

**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, April 1, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairperson Rudolph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Sargent.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan, Associate Engineer Sedadi, Engineering Manager Bilezerian, Traffic and Lighting Supervisor Hall, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan, Assistant to City Manager Chaparyan, and Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig.

MOTION: Commissioner Siani moved to grant Commissioner Sargent an excused absence for the April 1, 2013 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Herring 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 Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner Herring moved for the approval of the March 4, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

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

Bob Habel, West 181st Street, suggested installation of double yellow striped lines on Plaza del Amo between Arlington Avenue and Carson Street to enhance pedestrian safety.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. PARKING RESTRICTION AT THE TURNAROUND ON VIA CORONA

Engineering Manager Semaan provided background on the item and recalled that at its March 4, 2013 meeting the Commission expressed interest in removing the parking restriction on Via Corona. He noted that staff members from the City Attorney's Office and City Manager's Office were here this evening to address any questions they may have regarding the parking restriction. He recommended that the Commission concur with staff's recommendation to maintain the parking restriction on Via Corona.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan stated that the current condition was created by City Council and any changes would need to be made by City Council. He explained that the City Manager's Office and City Attorney's Office became involved with this item after receiving complaints about the hillside and determining that the residents on Via Corona own the retaining wall. He stated that the turnaround is being improperly used as a parking area and that the City could not support making any changes until the wall and hillside stability issues are resolved.

Responding to Commissioner Siani's inquiry about his liability concerns, he explained that Via Corona is a City street and someone could slip and fall from the mud coming through the retaining wall. He added that it is unusual to have a wooden retaining wall and that it may not have been permitted.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that Building Regulations Division sent letters to property owners advising them that they need to repair the wall (Attachment 15) but to his knowledge there have been no repairs. He noted that the City is more liable because it has been put on notice about mud seeping through and people slipping. He stated that the parking issue could be addressed once the wall problem is resolved.

Commissioner Furey took issue with the timeline, maintaining that the residents received letters only after they complained about the parking restriction.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan related his understanding that, once it was brought to their attention, Building Regulations Division began its own investigation separate from Public Works.

Engineering Manager Semaan added that each of the elements had to be addressed and each had its own timeframe.

Individuals on Via Corona - Thomas Cooke, Lauren Perelmutter, Tom Tanaka, Bill Paul and Gordon Reiler raised issues and concerns about the City terracing the hillside approximately 20 years ago when it slipped, why the City installed the retaining wall eight to ten years ago behind an existing brick wall that seemed to violated its own building standards and the letters from the City threatening prosecution as well as the overwatering of a property owner on Paseo de las Tortugas.

Chairperson Rudolph stated that the City has the right to install parking restrictions if it claims there is a liability issue. He encouraged residents to designate a representative to work with City staff to find a resolution regarding the retaining wall and overwatering.

Commissioner Siani stated that she would like to see the No Parking signs removed but that the other issues would need to be resolved first. She added that she would like the Commission to discuss developing a policy whereby residents are notified before installation of any parking restrictions.

MOTION: Commissioner Herring moved to concur with staff's recommendation to maintain the parking restriction on Via Corona as posted. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

MOTION: Commissioner Siani moved to continue the item for 90 days and for staff to provide a report at the July 1, 2013 Commission meeting regarding the status of the retaining wall and overwatering. If the issues are resolved, the Commission will address the parking issue; if not resolved, staff is to report back to the Commission every 30 days. Commissioner Furey seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

The Commission was in recess from 8:06 to 8:17 p.m.

7b. RECEIVE AND FILE INFORMATION REGARDING RALPH'S DRIVEWAY AND THE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL ACCESS ON CALLE MAYOR NORTH OF PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Associate Engineer Sedadi presented background and staff's analysis on the request to consider restricting left turn movements. She reported two collisions related to left turn movements within 500 feet of the intersection in the last five years. She stated that there is already No Left Turn signage posted at the access road for South High School. She advised that, following field observation and review of the accident history, staff finds no overriding justification to consider any type of turning restriction at these locations.

Carlos Madrid, Macafee Road, expressed surprise that there have only been two accidents in the last five years, maintaining that there have been two since the February Commission meeting. He stated that there is a minimum of six accidents per year and that there has been a severe ongoing problem for the 27-28 years he has lived there.

When Chairperson Rudolph inquired if there was a way to better organize the traffic flow, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that the advantage of a two way left turn pocket is to allow flexibility and how changing turn pockets per direction would cause a significant storage capacity problem. He stated that creating a left turn restriction would impact businesses and require a more extensive notification.

Sergeant Koenig described the police presence in the area and how accidents are recorded.

Commissioner Siani indicated that she is not in favor of restricting left hand turns, noting that it would impact businesses.

Commissioner Tsao stated that he lives in that area, that the current system works, and restriction would cause drivers to make U-turn movements.

MOTION: Commissioner Furey moved to receive and file information regarding Ralph's driveway and the South High School access on Calle Mayor north of Pacific Coast Highway. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

7c. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY TRAFFIC COMMISSION SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

Engineering Manager Semaan presented the Quarterly Traffic Commission Summary of Requests encompassing October 3, 2011 and the period from March 2012 to March 2013. He stated that Community Development Department would be present at the May 6, 2013 Traffic Commission meeting to discuss project plans for Cravens Avenue improvements. Referring to the October 3, 2011 request to consider split phasing of the Lowes/Costco signal, he reported that Econolite advised staff that implementation may be possible with minimal modifications to the signal heads.

MOTION: Commissioner Furey moved to receive and file the Quarterly Traffic Commission Summary of Requests. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

7d. CONTINUATION OF DEVELOPING TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN

This item was continued from the February 4 and March 4, 2013 Commission meetings when Commissioners offered suggestions for development of a new Traffic Commission Work Plan. Engineering Manager Semaan welcomed Engineering Manager Bilezerian, Traffic and Lighting Supervisor Hall, and Police Sergeant Koenig who were available to address suggestions made at previous meetings and any new suggestions made tonight. He recommended that Commissioners finish making suggestions at this meeting, vote on five primary and one alternate priority items at the June Commission meeting, and schedule a joint meeting with City Council in July. He reviewed the current list of proposed Work Plan items and asked Commissioners to add any new suggestions.

Chairperson Rudolph recommended removing "Install block numbers on street name signs" as staff is already working on this.

Sergeant Koenig discussed "Develop drop off and pick up zone at schools" and the re-education that takes place at each school at the beginning of the school year.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the impact of the schools on the signalized network is negligible.

Following a brief discussion, it was decided to eliminate "Develop drop off and pick up zone at schools" from the list of potential Work Plan items.

Commissioners and staff discussed "Right turn overlap arrows" and consideration of having to disallow U-turn movements.

Discussion centered on making improvements on 182nd Street and Engineering Manager Bilezerian stated that Crenshaw Boulevard from 182nd Street south to 190th Street is currently in design phase, with completion of construction expected by the end of the year.

When Commissioner Tsao suggested installing a “Keep Clear” on Crenshaw Boulevard at 181st Street, Engineering Manager Bilezerian explained that federal funding can only be used for what it is identified for.

Referring to “Bike lanes in color,” Engineering Manager Bilezerian stated that he learned that Long Beach has striped lanes in the downtown area to enhance awareness that the road is being shared with bicyclists. He pointed out that there are potential issues of cost, maintenance, and slippage, noting that there are no areas in the City that are similar to the area in Long Beach. He pointed out that Long Beach does not stripe their Class II bike lanes and that in the existing roadway in Torrance today there is no physical space for a Class I bicycle facility.

Engineering Manager Semaan suggested adding “Divide the City into sectors for Commissioners to report traffic issues on” as well as “Stagger limit line for double left turns.”

Chairperson Rudolph raised the possibility of adding the Seaside holiday lights area but it was determined that the City is already addressing area concerns.

Staff explained that it is now the City’s policy to install pedestrian count down heads whenever there are new capital projects and “Pedestrian signal improvements count down - more warning” was removed from the list.

“Signs informing public of synchronized streets” was discussed and Engineering Manager Bilezerian explained that installation of signage would create an expectation that often cannot happen because of preemption by emergency vehicles. He expressed concern that drivers often slow down to read changeable message signs.

Referring to “Post Do Not Block vs. Keep Clear legend,” Engineering Manager Bilezerian stated that the primary notification is a “Do Not Block” sign and that pavement marking is supplemental to the sign. He noted that it is not a major issue in the City and can create a false sense of security.

Engineering Manager Bilezerian provided information about corridor improvements for Anza Avenue, Artesia Boulevard, and Torrance Boulevard. He stated that staff is working internally on Anza Avenue synchronization, that double left turns were added on Torrance Boulevard, and that addition of a double left turn pocket at Artesia Boulevard and Western Avenue is expected in approximately six months.

The list of potential Work Plan items was finalized as follows:

- Anza Avenue corridor improvements
- Carson Street corridor improvements
- Artesia Boulevard corridor improvements
- Torrance Boulevard corridor improvements

Right turn overlap arrows
Parkway improvements – 182nd Street
Focus on circulation improvement – 182nd corridor improvements
Access restrictions at driveways – In-N-Out
Addresses stenciled on curb
Divide City into sectors for Commissioners to report traffic issues on
Stagger limit line for double left turns

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Engineering Manager Semaan advised the Commission that he would schedule a joint meeting with City Council on any Tuesday in July 2013 after July 9.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:02 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph adjourned the meeting to May 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Submitted May 6, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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