operations, with the final educational presentation scheduled for the City Council meeting of October 8. He stated that outreach has included homeowners associations, Chamber of Commerce, Torrance Unified School District, adult and private high schools and local colleges, and Department of Motor Vehicles. He added that there have been utility billing inserts, a public service announcement on CitiCABLE, video on the project webpage at www.TorranceCA.Gov/YellowLight/, and information in the Fall 2013 Torrance Seasons. He stated that project plans and specifications have been completed and will be advertised by October 10, with construction completion expected in spring or early summer 2014.

He presented 11 slides and a video explaining PPLT-FYA operations, noting initial installation at the intersections of Arlington/Sepulveda, Cabrillo/Sepulveda, and Prairie/182nd Street. He stated that drivers would be allowed to turn left on a flashing yellow arrow after yielding to oncoming traffic. He pointed out that this operation is only applicable when there is a single left turn lane and would reduce red light running, reduce fuel costs and driver delay, and give “lost time” back to drivers. He added that “Flashing Yellow Arrow—Yield” signage would also be incorporated.

Responding to Chairperson Siani’s inquiry, he stated that some outreach meetings had large turnouts, noting that 120 people attended the North Torrance Homeowners Association meeting on October 3.

At Commission Herring’s request, Sergeant Koenig explained plans for education and enforcement efforts at the new signalized intersections, noting that warnings would be given on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Rudolph suggested providing information about PPLT-FYA in local newspapers and Commissioner Furey suggested using social networking.

In response to Commissioner Tsao’s inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that no South Bay cities have PPLT-FYA but that it exists in Southern California cities that include Long Beach, Fullerton, and Pasadena.

Commissioner Habel commended staff for a job well done and encouraged everyone to go to the City’s link to the project website.

7c. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY TRAFFIC COMMISSION SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

Engineering Manager Semaan presented the summary and status of requests by the Traffic Commission for October and November 2011 and September 2012 to September 2013. He provided an update from Caltrans for improvements to the

intersection of 182nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard. He stated that the project was advertised in July and construction would be awarded on October 13, 2013.

He discussed other improvements planned for the intersection of 182nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard. He stated that there would be a dedicated right turn lane that would allow through traffic to move more efficiently, adding that buses are exempt from having to make a right turn and could reenter the main stream of traffic.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry regarding Lomita Boulevard and Hawthorne Boulevard, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that improvements are in design for westbound to northbound movements.

7d. TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN TIMELINE

Associate Engineer Sedadi presented a proposed timeline for the six Traffic Commission Work Plan items, based on priorities by Commissioners. She stated that the timeline was prepared for use as a guide and can be modified as necessary.

Commissioner Sargent raised the possibility of addressing 182nd Corridor Traffic Analysis and 182nd Street Parkway Improvements sequentially.

In response to Commissioner Rudolph's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that staff would prefer not to work on more than one item at a time.

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to accept the proposed timeline for Traffic Commission Work Plan items as submitted with a modification to consider 182nd Street Parkway Improvements following 182nd Corridor Traffic Analysis. Commissioner Furey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Engineering Manager Semaan announced a City Traffic Engineers Workshop for Traffic Commissioners on October 26, 2013 in Buena Park and Commissioners Herring, Habel, and Furey indicated that they would attend.

8b. Commissioner Rudolph discussed an accident at Arlington Avenue and Plaza del Amo and questioned if visual enhancements might have prevented it; Engineering Manager Semaan offered to review the Collision Report.

8c. Commissioner Habel stated that street slurring in the Riviera area in August made it difficult for people to travel to the schools to pick up information.

8d. Commissioner Tsao stated that the Torrance Transit #8 to LAX Lot C is convenient and suggested that bus numbers be placed on bus stops to help residents.

8e. Commissioner Furey described a parking problem on the south side of Spenser Street west of Hawthorne Boulevard and questioned why there is so much red curb.

Engineering Manager Semaan explained that installation of the red curb was required as part of a condition of approval and the property owner wants it.

8f. Commissioner Herring requested an excused absence for the November 4, 2013 Commission meeting.

8g. Chairperson Siani noted the poor condition of the road on Sepulveda Boulevard near Arlington Avenue, and there was a brief discussion regarding how trucks often damage roads near intersections.

8h. Commissioner Rudolph noted an abundance of trash and plants in need of water in the median on Hawthorne Boulevard between 182nd Street and Artesia Boulevard.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:00 p.m., Commissioner Furey moved to adjourn the meeting to November 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Siani so ordered.

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Approved as submitted November 4, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
