

**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, December 6, 2010 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Rudolph.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Clouch, Galvin, Rische, Rudolph, Tsao, and Chairperson Sargent.

Absent: Commissioner Walter.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Project Manager Sedadi,
Planning Associate Crump, and
Torrance Police Lieutenant Megeff.

MOTION: Commissioner Rudolph moved to grant Commissioner Walter an excused absence from the December 6, 2010 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Galvin moved for the approval of the November 1, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Clouch seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Walter).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

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

7b. INTRODUCTION OF THE SOUTH BAY BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

This item was taken out of order.

Planning Associate Crump introduced the item and welcomed Marissa Christiansen, South Bay Bike Master Plan Initiative Director, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition.

Ms. Christiansen provided a power point presentation on the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan. She reported that South Bay Bicycle Coalition and Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition were awarded a \$240,000 grant from the Department of Public Health to fund the planning and proposal phases of a regional Bike Master Plan that spans seven South Bay cities that includes the City of Torrance. She stated that the majority of the grant is funding the consultant Alta Planning and Design. She presented a general timeline and encouraged Commissioners to attend the first round of community workshops on January 24, 2011 at Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. She stated that the draft Master Plan is expected in March 2011, followed by a second round of workshops in April 2011. She noted that final Master Plan adoption is anticipated for August 2011, with initial signage and policy implementation in March 2012.

She discussed the objectives of the Bike Master Plan: 1) Engage community members in formulating a comprehensive Plan that will be adopted and implemented in each of the seven cities; 2) Provide a consistent bikeway network throughout the region that will improve cycling safety and convenience; and 3) Improve community health. She provided statistics on the number of Americans who commute to work by bicycle, the percentage of children who walk or bike to school, and the prevalence of childhood obesity in the South Bay. She mentioned that more cyclists actually make the roads safer. She presented a map showing existing Class I, II, and III bike paths in the South Bay, noting that existing bike commuters in Torrance range from .15% to 3% of the population.

Ms. Christiansen discussed some of the benefits of having bikeways that include improved community health, reduction in parking demand, reduction in traffic congestion, increased consumerism, and lower cycling fatalities. She noted that Torrance has an expired Bicycle Master Plan and that a new Master Plan would meet Cal Trans' Bicycle Transportation Account requirements, making each participating city eligible for bicycle plan implementation funding.

Commissioner Galvin questioned how children could be encouraged to ride bikes to school and Ms. Christiansen responded that a huge education component is necessary for parents as well as reaching out to Parent Teacher Associations.

Commissioner Rudolph stated that incorporating tax credits for bike riders would serve as an incentive. In response to his inquiries about air/repair stations, bicycle speed limits, and patrolling, Ms. Christiansen stated that these concepts could be written into the policy language of the Master Plan so that each city can implement them in as uniform a way as possible.

Responding to Chairperson Sargent's inquiry, Torrance Police Lieutenant Megeff provided information about current bicycle laws, adding that citations are written for not having proper lighting on bicycles, not wearing helmets, bicycling on sidewalks, and riding the wrong direction on streets.

Commissioner Rische inquired about collision data involving bicycles and Ms. Christiansen offered to bring back the statistics.

In response to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry, she stated that local private companies, such as BAIKU and Bike Connects, are proposing bike sharing and bike parking facilities in the South Bay.

Transportation Manager Semaan invited Ms. Christiansen to attend the February 7, 2010 Traffic Commission meeting.

7a. TRAFFIC COMMISSION 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

Planning Associate Crump presented a summary of Traffic Commission matters of 2010 in the material of record.

Commissioners offered minor corrections to the report.

MOTION: Commissioner Rudolph moved to accept and file the Traffic Commission 2010 Year in Review as amended and to forward it to City Council. Commissioner Galvin seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Walter).

Transportation Manager Semaan asked Planning Associate Crump to provide an update on the Seaside Ranchos Holiday traffic circulation.

Planning Associate Crump reported that fliers were mailed to residents of Seaside Ranchos reminding them about California Vehicle and Municipal code issues regarding seat belts, headlights, riding in the back of pick-ups, vendors, and golf carts. She stated that directional entry and exit as well as changeable message signs were installed to help facilitate traffic circulation and residents have been encouraged to turn off their holiday lights by 10:00 p.m.

Torrance Police Lieutenant Megeff stated that there would be increased Police presence in the area this year including a bicycle detail. He noted that their intent is not to issue a lot of citations but to stress the importance of safety for motorists and pedestrians. He stated that the City of Redondo Beach has installed the barrier at Prospect Avenue and Avenue H and provided clarification that allowed golf carts have to be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

7c. RECONSIDERATION OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN PRIORITIES

Project Manager Sedadi provided background and requested that the Commission reconsider a new set of priorities for the Work Plan, and direct staff to forward an item to City Council for their review and approval. She reminded Commissioners that at the October 2010 meeting it was requested that staff bring back the list of remaining goals from the original workshop for reconsideration. She added that Commissioners could also make additional suggestions for Work Plan items.

Chairperson Sargent suggested that, once Work Plan items are determined, that a joint meeting with City Council be scheduled.

Commissioners discussed the feasibility of possible Work Plan items with staff members who provided their perspectives. Transportation Manager Semaan explained the difference between the Traffic Impact Analysis, a technical document, versus perceptions and opinions.

The following items were suggested by Commissioners (also Commissioner Walter's suggestions by e-mail) and were listed on sheets of paper taped to the wall:

1. Develop tracking process of Traffic Commission concerns
2. Develop a policy on street parking permits
3. Crosswalks—location and treatment of; i.e. lighted, etc.
4. Pedestrian crosswalk indicators, i.e. audio, tactile at traffic signals
5. Develop criteria and implementation plan for protective/permissive left turns
6. Analyze traffic flow along the Sepulveda corridor, i.e. coordination, parking, lane geometry
7. Develop criteria for beautification of park strips
8. Develop a policy for the installation/location/maintenance of street name signs
9. Consider monorail/people movers/pedestrian connectivity

Commissioners were each given five dots and asked to place one each next to their top five priority items. The results in order of highest votes were as follows:

1. Develop tracking process of Traffic Commission concerns – 6 votes
8. Develop a policy for the installation/location/maintenance of street name signs – 6 votes
2. Develop a policy on street parking permits – 4 votes
4. Pedestrian crosswalk indicators, i.e. audio, tactile at traffic signals – 3 votes
5. Develop criteria and implementation plan for protective/permissive left turns – 3 votes
6. Analyze traffic flow along the Sepulveda corridor – 3 votes
9. Consider monorail/people movers/pedestrian connectivity – 3 votes

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

Commissioner Tsao received clarification from staff that existing cameras are for video detection and not traffic enforcement.

Commissioners and staff members expressed appreciation to Commissioner Rische's for his years of service on the Commission and bid him a fond farewell.

Commissioners and staff members wished each other a happy holiday season.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 p.m., Chairperson Sargent adjourned the meeting to February 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Amended February 7, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
