

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – March 11, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on February 12, 2020 in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Patz presiding.

Vice Chair Mejia 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 West.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chair Patz opened the meeting for Oral Communications.

The following residents spoke in regards to agenda item 6A. The concerns expressed were the following:

- Resident Jeff R. and Traffic Engineer Iranitalab discussed how the speed of vehicles are calculated.
- Resident Dereck D. shared that he was in an accident that occurred in the neighborhood and he expressed his support in installing speed humps/bumps.
- Vice Chair Mejia asked Resident Dereck D. how far from Katella Avenue his accident occurred and it was about two buildings north of Jiffy Lube.
- Resident Esther shared that she experienced most vehicles speeding around 5-6 p.m. Commissioner Hill asked and received clarification of the physical attributes of the road near her area. Commissioner Murphy further clarified the situation.

- Traffic Engineer Iranitalab explained that speed humps would not be the solution.
- Resident Alex who lives on Walnut Street is in favor of speed humps.
- Chair Patz spoke on behalf of the Traffic Commission and informed the residents that none of them would want anybody to be injured or killed.
- Resident Jeff who lives on Chestnut shared his concern of speeding vehicles in the neighborhood and the need of a solution of this problem. He also favors the installation of speed humps.
- Vice Chair Mejia and Resident Jeff discussed what time is worse than others [of cars speeding in the neighborhood] and Resident Jeff answered that it is between 7:15 a.m. until about 10 a.m. (rush hour).
- Commissioner Murphy and Resident Jeff discussed that those speeding are people coming through the neighborhood and not neighbors in the neighborhood.
- Resident Dereck spoke again and shared that he disagrees with speed humps/bumps being a problem and instead it would act as a deterrent for people speeding.
- Resident Pam discussed the differences between speed humps versus speed bumps. She mentioned that there are no speed signs in the neighborhood that says 25 mph and would like to have these signs and the speed humps. She also shared a problem with receiving the notices [for the Traffic Commission meetings] in a timely manner.
- Commissioner West and Department Secretary Enciso discussed how the notices were mailed out.
- Chair Patz and Department Secretary Enciso discussed how to make sure residents, especially the ones who have signed the petition, receive the notices.
- Resident Tracey Mackey lives on Chestnut Street and shared that she does not like speed humps, but it may be best solution to solve the traffic problem.
- A resident spoke again asking about the possibility of having more crossing guards on Florista Avenue.

- The Traffic Commission, Staff, and residents discussed the following about having more crossing guards on Florista Avenue:
 - The process the Police Department would need to make it possible.
 - The times when crossing guards would be needed from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. everyday.
 - If this position would be contracted out or can done with volunteers.
- Resident Esther Murphy spoke again in regards to the situation of kids crossing and interactions with vehicles going around the groups of kids crossing. She suggested that speed humps would slow them down or have them find another route.
- Resident Tracey and Chair Patz discussed the results of the traffic study.
- Resident Tracey suggested that the staff go out to observe.
- Chair Patz shared that Vice Chair Mejia and his wife have been out and observed the neighborhood.
- Chair Patz shared that the issues the residents are facing, he is also facing in his neighborhood as well.
- Chair Patz read the email from Nancy that was received by Department Secretary Enciso.
- The Traffic Commission and Resident Pam discussed the speed humps in the alleys and suggestions of law changes of alleys and streets.
- Commissioner West shared that City staff has other proposals aside from speed humps to present [to the Traffic Commission and those in the audience].

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2020

Motion/Second: Singer/West

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of February 12, 2020 with amendments given to Department Secretary Enciso.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Request for Installation of Traffic Calming Measures on Street Networks Within the Old Town West Neighborhood

On February 12, 2020, staff presented the result of the second speed survey study and determined that the area does not meet the criteria to install speed humps on street networks within the area.

The Traffic Commission requested staff to evaluate other traffic calming measures and report back with the results.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab explained that he understands the neighborhoods situation.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab summarized the staff report.

Chair Patz clarified what a curb extension (bulb-outs) is.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab continued to summarize the staff report.

Commissioner Murphy asked and received an answer from Traffic Engineer Iranitalab that if a traffic circle were to be used they would be in the same five intersections (as shown in attachment 1 of the staff report).

Commissioner Hill asked and received clarification from Traffic Engineer Iranitalab of the painted lines in the staff recommendation that divides the street.

Commissioner Murphy and the City staff discussed the following:

- Clarification from Chair Patz, Vice Chair Mejia, and Traffic Engineer Iranitalab that there are guidelines to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) along with the process of the Traffic Commission making a recommendation to the City Council.
- The standard to have a traffic circle at the five intersections of the neighborhood and the cost to install.

Commissioner West clarified to the audience the process of the Traffic Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Mejia and City Engineer Iranitalab discussed how a crosswalk would be installed with the roundabouts.

The Traffic Commission and City Engineer Iranitalab discussed that having a roundabout would result in a loss of parking.

Vice Chair Mejia shared his experience of observing traffic in the neighborhood and the need for striping and stop signs to be uniform and to the standard.

Commissioner Singer shared that it is not just one issue, but also a need to narrow down the issue and how to address it. He also wanted to know what the

expected result would be of each alternative (how and when to evaluate the effectiveness of the money spent) and would like an objective of what the City will do.

Commissioner West shared that the residents were not presented the cost of the options and the possibility of sending out the options to get the residents input. She also asked how far away is the Traffic Commission to making recommendations to the City Council.

Chair Patz clarified that the Traffic Commission can make a decision now and then decide the process of going to the City Council.

Commissioner Coxhill received clarification from Traffic Engineer Iranitalab that the Traffic Commission can approve the striping at this meeting and not need to go to City Council. Consistently hearing something from a neighborhood. She shared that striping and narrowing the street would be a great first pass [for the neighborhood].

Chair Patz shared that the neighborhood definitely has an issue. Such as the increase traffic from the neighborhood, use of apps like Waze, is out of the purview of the Traffic Commission.

Chair Patz suggested the following:

- Enforcement of large trucks going through the neighborhood.
- Police Department enforcement of stops at stop signs.
- Agreed to the recommendation that staff presented as well as fixing the signs and crosswalks in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Murphy clarified what the staff recommended about narrowing the streets for a resident in the audience.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab shared the following costs:

- Illuminated stop signs is \$1,200 - \$1,700 each.
- Thermoplastic Road Lines is \$100,000

City Staff and the Traffic Commission quickly discussed the Orange County Sanitation District project that will occur in the City.

Commissioner Singer received clarification from Chair Patz and Traffic Engineer Iranitalab about what the staff recommendation entails and if the recommendation address the concerns of the residents.

Sergeant Malatesta quickly discussed the accident that occurred in the neighborhood that was discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the traffic concerns and safety in the neighborhood, as well as the speed survey results.

Commissioner Hill suggested that the Traffic Commission find a solution in regards the safety of the kids crossing at the crosswalks near the school. He agreed that speed limit signs should be installed. He also inquired about the large trucks going through the neighborhoods and Sergeant Malatesta clarified the Police Department will ticket those drivers.

Commissioner Murphy asked and received clarification from Sergeant Malatesta about diesel trucks going through the neighborhoods and that the Police Department will take care of it.

Commissioner Hill inquired about what the possible next steps would be if the Traffic Commission does proceed with being able to control the safety of kids crossing, cite the trucks, and implementing staff's recommendation. He states that doing all this would be great progress, but it would not solve all the issues.

Chair Patz clarified that there be a need to know the results of the items being discussed before knowing what the next steps would be.

Commissioner Hill suggested that the Traffic Commission may want to get a head start on understanding what the ramifications are and what is the next possible answer as opposed to some options presented not happening.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the possible recommendations for the neighborhood.

Vice Chair Mejia asked and received clarification from Sergeant Malatesta that there are currently signs that stipulate the trucks route.

Vice Chair Mejia agreed that speed limits signs make sense and would love to have volunteer crossing guards.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab remind the Traffic Commission of the three E's: education, enforcement, and engineering.

Chair Patz explained the motion that would be made, which was: install speed limit signs at appropriate locations, narrowing lanes, and lighted stopped signs.

Commissioner Murphy recused himself 9:09 p.m.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Singer

6/0 (murphy recused): Motion to include installation of speed limit signs, narrowing of lanes and pavement markings, and include illuminated stop signs.

B. Traffic Commission Status Log

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

Commissioner Coxhill discussed the following:

- Item C1 – Update on pending implementation.
- Item C3 – Clarified budget needs.
- Item C4 – Clarified that the plans are still in the works.
- Item C8 – Change to completed.

Commissioner Singer discussed the following:

- Item E2 – Clarified it is in the process with Code Enforcement.

Vice Chair Mejia discussed the recommendations for the staff report and the process that would go to City Council.

7. PRESENTATION

A. Transportation Analysis: Vehicle Miles Traveled

Motion/Second: Singer/Murphy

Carried 7/0: Motion to move presentation to the next commission meeting.

8. ITEMS FROM THE DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Kelley informed the Traffic Commission of the following:

- Finished removal of permit parking signs in the New Dutch Haven and Carrier Row neighborhoods.
- Raised sign height at Farquhar Avenue and Los Alamitos Boulevard and added a sign across the street.
- Public Works ordered one more Green Avenue street sign to change one of the signs that say Green Street, which is incorrect.
- Chris and Farhad Quickly discussed the Cypress project.

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.

Chair Patz asked Sergeant Malatesta whether or not having a crossing guard can be placed on Walnut Avenue and Florista Avenue from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. and if the Police Department and/or the City Council would be open to volunteers. Sergeant Malatesta explained that if the Police Chief were interested in this, then it would go to the City Council. He shared that there may be issues with consistency.

City Engineer Iranitalab explained that there is supposed to be study done in order to warrant for a crosswalk.

Commissioner Murphy and Department Secretary Enciso discussed the notice of the meetings sent to the residents in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Murphy asked and received clarification from Chair Patz the process of the meeting during oral communications.

Vice Chair Mejia and Sergeant Malatesta discussed an accident on Katella Avenue near Katella Deli and the accident that was discussed earlier in the meeting about a traffic collision.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second: Coxhill/Mejia

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until April 8, 2020.

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



Daniel Patz, Chair

Attest:


Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary