

July 16, 2013

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION AND
TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a joint session with Torrance City Council at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Rudolph led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL

Traffic Commission

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

Absent: None.

City Council

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: Councilmember Numark.

Also present: City Clerk Herbers, City Attorney Fellows, City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Manager Giordano, Assistant to City Manager Fulton, Assistant to City Manager Sunshine, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden, Engineering Manager Semaan, Associate Engineer Sedadi, Assistant Engineer Gruezo, Police Sergeant Koenig, and others.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Tsao, seconded by Commissioner Herring, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not available.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

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

7. DISCUSSIONS AND OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN BY TRAFFIC COMMISSIONERS

Engineering Manager Semaan provided background on the January 15, 2013 joint meeting with City Council when staff and the Traffic Commission were directed to come back with a new Work Plan. He reported that on June 3, 2013, the Traffic Commission developed and prioritized a new proposed list of Work Plan items. He stated that the purpose of this meeting was for Commissioners to present these Work Plan goals for City Council's review, discussion, and direction.

Chairperson Siani stated that the Commission brainstormed a variety of ideas and used a voting process to prioritize them. She welcomed any additional ideas that Councilmembers might have.

7A. Develop a Policy to notify residents of Parking Restriction Installation

Chairperson Siani provided information about parking restrictions implemented in April 2013 at the turnaround on Via Corona. She stated that residents were displeased because they were not informed in advance of the parking restriction. She recommended developing a policy by which the City notifies residents before installing parking restrictions.

City Manager Jackson concurred that it is better to forewarn residents and avoid surprises, and Mayor Scotto commended the Commission for going down this path.

7B. Stagger Limit Line for Double Left Turn Movements

Commissioner Furey presented a plan to identify criteria and create a ranking system for staggering limit lines for double left turn movements. He stated that these improvements would be easy to implement, are inexpensive, and would make a big difference.

Mayor Scotto stated that Anza Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard is a good example of an intersection where this would be helpful. He concurred that the suggestion would improve traffic flow.

7C. Signal Modification Right Turn Overlap Arrows

Commissioner Tsao presented a proposed Work Plan goal to develop criteria and identify intersections that would benefit from installation of right turn overlap arrows. He noted that implementation has cut down waiting time at the intersection of Artesia Boulevard and Prairie Avenue and stated that Lomita Boulevard at Anza Avenue would be a good candidate.

Mayor Scotto pointed out that the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Lomita Boulevard would also benefit.

7D. 182nd Corridor Traffic Analysis

Commissioner Herring suggested improvements to increase traffic flow on 182nd Street that include dedication of a right turn lane for northbound Hawthorne Boulevard to eastbound 182nd Street, installation of a left turn lane pocket at Doty Avenue for westbound traffic to schools, a turn in lane for drop off and pick up of students, and installation of dedicated turn lanes at the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard.

In response to Mayor Scotto's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the goal would be to identify needed improvements and consider implementation as right of way and Measure R funds become available.

7E. Anza Corridor Traffic Analysis

Commissioner Sargent suggested looking at potential improvements along the Anza Avenue corridor to improve traffic flow that include placement of stop signs, signal timing, double left turn lanes, protected permissive left turns, right turn arrows, speed limits, and cutting back medians.

Responding to Commissioner Brewer's inquiry, Commissioners explained that the Commission looked at several corridors but chose Anza Avenue for a Work Plan goal because it is a short cut street that will eventually become a major corridor.

Mayor Scotto stated that the corridor is heavily traveled in the morning and afternoon and expressed concern about the back up traffic southbound on Anza Avenue at Lomita Boulevard.

Responding to Mayor Scotto's inquiry, Sergeant Koenig provided clarification that more tickets are given out in areas that have poor traffic flow.

7F. 182nd Street Parkway & Median Improvements

Commissioner Rudolph stated that the Commission would like to explore potential improvements on 182nd Street and costs associated with them. He pointed out that the street is old and dilapidated, and he suggested possible improvements that include resurfacing, greenbelts, removal of utility lines, and street trees.

Councilmember Furey noted that 182nd Street is a gateway into the City and pointed out that Artesia Boulevard was made into one lane to make a median.

Mayor Scotto agreed that there is room for improvement and that 182nd Street should be put in the City's capital budget plans for consideration.

Chairperson Siani asked Councilmembers for their input on these six Work Plan items and to offer any other suggestions.

Councilmembers commended the Commission for its efforts in taking on so many important issues in its Work Plan and Chairperson Siani thanked Councilmembers for sharing their thoughts and giving direction.

Mayor Scotto recommended that each Commissioner observe a couple of intersections and provide suggestions for improvement, such as staggering signals to allow two left turn lanes during peak hours. He stressed the importance of making small improvements and to put potential ideas for improvements on a list for the future even if there is no funding at present.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that staff would start working with the Commission to develop a timeline for implementation, with periodic updates to be provided to City Council.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Commissioner Sargent requested an excused absence for the August 5, 2013 Commission meeting.

8b. Commissioner Sargent stated that he had an opportunity to discuss concerns about the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway with Assemblymember Muratsuchi.

Mayor Scotto stated that it is on the priority list for Measure R funding but is quite a ways down the list, with implementation expected in six or more years.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:20 p.m., City Council recessed to City Council Chambers for the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., Chairperson Siani adjourned the meeting to August 5, 2013 at the West Annex meeting room, City Hall, at 7:00 p.m.

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Approved as submitted August 5, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
