

**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 3, 2014 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Bajaj led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

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

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent 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 roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2014 AND OCTOBER 6, 2014

Commissioner Sargent offered a clarification to the May 5, 2014 minutes as follows: Page 2, paragraph 7, line 4: "...half of the neighborhood to be used for parking."

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to approve the May 5, 2014 Traffic Commission minutes as amended and the October 6, 2014 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6a. The Commission welcomed Planning Commissioner Herring.

6b. Chairperson Rudolph explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

6c. Brenda Short, Bindewald Road, described traffic congestion during the holiday light season last year. She suggested directing vehicles from Carlow Road to Sharynne

Lane so they do not meet up with vehicles coming from the other direction. She recommended installation of signage on Carlow Road directing drivers to Sharynne Lane and on Bindewald Road directing drivers to Reese Road.

Engineering Manager Semaan related plans to place larger signs on the periphery of the neighborhood, advising that staff would look at the specific location.

Larry Fisher, Briarwood Drive, asked the rationale behind the planned elimination of the left turn lane at 242nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard. He stated that he understands that it is a condition of approval for the development of the southeast corner of Pacific Coast Highway but that he does not understand why.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the removal of the left turn lane is a condition of approval under both Planning Commission and City Council resolutions. He noted that it is not a Traffic Commission matter and recommended that he direct his inquiry to City Council.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK ENHANCEMENTS AT 182ND STREET AND BAILEY DRIVE

Assistant Civil Engineer Gruezo provided background on the item continued from the October 6, 2014 Commission meeting. He recalled that the Commission requested that staff review existing street lighting, install additional signage, and bring back further information on Flashing Amber Beacons and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons.

He reported that staff visited the intersection at night and found that the lighting is consistent with lighting along 182nd Street. He called attention to the work order request in Attachment A to install larger, high visibility fluorescent yellow green crosswalk signs, restripe the ladder crosswalk, and install reflective raised pavement markers outlining the perimeter of the crosswalk. He provided cost estimates for the two types of Beacons and described the differences in their operation. He stated that, once the items in the work order request are complete, staff would monitor the intersection and provide an update to the Commission within six months.

Engineering Manager Semaan pointed out that the new signage would be visible from both directions and that the reflective pavement markers would be effective during nighttime hours.

Commissioner Furey stated that he observed 20 elementary students using the crosswalk on November 3, adding that they could have gone to Prairie Avenue to cross. He noted that he has not heard any justification for keeping this crosswalk and recommended its removal. He stated that the Public Safety Committee of the City Council is reviewing all crosswalks in the City that utilize crossing guards because another pedestrian was struck in the Walteria area

Commissioner Habel stated that the crosswalk has been there for a long time and that pedestrians are not going to walk 200 yards to cross the street.

Engineering Manager Semaan pointed out that removal of the crosswalk would be a three to six month process that includes a public hearing and noted that its removal would not prohibit pedestrians from crossing at the intersection. He noted that staff did not see safety concerns or recommend any upgrades but only brought the item back to the Commission at its request.

Commissioner Sargent received confirmation that the Committee has not advised staff not to proceed and suggested asking City Council at their meeting on November 4.

Commissioner Bajaj, with concurrence from Chairperson Rudolph, stated that all the modifications being recommended are low cost but requested that staff bring back the procedure for removal of the crosswalk.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that between now and six months staff would likely have direction from City Council. He recommended that, if the crosswalk is to be removed, to do this after school gets out for summer.

Commissioner Furey questioned what would be accomplished in six months and staff stated that there would be a determination if the enhancements are adequate, to add additional enhancements, or if the crosswalk should be removed.

Chairperson Rudolph stated that he is happy with the direction the Commission is taking.

MOTION: Commissioner Bajaj moved to concur with staff's recommendation, and for staff to bring back an update and the crosswalk removal process within six months. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7b. TRAFFIC COMMISSION 2014 WORK PLAN – FIFTH PRIORITY: ANZA CORRIDOR TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

Associate Engineer Sedadi provided background and called attention to the lists of potential enhancements along the Anza Corridor that have been provided by Commissioners to date. She noted that the first list includes improvements that can be implemented with Capital Improvement Projects and the second list consists of comments that are outside the limits of Capital Improvement Projects. She stated that the first list would be forwarded to the Project Manager for further review and the remaining recommendations would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Engineering Manager Semaan added that the third item on the second list, regarding left turn restrictions on Calle Mayor, might be coming back to the Commission as an individual action item due to the notification process.

Commissioner Sargent pointed out that the second bullet point on the list is linked to this item and that they should be combined; Engineering Manager Semaan explained how the two items could be looked at separately and operate independently.

Chairperson Rudolph received confirmation from staff that bike lanes are being considered as well.

Engineering Manager Semaan explained the difference between pavement reconstruction and pavement rehabilitation to Commissioner Habel.

MOTION: Commissioner Furey moved to concur with staff recommendation to finalize the recommended list of improvements for the Anza Corridor Traffic Analysis. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7c. STATUS UPDATE ON TRAFFIC COMMISSION 2013 WORK PLAN – SECOND PRIORITY: PROTECTED PERMISSIVE LEFT TURN PHASING SIGNAL OPERATION

Assistant Civil Engineer Gruezo provided background and analysis of the four intersections that have Protective Permissive Left Turn phasing with Flashing Yellow Arrow (PPLT FYA). He reported that Public Works and Torrance Police Department have been working together to monitor these operations since their implementation. He informed the Commission that four left turn related collisions have occurred at intersections with PPLT FYA: three at 182nd Street and Prairie Avenue and one at Sepulveda Boulevard and Arlington Avenue. He noted that City Council recently approved an amendment to the design consulting services agreement to proceed with Phase II of the PPLT FYA project.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry, Manager Semaan stated that operationally PPLT FYA displays have been a great success, adding that, as drivers become accustomed to PPLT FYA, the frequency of collisions is expected to decrease.

Sergeant Koenig stated that PPLT FYA has been successful in clearing left turn pockets and keeping traffic flowing. He stated that initially some drivers were confused but that there have been no issues with enforcement.

Commissioner Bajaj was pleased to see that none of the collisions occurred during school peak hours.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Engineering Manager Semaan announced a City Traffic Engineers workshop in Buena Park on March 14, 2015.

8b. Commissioner Furey announced a party on November 6 at Red Car Brewery to celebrate Commissioner Habel's retirement from his place of employment.

8c. At Commissioner Siani's request, Sergeant Koenig described the other collision involving pedestrians in Walteria at Madison Street. He added that, in response, the Public Safety Committee is reviewing all crossing guard locations in the City.

8d. Commissioner Sargent relayed a resident's observation that signs on Spenser Street and Emerald Street approaching Hawthorne Boulevard are difficult to see.

8e. Commissioner Habel stated that there are no speed limit signs on 190th Street between Madrona Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard.

8f. Commissioner Habel asked staff to investigate the timing of the left turn signal going northbound Crenshaw Boulevard to westbound Del Amo Boulevard.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:25 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph adjourned the meeting to December 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall and, hearing no objection, so ordered.

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Approved as submitted
March 2, 2015
s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk