

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2011 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Green.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Green, Rudolph, Siani,
Tsao, Walter, and Chairperson Sargent.

Absent: Commissioner Galvin.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Walter moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Galvin for the March 7, 2011 Commission meeting. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

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 Walter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Siani moved for the approval of the February 7, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Green seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Galvin).

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

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6a. Commissioner Walter stated that trucks often use Van Ness Avenue from 190th Street to Redondo Beach Boulevard and that it is not a truck route.

Sergeant Kozak responded that use is allowed within one mile of a destination if there is no truck route available and that he would ask Officers to enforce.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. REVIEW AND COMMENT ON DRAFT PROPOSED POLICY LANGUAGE FOR THE SOUTH BAY BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

Planning Associate Crump presented the first draft proposed language Goals, Objectives, and Policies for the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan (SBBMP). She thanked Commissioners for submitting several comments already and requested that they provide any additional input

Commissioner Rudolph stated that the document has very comprehensive goals, goes out of its way to accommodate cyclists, and needs more balance. He questioned the current number of bicyclists, the potential usage and cost to install bike lanes, and statistics on accidents involving bicycles. He suggested condensing bike routes based on destination goals.

Planning Associate Crump recalled that bicycle counts at key intersections were presented at the February 7, 2011 Commission meeting.

Sergeant Kozak stated that he reviews 95% of every accident in Torrance and in the past year and a half there have been no accidents involving commuter or recreational bicyclists.

Transportation Manager Semaan concurred that there is currently not a high volume of cyclists in the City. He suggested that, if bike lanes are installed, cyclists will feel safer, use them, and hopefully encourage others to use them. He pointed out that the majority of projects would be bike routes, not lanes, and that a large focus of the study is on connectivity with neighboring cities. He further noted that the grant is funding the study only, not the implementation, but that a Master Plan needs to be present in order to be eligible for other grants in the future.

Commissioner Tsao noted the policy under Objective 3.1 that states “Dedicate 10% of the City’s local return Measure R funds specifically to bicycle infrastructure.” He questioned how much the funds are and suggested the possibility of a pilot plan to determine long-term effectiveness.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded that staff is asking for input from all City departments, Police Department, and anyone affected or impacted by a comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan. He noted that all comments would be summarized and forwarded to the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition. He stated that the City receives approximately \$600,000 per year from Measure R funds and indicated that they would not want a Bicycle Master Plan to lock in how those funds are used.

Chairperson Sargent requested that staff provide Commissioners with the list of comments that each of them has submitted.

Transportation Manager Semaan offered to compile all comments that have been received and distribute them before they are forwarded to the Coalition. He reviewed each page of the document and offered staff’s perspective on several bullet points, noting that words such as “establish,” “plan and install,” and “increase enforcement”

should be eliminated. He questioned if the Police Department has the time to enforce a “fix-it ticket” program for bicycle equipment violations. He explained that different South Bay cities would be approving their own goals, objectives, and policies.

Planning Associate Crump noted that several of the bullet points reiterate the same thing two or three times and should be condensed. She added that the language of the bicycle policy in the General Plan allows much more flexibility.

7b. PREPARATION FOR CITY COUNCIL & TRAFFIC COMMISSION JOINT MEETING – TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Transportation Manager Semaan announced the Traffic Commission’s joint meeting with City Council on April 5, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Manager’s Assembly Room. He relayed City Clerk Herbers’ suggestion that Commissioners prepare for the meeting by “role playing” and rehearsing why each of the seven priorities were selected for the Commission’s Work Plan.

Commissioner Rudolph stressed the importance of being “in sync” when goals are presented and suggested that all Commissioners participate in discussion after a lead Commissioner presents each goal.

Commissioner Green noted that two of the Commissioners are new and suggested writing four or five bullet points for each goal.

Chairperson Sargent explained his reasons for suggesting Goal 1: Develop a tracking process for Traffic Commission concerns. He stated that a tracking system allows Commissioners to provide feedback if there is a concern and helps them identify each question or concern, when and what action was taken, and resolution.

Commissioner Walter discussed his reasons for recommending Goal 2: Develop policies for installation, location, and maintenance of street name signs. He led a discussion regarding placement, color, size, and importance of uniformity of signage.

Commissioner Rudolph related his reasons for recommending Goal 3: Develop a policy on street parking permits. He questioned the City’s hesitancy in implementing parking permit systems and recommended establishing criteria even if it is on a case-by-case basis.

Transportation Manager Semaan provided background on the establishment of the four parking permit systems in the City and alternate methods that were explored to address concerns before their implementation. He pointed out that one type of residency cannot have priority or an advantage over another type of residency and that it is important to address the concerns of all residents.

Don Clouch, West 238th Street, shared information about consideration for a conditional use permit that involves a medical building on Lomita Boulevard and Telo Avenue. He encouraged a Commissioner to attend the Planning Commission meeting on March 16, 2011 because traffic has been an issue in the past.

Commissioner Walter discussed his reasons for recommending to move forward with Goal 4: Develop criteria/list of intersections for Protected Permissive signal operation.

Chairperson Sargent stated that it would be beneficial if there were a protective permissive left turn signal at Pacific Coast Highway and Vista del Parque.

Commissioner Rudolph discussed his vision for Goal 4: Encouraging other modes of transportation, such as pedestrian and shuttle buses to and from the mall and other major commercial centers and Downtown Torrance.

Commissioner Siani related her observation that the elimination of the Transit Center has discouraged people from visiting Del Amo Mall.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that plans are underway for a new Transit Center on Crenshaw Boulevard and 208th Street and that shuttle service could be discussed with the Transit Director.

Commissioner Rudolph initiated discussion on the reasoning behind Goal 6: Sepulveda Corridor Traffic Analysis. He noted that it is a very busy corridor during certain times of the day and would like to explore signal synchronization and other mitigation measures.

Commissioner Rudolph stated that he would like to use technology to make crosswalks safer in Goal 7: Pedestrian crosswalk enhancement Audio/Tactile/In pavement flashing markers.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Transportation Manager Semaan asked Commissioners to provide feedback on the City Traffic Engineers' survey that was sent to them.

8b. Transportation Manager Semaan stated that staff is waiting for one last comment before moving forward on the intersection of Skypark Drive and Hawthorne Boulevard.

8c. Project Manager Sedadi stated that the City is in the process of prioritizing projects with Measure R funds.

8d. At Commissioner Rudolph's request, Transportation Manager Semaan discussed procedures used to enforce traffic violations in development projects.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., Chairperson Sargent adjourned the meeting to April 5, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Manager's Assembly Room, Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Submitted April 5, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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