

**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, December 7, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Sargent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Bajaj.

Also Present: City Engineer Bilezerian, Engineering Manager
Finton, and Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig.

MOTION: Commissioner Siani moved to grant Commissioner Bajaj an excused absence for the December 7, 2015 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas 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 NOVEMBER 2, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved for the approval of the November 2, 2015 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Bajaj).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

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

ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. RECOMMENDATION TO INSTALL NINE NEW STOP SIGNS FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ASSIGNMENT IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA NORTH AND WEST OF MAGRUDER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Engineering Manager Finton presented staff's recommendation to install new stop signs, including supplemental 12" stop limit lines and pavement legends, at nine "T" intersections at 183rd Street, 184th Street, 184th Place, 185th Street, Ashley Avenue, Roslin Avenue, Regina Avenue, Amie Avenue, and Avis Avenue. He stated that the purpose would be for right-of-way assignment on residential streets in the area bounded by 182nd Street, 186th Street, Hawthorne Boulevard, and Prairie Avenue, all to the north and west of Magruder Middle School. He noted that ten "T" intersections exist in the neighborhood; however, following investigation, staff determined that only the intersection of 184th Street at Bailey Drive has posted stop controls for all approaches. He stated that additional stop signs are warranted to properly assign right-of-way and eliminate potential driver indecision and unexpected conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.

In response to Commissioner Siani's inquiries, he stated that he is unaware of any reported accidents but noted that parked vehicles, fences, and trees limit driver visibility on terminating streets. He added that staff received residents' requests to review the right-of-way controls due to the school's proximity and pedestrian safety and that concerns were raised at community meetings regarding Columbia Park.

Commissioner Habel stated that it is an excellent idea, especially on 186th Street.

Jim Munday, West 183rd Street, stated that the stop signs are unnecessary, there is no reason to install them, and that neighbors were not notified. Responding to his inquiry, staff advised him that a stop sign costs \$125 for materials and labor.

Commissioner Thomas inquired if paint on the pavement is sufficient and staff advised him that the primary indication for a stop control is a post and sign, with pavement marking being optional.

Commissioner Siani stated that right-of-way should be common sense; however, the signs are not visually objectionable and may contribute to pedestrian safety. In response to her inquiry, staff explained that the need for red curb painting would be investigated after installation of the signs.

Commissioner Sargent stated that he supports the recommendation due to safety concerns.

Chairperson Rudolph suggested painting limit lines to avoid painting red curbs. He took issue with the fact that residents were not notified, and City Engineer Bilezerian provided clarification that the item could have been handled at a staff level, and that it was brought before the Commission to give the public an opportunity to speak.

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to concur with staff recommendation; Commissioner Furey seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 5-1 roll call vote (Chairperson Rudolph voting no).

7b. TRAFFIC COMMISSION'S QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF INQUIRIES

City Engineer Bilezerian presented the Traffic Commission's Summary of Inquiries for October 2011 and December 2014 through November 2015.

Referring to his October 5 inquiry, Commissioner Habel maintained that there are still only 3 or 4 eastbound cars clearing the signal on 182nd at Crenshaw Boulevard and questioned why it is marked as "complete".

City Engineer Bilezerian stated that the timing and operations were monitored but it may not have been from 4 to 6 p.m. when there is more traffic. He offered to do an observation during that time period and suggested that emergency vehicle preemptions may be shortening the cycle.

Referring to Commissioner Siani's November 2 inquiry, Chairperson Rudolph stated that there is also a problem with vehicles blocking intersections at 178th and 179th Streets. He suggested analyzing the whole design of the area, perhaps even restricting access to Hawthorne Boulevard, because of the increase in traffic flow.

City Engineer Bilezerian responded that it would be a tremendous effort and there have not been any issues regarding circulation in the area. He explained that existing conditions meet or exceed standards, Keep Clear pavement marking is redundant, and maintenance and costs are also factors that have to be considered.

Referring to his November 2 inquiry, he explained to Commissioner Sargent that intersections on Sepulveda Boulevard are not coordinated because Hawthorne Boulevard is controlled by Caltrans. He stated that Caltrans operates on an isolated network and different controller with coordination that changes all the time; therefore, Torrance is unable to coordinate its signals with theirs.

Commissioner Sargent noted that his November 2 inquiry regarding the speed limit on Palos Verdes Boulevard south of Pacific Coast Highway should not be marked as "complete" because the speed study has not been done yet.

City Engineer Bilezerian stated that this segment would be added to the network when the next Citywide Traffic study is conducted. He noted that he was trying to close out items on the list because he would like to be consistent with the protocol used by City Council and other Commissions. He stated that he would prefer to respond to the Commissioner who made the inquiry, or all of the Commissioners, within a week or two by email. He stated that Commissioners would get information back faster and it would be less of an administrative effort.

Chairperson Rudolph explained why the Commission's Summary of Inquiries was implemented in 2011 and maintained that Commissioners want to know the status of their inquiries.

Commissioner Thomas stated that he is in favor of faster input and output.

City Engineer Bilezerian recommended referring residents' concerns to the Public Works Department via email or telephone. He agreed to continue the Commission's Summary of Inquiries process for the next quarter and in the meantime would check with the City Manager's office about proper protocol.

In response to Commissioner Siani's inquiry, he related his understanding that the main entrance of the new Costco will be on Lomita Boulevard.

Chairperson Rudolph asked staff to follow up with Caltrans regarding his May 4 inquiry regarding the center median at Hawthorne Boulevard and 177th Street.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to receive and file the Traffic Commission's Summary of Inquiries for October 2011 and December 2014 through November 2015 with modifications as discussed. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Bajaj).

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Commissioner Habel welcomed City Engineer Bilezerian and Engineering Manager Finton.

8b. City Engineer Bilezerian invited Commissioners to meet with him and Engineering Manager Finton one-on-one after the New Year in Public Works and visit the Traffic Management Center.

8c. Following a brief discussion, the Commission agreed to go dark in January 2016 and adjourn the meeting to February 1, 2016.

8d. At Commissioner Thomas' request, Sergeant Koenig provided a status update on traffic circulation in Sleepy Hollow. He explained Redondo Beach's decision to block off Prospect Avenue but stated that they may explore making it one way in or one way out.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph adjourned the meeting to February 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

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Approved as amended February 1, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
