

**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, August 3, 2009 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Rische.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2009

It was suggested that the following clarifications be added to Oral Communications, Item 8D: "Commissioner Tsao informed staff that a street name sign is missing on Adolph Avenue and 228th Street."

MOTION: Commissioner Clouch moved for approval of the June 1, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as amended. Chairperson Galvin seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (with Commissioners Lewis, Santome, and Sargent abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. REVIEW DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT OF GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Transportation Manager Semaan confirmed that Commissioners electronically received the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of the General Plan update. He stated that the EIR is a legal document that complements the General Plan and requested that Commissioners provide feedback in writing regarding any aspect of the draft. He noted that the public comment period ends September 8, 2009 and that residents and Commissioners would have the opportunity to speak at Planning Commission and City Council meetings before all input is summarized and forwarded to the consultant for consideration.

Commissioner Santome referred to a list of comments and questions dated August 3, 2009 sent electronically to Transportation Manager Semaan.

Transportation Manager Semaan concurred with Commissioner Santome's recommendation that "HCM," "ICU," and "LOS" be defined on Page 5.15-3.

Commissioner Santome suggested describing how bike ridership is encouraged on page 5.15-10 and, in response to his inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the original Bicycle Master Plan was approved in 1999, is being updated, and will be brought before the Traffic Commission in the future for consideration.

Referring to Table 5.15-2 on page 5.15-11, Commissioner Santome expressed concern regarding Level of Service (LOS) E and F intersections.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded that the tables reflect existing LOS analysis and does not address changes that may occur under the General Plan update.

Commissioner Santome questioned why hospitals are a different category in the General Plan land use and who made this determination, noting that hospitals are businesses and that all City/County/State owned and operated facilities in the City should be reclassified as well.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded that the Planning Commission and staff discussed in focus areas the proposed zoning for hospitals and that the draft EIR reflects existing uses and not a change per se. He added that hospitals have a specific trip generation rate used that is different than that used for businesses.

In response to Commissioner Santome's request, Transportation Manager Semaan explained data in Tables 5.15-3 and 5.15-4 on page 5.15-15.

Commissioner Santome recommended adding explanations and reasons for existing E and F LOS on Page 5.15-16.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that there is more explanation in the Citywide Traffic Study (CTS), that he would ask the consultant to add more information if it is appropriate, and that the EIR analysis addresses changes that may or may not be created by the General Plan update.

Commissioner Santome noted that Table 5.15-6 on page 5.15-21 should also include the cost and EIR of improvements. When Transportation Manager Semaan responded that much more detail including cost analysis is included in the CTS, he suggested adding a footnote stating that.

Referring to Impact 5.15-3 Parking on page 5.15-23, Commissioner Santome suggested including City, County and State buildings in that impact as well. Regarding Impact 5.15-5 Policy, he recommended adding examples so that Torrance citizens could see the policy in action.

He suggested providing additional clarification to Multi-Story Parking Policy C1.5.3 on page 5.15-25 and considering subterranean parking to alleviate parking shortage. Referring to Policy C1.8.9 regarding electric or similar vehicles, he stated that the City should lead by example and demonstrate visibility of philosophy in action.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded that the City has multiple hybrid vehicles and electric charging stations.

Commissioner Sargent suggested explaining or adding "DEIR" and "DU/AC" to the list of acronyms and noted that footnotes appear to be missing in Table 3-1 on page 3-2.

Referring to page 5.15-20, Commissioner Sargent suggested that it would be helpful to include intersection numbers and a brief explanation why only five of eight intersections are being identified for improvements.

He noted that mitigation methods are duplicated in 5.15-6, page 5.15-21 and 5.15-7, page 5.15-26 and suggested that intersections numbers be added.

He suggested that existing layouts of the five key intersections in Appendix J be included in the body of the report next to the mitigation paragraph.

Transportation Manager Semaan reiterated that the EIR is a legally required document being used for the General Plan and refers to information found in the CTS.

Referring to Table 5.15-7 on page 5.15-22, Commissioner Sargent suggested adding an explanation why improvements cannot be implemented.

Commissioner Rische stated that he found maps 3.3 and 3.4 confusing because they are in different colors and that they should be designed parallel, adding that the legend on one is illegible. He also noted that some of the environmental analysis refers to work that has already been done, such as on Anza Avenue. Further, it fails to refer to work that might be done in the future, such as Del Amo Boulevard or the City taking over Pacific Coast Highway, adding that he would like to see comparisons of different scenarios for developing the City.

Transportation Manager Semaan explained that the maps were taken from the General Plan, that some improvements occurred after the CTS was considered, and that the CTS did its analysis of existing conditions prior to improvements. He advised that different scenarios for development can be found in the General Plan and that trip generations with the General Plan update are in Table 5.15-4 on page 5.15-15.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry if a timetable for completion could be included in Table 5.15-6 on page 5.15-21, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that changes could occur tomorrow or incrementally over the next 15-20 years.

In response to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that residents could review the General Plan online and provide feedback.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8A. Transportation Manager Semaan stated that City staff has determined that protective-permissive left-turn phasing signals at the Rolling Hills Road and Whiffletree Lane intersection are unnecessary and will be left a fully permissive operation, adding that the five section heads will be changed back to three section heads.

8B. Referring to the installation of protective-permissive left-turn signals at the intersection of Torrance Boulevard and Anza Avenue, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the proposal is a major change for the City and will be considered by City Council before any implementation takes place.

8C. Commissioner Clouch distributed copies of agenda and materials from the July 9, 2009 Airport Commission meeting and July 16, 2009 Water Commission meeting and suggested that Commissioners discuss at a future meeting if they would like staff to provide similar monthly reports and ongoing projects.

8D. Commissioner Clouch distributed copies of Summary of Commission Actions as well as Duties from the 2009 Commissioner Guide. He stated that he has never seen a summary of the Commission's actions prepared by staff as stated in Summary of Commission Actions and noted a discrepancy in what Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised the Commission and what is stated in Duties regarding site visits.

Commissioner Galvin stated that she learned at the Chairperson Training that site visits are encouraged as long as they are disclosed to other Commissioners.

8E. Responding to Commissioner Clouch's inquiry regarding Traffic Code, Section 61.2.3, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the City Traffic Engineer's responsibility is under the Public Works Department.

8F. Commissioner Santome was informed by Transportation Manager Semaan that there has been no progress on Hawthorne Boulevard and Skypark Drive and that it is his goal for the developer to fund the completion of the design for that intersection.

8G. Commissioner Santome announced an Environmental Quality Commission hearing on August 6, 2009 to discuss recreational vehicles being used for living quarters on private property.

8H. Commissioner Rische discussed unsafe driving practices being used to enter Starbucks on Anza Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard and suggested extending the barrier further north.

8I. Commissioner Lewis thanked Commissioner Santome for serving as Chairperson and welcomed new Chairperson Galvin.

8J. Commissioner Tsao stated that cities of Redondo Beach and Lawndale are doing a tremendous job with landscaping in their cities and questioned why Torrance is so far behind and who is in charge of landscaping.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded that several departments are responsible for landscaping in the City including Streetscape, Community Development, and Public Works and that several projects are being planned and developed.

8K. Commissioner Tsao expressed concern about pedestrian safety at 230th Street and Samuel Street and suggested installation of a crosswalk across 230th Street on Samuel Street.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded that customarily marked crosswalks are not recommended at uncontrolled intersections.

8L. Responding to Commissioner Sargent's inquiry regarding State budget impacts, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the City's capital budget is on hold pending assessment.

8M. Chairperson Galvin relayed a resident's concern regarding speeding on 225th Street and was informed by staff that the Police Department and Public Works Department are looking into it and communicating with the resident.

8N. At Chairperson Galvin's request, Transportation Manager Semaan explained reasons for placement of wait (limit) lines.

8O. In response to Chairperson Galvin's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that a City Council Committee will be looking into functions of City Commissions and potential consolidation.

8P. Commissioner Santome proposed that a power point projector, laptop, and GIS mapping be available at Commission meetings in order to better understand intersections being discussed.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded that he concurred as long as there is a specific item or location under consideration.

8Q. Commissioner Rische commented that Palos Verdes has "Come to Complete Stop at Red Light" signs and recommended usage at Anza Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:47 p.m., Chairperson Galvin adjourned the meeting to Monday, October 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Submitted October 5, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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