

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Furey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioners Sargent and Siani.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to grant Commissioner Siani an excused absence for the June 1, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Furey seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to grant Commissioner Sargent an excused absence for the June 1, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Habel seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved for the approval of the April 6, 2015 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Bajaj seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Sargent and Siani).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

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

Judy Brunetti, Greenmeadows, stated that it is dangerous to turn left into and out of the most westerly driveway of the Vista Plaza Shopping Center parking lot onto Pacific Coast Highway, noting that there have been several accidents there. She expressed concern that when the new H-Mart opens there would be additional traffic. She suggested installing No Left Turn signage between the hours of 2:30 and 4:30 when area schools dismiss students and there is more traffic.

Commissioner Thomas thanked Ms. Brunetti for coming forward and concurred that it is dangerous to make left turns there.

Chairperson Rudolph suggested waiting a few months after the store has opened to review her recommendation.

Engineering Manager Semaan recommended waiting 12 months until the business normalizes and offered to bring back an informational item regarding what has transpired in the year. He indicated that they were not aware of any other complaints. He explained that it is a State highway, and if directed by the Commission, they would send a request to Caltrans to do a full investigation, adding that they could recommend extending the median, ban all left turns, or restrict hours. He noted that staff would need to notify residents and property owners about any proposed changes.

Sergeant Koenig stated that the suggestion might move the problem to the driveway on Anza Avenue.

Commissioner Bajaj stated that he would not be in favor of implementing turn restrictions unless there is a history of accidents. He pointed out that a property owner has the right to put up suggested circulation pattern signage for exiting a property, noting that it is not enforceable.

Commissioner Habel expressed concern that Caltrans may take a long time to respond and it was decided that staff would bring the item back in June 2016.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

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

Engineering Manager Semaan provided background on the item, continued from the March 2, 2015 Commission meeting. He reported that staff has received comments from Commissioners including suggestions that Chairperson Rudolph submitted today.

Chairperson Rudolph expressed concern about the sidewalk by El Nido Park on 182nd Street west of Hawthorne Boulevard.

Commissioner Bajaj stated that the sidewalk ends on the south side of 182nd Street near Kingsdale Avenue and suggested extending the sidewalk so pedestrians can safely cross the railroad tracks. It was noted that the other side of the tracks is the City of Redondo Beach.

Associate Engineer Sedadi reviewed comments from Commissioners and noted that two suggestions, to install dedicated right turn lanes at Crenshaw Boulevard and to install an additional lane between Crenshaw Boulevard and the I-405 north on-ramp, are part of Measure R Projects and would be communicated to the Project Manager. She noted that staff would address recommendations outside the limits and scope of Measure R projects or future CIP projects on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Habel elaborated on his suggestion to eliminate and not propose any bricks and flowers in medians and left turn pockets. He stated that they are not practical, can be unsafe, and only allow three or four cars in left turn pockets. He noted that his suggestion is for the entire City, adding that having only painted lines would increase the capacity.

Commissioner Bajaj noted that it would be more advantageous for fire trucks.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that berms and medians are for safety for left turn access in and out of properties as well as for aesthetics.

Commissioner Habel offered his observation that the pavement needs improvement from the I-405 entrance to Van Ness Avenue.

Commissioner Furey has observed several confusing signs going northbound on Crenshaw Boulevard to enter the I-405 entrance ramp. He stated that there is a No Right Turn sign when it is a dedicated right turn only lane and staff offered to forward his concern.

Chairperson Rudolph provided a brief history of 182nd Street and received clarification from staff that 182nd Street is not a bus route. He stated that certain sections of the street are dilapidated and inconsistent, with parking allowed on the street in some sections, concrete islands with no landscaping, and parkways not being maintained.

He relayed a resident's concern about a dilapidated brick wall when exiting I-405 onto Crenshaw Boulevard.

Engineering Manager Semaan explained that it is a property wall for the residents behind it. He added that the off ramp would be widened and that they are unable to change the setback without impacting residential properties.

Commissioner Furey related his understanding that there is a proposed new southbound onramp on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Chairperson Rudolph stated that the plan to have vehicles exiting I-405 onto 182nd Street is a disaster and that it would make more sense to redo the configuration and have cars exit on Crenshaw Boulevard instead.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that all scenarios have been looked at and that physical space, turning radius, access, congestion, storage, and level of service have all been taken into consideration.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the City can provide trees but it is up to property owners to water them. When he stated that any new developments are conditioned to install landscaping, Chairperson Rudolph suggested conditioning irrigation systems as well.

Chairperson Rudolph discussed the importance of enhancing 182nd Street to motivate redevelopment. He stated that 182nd Street reflects North Torrance and 30% of the City, and that it does not receive the attention it should.

In response to Commissioners' inquires, Engineering Manager Semaan advised that the capital budget is looked at every two years by City Council. He stated that the Commission could ask City Council to look at a specific plan for 182nd Street, possibly at a joint meeting. He offered to summarize comments from tonight and previously received and bring back at a future Commission meeting.

7b. QUARTERLY TRAFFIC COMMISSION SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

Engineering Manager Semaan presented the Quarterly Traffic Commission Summary of Requests encompassing the months of October and November 2011; and, June 2014 to June 2015. He was pleased to announce that construction has started on improvements to the intersection of 182nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard. Referring to North/South split phasing of the Lowes/Costco signal, he stated that design and phasing modifications are 90% complete and that construction would be done by Operations in summer 2015.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Commissioner Bajaj stated that he has recently seen Protected Permissive Left Turn phasing with Flashing Yellow Arrow in the City of Manhattan Beach.

8b. Commissioner Thomas relayed a resident's complaint that sensors are not working going westbound on Torrance Boulevard and turning left onto Palos Verdes Boulevard.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:22 p.m., Commission Habel moved to adjourn the meeting to August 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Furey seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Rudolph so ordered.

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Approved as amended August 3, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
