

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – November 9, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 Chair R. Hill presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair R. Hill,
Vice Chair Patz
D. Hill, Mejia, Murphy, and Salai

Present: Staff: Ron Noda, Development Services Director
Irving Montenegro Jr., Development Services Manager
Brent Malatesta, Sergeant
Chris Kelley, City Engineer
Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Department Secretary Enciso confirmed no public comments received.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All Consent Calendar items may be acted upon by one motion unless a Traffic Commissioner requests separate action on a specific item.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Patz

Carried 6/0: The Traffic Commission approved the following Consent Calendar Items:

A. Findings Required by AB 361 for the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings

For the Traffic Commission to continue to have the option to meet via teleconference during the pandemic, AB 361 requires the Traffic Commission to make specific findings at least every thirty (30) days.

Recommendation:

1. A state of emergency has been proclaimed by California's Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and continues to be in effect; and,

2. The Traffic Commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; and
3. State and local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.

B. Approve the Minutes for the Special Meeting of October 12, 2022

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Discussion on Electric Bikes (E-Bikes)

A discussion concerning the use of Electric Bikes (E-Bikes) throughout the State of California and specifically in the City of Los Alamitos.

Development Services Director Noda summarized the staff report.

Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. shared a presentation about e-bikes.

Commissioner Murphy shared his concern on the use of helmets with a bike versus an e-bike.

Development Services Director Noda shared that to enforce this, it will be a multi jurisdiction effort. He also stated that the City has discussed it with City of Cypress, LAUSD, and the community of Rossmoor.

Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. explained how City of Hermosa Beach's approach was a multi jurisdiction effort.

Sergeant Malatesta shared his experience of helmet enforcement at Oak Middle School.

Commissioner Murphy shared that the kids are wearing helmets, but the concern of them riding in the middle of Walnut Street where there is vehicle traffic.

Commissioner D. Hill commented on helmet use and that bikers riding at 5 mph can be on the sidewalk and if they are going above 5 mph they would be on a bike lane or on the street.

Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. mentioned that it can be changed in the ordinance.

Vice Chair Patz commented that he is not against the use of e-bikes, electric scooters, etc. His concern is of the kid's safety. He also discussed the responsibility on the use of motorized vehicles and for there to be a statewide ordinances created.

Commissioner Mejia shared his experience from where he works and the accidents that occur because of the use of e-bikes. He asked how to handle the enforcement.

Sergeant Malatesta mentioned to create a campaign.

Development Services Director Noda shared to be strategic to educate at every level.

Commissioner Salai asked if e-bikes are allowed on the sidewalks and staff confirmed there is no law in place. Sergeant Malatesta discussed the types of transportation of what is and is not allowed on the sidewalk.

City Engineer Kelley asked if the different types of helmets were discussed.

Sergeant Malatesta discussed the different types of helmets - Department of Transportation and bicycle.

Commissioner Murphy shared for someone to dictate the type of helmets that should be used.

Sergeant Malatesta shared the need to have a solid determination.

Chair R. Hill asked how the ordinance would be changed.

Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. explained that staff would have to go back on what the City currently allows and update them to redefine the codes.

Development Services Director Noda followed up on the process on how to create the ordinance and how it would include the other jurisdiction. Create a draft ordinance for the traffic commission to discuss and approve.

Chair R. Hill asked about the bike path and the different classes.

City staff explained the different classes for the bike paths within the City.

Commissioner Mejia asked if the City of Cypress and Seal Beach has a traffic commission and how the city can get them involved.

Development Services Director Noda discussed the "Keep Los Alamitos Safe" campaign.

Commissioner Mejia asked if e-bikes need to follow the same rules as a bicycle regarding reflectors.

Chair R. Hill asked the Traffic Commission if it can go from e-bikes to similar verbiage as Aliso Viejo.

Development Services Director Noda asked if the Traffic Commission would like draft ordinances or something else.

Vice Chair Patz shared that the City gets in touch with the other cities and commissions and have an ad-hoc committee to discuss the issues.

Commissioner D. Hill shared to have a starting point of having rules shared instead of ordinances.

Commissioner Mejia shared having a choice of speed limit on the sidewalk.

Chair R. Hill mentioned that the Traffic Commission needs to narrow down the issue and getting in touch with other jurisdictions.

B. Traffic Commission Status Log

Commissioner Salai and Sergeant Malatesta discussed if the school has a class on helmet use.

Commissioner Salai asked if there is more e-bike use at the elementary or the middle school. Sergeant Malatesta shared he's seen more at Oak Middle School.

Vice Chair Patz asked about the painted left turn lane on Cerritos Avenue and Humbolt Street. City Engineer Kelley shared that it is legal and that they can soften the turn.

Commissioner D. Hill asked about the street survey on Paseo Bonita on Rossmoor Way and Bradbury Road. City Engineer Kelley shared that it was not included in the current project. Development Services Director Noda shared that the area would need to be assessed to be placed on the CIP list.

7. FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Development Services Director Noda shared the following:

- Beginning the annual grid pruning in zone 2 (Old Town East and West) and 4 (Apartment Row)
- Street sign sale begins on Monday, November 14th
- Winter Wonderland event on December 3rd from 4:00-7:30 p.m. on Pine Street
- Sunset Saturday to take place the second Saturday of the month

Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. discussed the Holiday Los Al Bucks Program.

Development Services Director Noda mentioned the Traffic Commission meeting will just be through Zoom and not in person in December.

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Vice Chair Patz discussed the leadership of the commission (reorganization) for the new year and encourages those that would like to run to express it.

Commissioner Salai shared her concern on the striping at the center lane in the Old Town West neighborhood.

Chair R. Hill shared the discussion on the renaming of neighborhood entryways.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second: Patz /Murphy

Carried 6/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until December 14, 2022.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



R. Hill, Chair

Attest:



Ron Noda, Secretary

