

**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, November 1, 2010 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Galvin.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Clouch, Galvin, Rische, Rudolph, Tsao, Walter, and Chairperson Sargent.

Absent: None.

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

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Rudolph moved for the approval of the October 4, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Clouch seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Galvin abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

**7a. SPEED LIMIT MODIFICATION ALONG ANZA AVENUE BETWEEN
SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD AND PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY**

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

Transportation Manager Semaan introduced staff members and noted that supplemental material was available, received after agenda packets were prepared.

Planning Assistant Suree provided background on the material of record and recommended that the Commission:

- a) Review staff report and accept public input;
- b) Concur with staff's recommendation to increase the currently posted speed limit of 30 mph to 35 mph based on the attached Engineering & Traffic (Speed) Survey; and
- c) Direct staff to prepare an item to City Council to amend the Torrance Municipal Code to reflect the proposed change to list this segment of Anza Avenue under the streets with a 35-mph posted speed limit.

Transportation Manager Semaan explained that, by a strictly numerical assessment, the speed limit should be 40 mph; however, staff assessed other variables, such as the continuity of speed, geometric configuration, and land uses, and determined that 35 mph is more appropriate for this segment.

Responding to Chairperson Sargent's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan explained the Speed Trap section of the Vehicle Code. He noted that, with an amended Code, police officers would be able to conduct radar enforcement on this segment.

John Thomson, Anza Avenue, stated that there has been no speed enforcement for 20 years and that he is pleased with the recommendation. He expressed hope that speed limits would be enforced now that the study has been completed.

Louise Kirst-Kaye, Anza Avenue, expressed her support for the modification and asked staff to post speed limit signs to notify drivers.

Steve Polcari, Anza Avenue, expressed appreciation to staff members and Commissioners and, in response to his inquiry, was informed that new speed limit signage would be posted by the New Year.

Terry Kaye, Anza Avenue, thanked staff and pointed out that drivers traveling southbound on Anza Avenue and crossing Sepulveda Boulevard are confused and do not realize they are entering a bicycle lane. He suggested installation of an electronic sign displaying actual speeds south of Sepulveda Boulevard to reduce speeds.

Commissioner Rische agreed with Mr. Kaye that drivers traveling southbound on Anza Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard are often confused if they are entering a traffic lane or a bicycle lane. He stated that the proposed amendment is a good idea as long as it is enforced.

Responding to Commissioner Walter's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that staff is looking into why the bicycle legends have been painted over. He added that a bicycle legend would be installed at the beginning of the bicycle lane at Sepulveda Boulevard and that this should take care of any confusion.

When Commissioner Rudolph's inquired what would be the projected average speed with the modification, Transportation Manager Semaan explained that the current

posted speed limit cannot be justified and that the modification is necessary to allow officers to conduct electronic enforcement. He noted that officers' presence would help them to control speeds.

Torrance Police Sergeant Kozak discussed enforcement efforts to control noise from radios, modified exhaust, and mufflers.

Commissioner Clouch pointed out that speed limits were recently increased on Torrance Boulevard and, in response to his inquiry, Sergeant Kozak stated that raising that speed limit has absolutely worked. He noted that, with education and enforcement, raising the speed limit on Anza Avenue would also have a positive effect.

MOTION: Commissioner Galvin moved to concur with staff recommendation. Commissioner Clouch seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

Project Manager Sedadi provided background and read additional suggestions made by Commissioners during the development of its Work Plan with Len Wood. She noted that an action item to discuss the Work Plan is scheduled for the December 6, 2010 Commission meeting.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the suggestion to develop criteria and implementation plan for conversion of present left turns to protective/permissive is a viable Work Plan item. He stated that developing criteria for the beautification of park strips could also be discussed. He explained why the suggestions to review the policy on street light wiring and to study traffic on Sepulveda Boulevard were not viable Work Plan items. He suggested that staff also come up with a list of suggestions so that there would be five priority items to present to City Council.

Commissioner Rudolph expressed concern that the policy on street light wiring is inconsistent and would like to see further discussion about the suggestion.

Referring to Item 7a., paragraph 8, in the October 4, 2010 Commission meeting minutes, Commissioner Rische questioned why it was not a good idea to provide information to the general public.

Transportation Manager Semaan explained that it is not appropriate to publicize complainants' names, addresses, and phone numbers to the general public. He added that he does not know what other Departments' workload is or how they set their priorities, or if staff members or the Commission should be making that determination.

Commissioner Clouch offered a suggestion to have community members participate in setting Work Plan goals.

Commissioner Clouch stated that he was confused about the current parking permit policy and Transportation Manager Semaan responded that developing a policy is on the list of Work Plan items.

Commissioner Rudolph offered suggestions for Work Plan items that include left-turn phasing at Hawthorne Boulevard and 182nd Street, installation of additional bicycle lanes, turning old railroad track areas into walking or bicycle paths, and the bottlenecks on Sepulveda Boulevard between Western Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard as well as Sepulveda Boulevard at Hawthorne Boulevard.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that conceptual designs have been developed for the multi-jurisdictional intersections at Western Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard, but it is a matter of time, right of way, and finances. He discussed a long-term vision involving Plaza del Amo and Jefferson but noted that there are several right of way hurdles to overcome.

Commissioner Clouch stated that he does not like the sequence of roll call votes because he is always first and asked staff to consider some kind of rotation.

Chairperson Sargent relayed Mayor Scotto's comment that the City of Redondo Beach is not willing to remove the barrier entering the Seaside Ranchos holiday light area.

Commissioner Rische encouraged staff to install creative traffic signage in Seaside Ranchos and requested an update at the next Commission meeting.

In response to Chairperson Sargent's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that a draft Annual Report would be presented at the next Commission meeting.

Transportation Manager Semaan announced that the South Bay Bicycle Coalition received a grant to develop a South Bay Master Plan and the Director is scheduled to provide a general overview to the Commission at a future meeting.

He stated that staff had a successful meeting with Cal Trans regarding Skypark Drive and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Responding to Commissioner Riche's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that there are 175 signalized intersections in the City, 116 that are under full Torrance jurisdiction.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:04 p.m., Chairperson Sargent adjourned the meeting to December 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Submitted December 6, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
