

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – February 12, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:01 p.m. on February 12, 2020 in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Patz presiding.

Vice Chair Patz introduced Commissioner Murphy.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Patz
Vice Chair Mejia
Hill, Coxhill, Singer, Murphy, and West

Present: Staff: Chris Kelley, City Engineer
Farhad Iranitalab, Traffic Engineer
Brent Malatesta, Sergeant
Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Coxhill.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Transportation Analysis: Vehicle Miles Traveled

Chair Patz moved the presentation until after the staff reports.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATION

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2020

Motion/Second: Singer/Mejia

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 8, 2020 with amendments.

7. STAFF REPORTS

A. Petition for Speed Humps in Old Town West – Update

On August 5, 2019 the City received a petition signed by 98 residents and two postal carriers. The residents live on Walnut Street, Oak Street and Chestnut Street. Traffic volumes on these streets range from 1,000 to 1,900 cars per day. Over the next six months after the City received the petition, the Police Department only received three calls for service from the subject area in regards

to speeding vehicles. A speed survey was conducted on September 25, 2019, on Walnut Street and Chestnut Street. The results were presented to the Traffic Commission during the October 9, 2019, meeting.

Residents expressed concern to the Director of Development Services that the collected data was skewed by the presence of a police vehicle. In response to the residents concerns, staff was directed to collect new data. On Tuesday January 14, 2020, staff collected a new set of data on both streets to verify the previous data.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab summarized the staff report.

Chair Patz opened oral communication.

Resident Pam discussed the first speed survey that was conducted and how she was unsatisfied with the noticing of the meeting, not allowing residents enough time to attend. She also provided suggestions to this problem.

Resident Jeffrey expressed his issues with the cut through traffic and not the speed bumps, and would like a solution to the cut through traffic.

Resident Tommy agreed with the statements from the previous residents and supports the installation of the speed bumps. Finds that those vehicles that speed are along Chestnut Street and Florista Street. He also provided suggestions to this problem.

Resident Ricky lives on Florista Street and suggested having little solutions instead of a large solution.

Resident Connie lives on Walnut Street and is concerned that her granddaughter may be hit one day due to the speeding vehicles. Speed bump would be the best thing, but something needs to be done,

Resident Elizabeth lives on Walnut Street expressed her support for the installation of the speed bumps.

Resident Susan expressed her support for the installation of speed bumps.

Resident Cindy lives on Walnut Street expressed her support for the speed bumps and no bike lanes.

Resident Tom lives on Walnut Street observed vehicles speeding through Oak Street.

Resident Tommy spoke again stating that bike lanes are not as favorable.

Chair Patz closed oral communication.

Commissioner Hill recognizes that there is an issue and clarified that the budget is not the issue but the safety of the community. He also clarified what Traffic Commissioner Iranitalab mentioned about narrowing the streets and no bike lane. Speed bumps are not going to stop those who don't stop at the stop signs, but it is an enforcement issue.

Commissioner Murphy lives on Walnut and expressed that the narrowing of the street would be the best solution.

Commissioner Singer shared two major issues, amount of traffic and the speed of traffic. He expressed that the Traffic Commission cannot address both the issues and it may be too much to handle for the city at this point.

City Staff and the residents discussed the following:

- The ticketing process of those who are speeding 5 mph over the limit.
- Classifying a "rolling stop".

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab shared a study that found that about 11% of drivers stop completely at a stop sign.

Commissioner Singer shared some information he has read about the noise that occurs from drivers going over speed bumps and how residents who live on either side of the speed bump complain about the noise.

Commissioner West shared that there would need to be approval of installing speed bumps from those it will affect.

A Resident discussed the noise differences that would occur with the different speed humps.

Vice Chair Mejia shared that speed bumps is not new to the City of Los Alamitos. He is glad that the residents shared alternative ideas aside from speed humps. He clarified the different speed humps that were mentioned by the resident. He then suggested other ideas like one-way streets, striping, and narrowing the lanes. Lastly, he thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

Commissioner West is in agreement with Vice Chair Mejia and Commissioner Hill. She clarified the need to get approval of residents in the area that would have speed humps installed. She also thanked the residents for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Coxhill expressed her understanding of the resident's frustration and wanting to have a safer neighborhood. She mentioned two separate issues, speeding and those not stopping at the stop sign. She also agreed with the ideas that have been discussed.

Commissioner Coxhill and Sergeant Malatesta discussed the diagonal parking that was done on Oak Street past Catalina Street that was later removed.

Commissioner Coxhill and Traffic Engineer Iranitalab discussed the following:

- Restricting access on Chestnut Street from Cerritos Avenue.
- No left turn lane from westbound Cerritos Avenue to Chestnut Street.
- The mid-block crosswalk on Los Alamitos Boulevard.
- The logistics of the speed humps from the study.

Resident Pam expressed her skepticism of the speed survey results and questioned the amount of cars from the speed survey. Traffic Engineer Iranitalab and Commissioner Hill clarified the speed survey results.

Commissioner West and Resident Pam discuss the following:

- What the Traffic Commission can do for her to trust the results of studies.
- A scenario if the City was sued due to a traffic accident.

Vice Chair Mejia helped clarify the different scenarios and how studies are conducted.

A resident discussed the use of traffic calming devices that shows how fast a person is driving and possibility of conducting a third speed survey.

Chair Patz closed the oral communication.

Chair Patz read a letter from Dr. Tara Barnhart who was not able to attend the meeting.

Chair Patz shared the study results provided to the commission and the OCFA letter.

Chair Patz asked Department Secretary Enciso if the study results were provided to the residents, she clarified that it was not in the notice but it was posted online. He then asked staff if there are other options and if a third speed survey can be done. Traffic Engineer Iranitalab does not believe a third study is needed.

Vice Chair Mejia and Traffic Engineer Iranitalab discussed other options that can be done.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Singer

7/0: Motion to continue this item until we have further details of options like striping, angled parking, and stop legends.

Chair Patz allowed a resident to offer more ideas for Traffic Engineer Iranitalab to consider.

Commissioner Hill asked the residents if they feel that the problems they are having is a result of closing the access to Los Alamitos Boulevard and a resident said it is the driving factor.

The Traffic Commission decided to move the presentation to the March Traffic Commission Meeting.

B. Traffic Commission Status Log

This is a tracking tool used by the Commission to track assignments and accomplishments.

8. ITEMS FROM THE DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Kelley informed the Traffic Commission of the following:

- Restriping right lane at Los Alamitos High School would cost about \$1,300.
- Speed humps on Katella Avenue, along with Green and Howard alleys
- Traffic Order for the permit parking removal in New Dutch Haven and Carrier Row has been submitted for the Public Works Division to complete.

Chair Patz updated the commission and staff that the Greenbrook tract pavement rehabilitation is completed.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab updated the Traffic Commission on the status of the OCTA Katella synchronization delayed by 10 months due to funding.

Chair Patz apologized to the commission for letting the residents vent.

9. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy expressed that he does not agree with the format of how things were presented [by the residents], but there were some good points made.

Vice Chair Mejia discussed the following:

- Street signs on Green Avenue are not consistent, some say Green Street.
- Speed hump behind Katella Deli.
- Resident Pat contacted him mentioning the request the installation of the visually impaired pedestrian signals (APS) at Los Alamitos Boulevard and Florista Avenue.

- Striping on Farquhar Avenue is nice and visible.

Commissioner West expressed that the meeting was not productive for the commission, but maybe for the residents. She also took offense to how people addressed the commission in a disrespectful manner.

Chair Patz expressed that he will let those who attend, know to respect the commission.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second: Coxhill/Singer

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until February 12, 2019.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



Daniel Patz, Chair

Attest:



Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary