

**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 5, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Herring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Commissioner Sargent.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rudolph moved to grant Commissioner Sargent an excused absence for the August 5, 2013 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 Herring seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5a. MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2013**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Furey moved for the approval of the June 3, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

**5b. MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2013**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Furey moved to approve the July 16, 2013 minutes of a joint meeting of the Commission and City Council. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

**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. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

**7a. RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATE INFORMATION REGARDING VIA CORONA**

Associate Engineer Sedadi provided background regarding parking restrictions at the turnaround on Via Corona, continued from the April 1, 2013 Commission meeting. She recalled that at its June 3 meeting the Commission requested staff to return in August for another update. She reported that since that time the residents have received one proposal for a topographical analysis and have designated Mr. Bill Paul as the primary contact on behalf of the residents.

Bill Paul, Via Corona, referring to his July 17, 2013 letter to the City Manager's Office in Attachment B, requested assistance of an arbitrator to reach a solution. He discussed the difficulty in trying to assemble a quorum of the eight property owners or to achieve a consensus after several meetings. He stated that the group needs help and is therefore taking up the City's offer to provide an arbitrator.

Thomas Cooke, Via Corona, questioned the content of the original letter from Building Official Segovia to property owners and maintained that the City needs to quantify any risk and liability to the City and homeowners. He requested the Commission to ask the Engineering Department to conduct an analysis and to share the findings with the residents.

Chairperson Siani explained the purview of the Traffic Commission and its attempt to resolve the parking issue.

Commissioner Furey stated that it would be fair to provide the residents with any risk analysis that was conducted.

Engineering Manager Semaan advised that the Building Official has the responsibility of making determinations over private property and that it is the owners' responsibility, not the City's, to hire a geotechnical engineer to conduct an assessment.

Betty Tanaka, Via Corona, distributed a photograph showing the difficulty she has backing out of her driveway when vehicles are parked across the street. She stated that the leakage problem in the turnaround has improved and took issue with the lack of notification regarding parking restrictions.

Robert Hutton, Paseo De Los Tortugas, stated that he has stopped all watering except for hand watering of trees that are halfway up the hill but noted that there is a problem when it rains. He offered to provide his assistance but pointed out that he cannot receive a permit or build or wall on someone else's property.

Lauren Perelmuter, Via Corona, stated that the issue began after a resident on Via Corona sent a letter dated November 21, 2012 threatening to sue the City. She maintained that the other property owners were not involved and expressed concern that this letter caused the assessment to be overreactive and not thorough.

Tom Tanaka, Via Corona, offered to provide copies of the letter to Commissioners. He recommended that the City take down the temporary wall that it installed and that the hillside be graded to make it like the rest of the street. He maintained that doing so would take away any liability and still provide a turnaround.

Commissioner Rudolph suggested that it is in the residents' best interest to obtain at least two more proposals for engineering reports, that it is better for an engineer to talk to the Building Official, and that residents should continue working with Mr. Hutton.

Mr. Cooke questioned why the residents should have to pay \$600 to \$1,000 for an engineering report for a problem that they do not recognize even exists. He requested that the City provide the basis for the risk assessment as defined by the Engineering Department.

Engineering Manager Semaan explained that the Building Official made an assessment and that anything further is the responsibility of the property owners. He stated that an arbitrator has been assigned and offered to bring back a further update at the October 7, 2013 Commission meeting.

The Commission was in recess from 7:50 to 7:55 p.m.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Furey moved to taken Item 8, Oral Communications #2, out of order. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

Todd Blair, Osage Avenue, expressed concern about speeding eastbound and westbound on Spencer Street between Hawthorne Boulevard and Madrona Avenue, especially in the mornings. He stated that the 25 mph speed limit is largely ignored and that it is dangerous for pedestrians crossing the street to go to the park.

**7b. REQUEST FOR VISUAL ENHANCEMENTS TO THE EXISTING STOP SIGNS AT CABRILLO AVENUE AND LINCOLN AVENUE**

Engineering Manager Semaan presented a staff report regarding the petition requesting visual enhancement of the existing stop signs at Cabrillo Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. He provided background on the installation of the stop signs in 2011 and the May 27, 2013 email request and petition requesting visual enhancements because drivers are speeding, not coming to complete stops, and not yielding to pedestrians. He called attention to Attachments A – F and advised that, following review of accident history and field observations, staff is recommending installation of 25 feet of red curb in advance of the northbound stop sign on Cabrillo Avenue.

Mary Letendre, Lincoln Avenue, stated that she has no complaints about the stop signs and recommended more enforcement.

Sergeant Koenig stated that officers would continue to monitor the intersection.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rudolph moved to concur with staff recommendation to install 25 feet of red curb in advance of the northbound stop sign on Cabrillo Avenue. Commissioner Furey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**7c. PRIORITIZATION OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN ITEMS**

Commissioners and staff briefly discussed the July 16 joint meeting with City Council. Engineering Manager Semaan asked Commissioners to prioritize the six Work Plan items and informed them that staff tentatively plans to take the item to City Council on August 27, 2013.

Engineering Manager Semaan advised that items would be addressed one at a time and Work Plan goals were prioritized as follows:

- Develop a policy to notify residents of parking restriction installation
- Stagger limit line for double left turn movements
- Signal modification right turn overlap arrows
- 182<sup>nd</sup> Street corridor traffic analysis
- 182<sup>nd</sup> Street parkway improvements
- Anza Avenue corridor traffic analysis

**MOTION:** Commissioner Habel moved to approve prioritization of the Traffic Commission Work Plan items as noted. Commissioner Rudolph seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Sargent).

**8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**8a.** Engineering Manager Semaan announced a City Traffic Engineers Workshop for Traffic Commissioners on October 26, 2013 in Buena Park.

**8b.** Commissioner Habel distributed a map and requested that staff consider adding double yellow striped lines on Plaza del Amo between Arlington Avenue and Carson Street to enhance pedestrian safety.

Engineering Manager Semaan noted that a dashed line allows a driver to legally pass another driver to the left and that staff does not see any justification for changing the dashed line to double yellow striped lines at this time. Sergeant Koenig added that enforcement would be increased once school starts.

**8c.** Responding to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that developers for Del Amo Mall renovations may choose to do circulation enhancements that will benefit them and the public.

**8d.** Chairperson Siani relayed a resident's concern about street sweeping on both sides of the street on the same day.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:49 p.m., Commissioner Furey moved to adjourn the meeting to October 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Siani so ordered.

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| Approved as submitted<br>October 7, 2013<br>s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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