

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – June 14, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, Chair Patz presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Patz,
Vice Chair Murphy
D. Hill, R. Hill, Marchese (absent), Mejia, and Salai

Present: Staff: Ron Noda, Development Services Director
Chris Kelley, City Engineer
Delana Lopez, Acting Sergeant
Farhad Iranitalab, Traffic Engineer
Michelle Müller, Management Analyst
Vandine Ouk, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Mejia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chair Patz opened oral communications.

Chair Patz closed oral communications.

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.

A. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2023.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Murphy

Carried 4/0 (D. Hill and Salai abstained, Marchese absent): The Traffic Commission approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2023, with the noted revisions.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Striping Modification on Lexington Drive

Development Services Director Noda summarized the staff report.

Commissioner R. Hill expressed support for the proposed restriping.

Commissioner D. Hill expressed support for the adjustment, which facilitates the entrance into the base however, briefly discussed concerns over vehicles exiting the proposed parking spots to head north on Lexington Drive. Staff clarified that there is still the ability to exit the spaces safely.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab proposed the possibility of including perpendicular parking spaces instead of diagonal. Commissioner D. Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda stating that the road is large enough to accommodate.

Commissioner R. Hill expressed concern over the safety of diagonal parking spaces for vehicles leaving the parking spots.

Vice Chair Murphy expressed concern over the 20-foot red curb request and whether there is a need for this buffer.

Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed the concept of line of sight and how it affects the area of concern at the northeast corner of Lexington Drive and Howard Avenue.

Vice Chair Murphy briefly discussed his concern over this change and the possibility that it could trigger the need for calming measures on the east side.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab briefly described the safety conditions of the area.

Vice Chair Murphy briefly discussed his concern over the impacts to street parking if the red curb was to be incorporated.

Commissioner Mejia briefly discussed the following:

- The existing parking and visibility conditions for vehicles passing throughout the area.
- The sight triangle conditions at other corners along Lexington Drive in the area.
- The absence of sufficient justification for this change.
- Concerned that this could potentially trigger other changes in the area.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab briefly discussed the need for a calming measure to address the conditions of the area.

Commissioner Salai briefly discussed the following:

- Concerns over the striping in the Old Town West neighborhood.
- Indifferent over the implementation of the red curb.
- Agrees with marking lanes closer to Farquhar Avenue.
- Concern over diagonal parking, and how that might affect the area when traffic is present.
- The potential of adding to the problem with this change.

Chair Patz expressed support for the proposed change as it favors adding parking. Additionally, Chair Patz briefly discussed legislation which has limited parking standards and the conditions of the area as it relates to parking.

Vice Chair Murphy asked and received clarification from Traffic Engineer Iranitalab about an alternative to the proposed calming measures. Traffic Engineer Iranitalab briefly discussed the parking shortage currently present on the west side.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab and the Traffic Commission briefly discussed the traffic volume in the area.

Vice Chair Murphy asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda about the possibility of revising the proposed plan, stating that there is the ability to revise the proposed plan as desired by the Traffic Commission. Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed the basis for the initial request.

Motion/Second: Patz/R. Hill (not carried): Approve as presented with the 20-foot red marking at the northeast corner of Lexington and Howard Avenue, and the addition of the angled parking (45 total parking spaces – with a net gain of 15 additional spots).

Motion/Second: Murphy/D. Hill (not carried): Accept the diagonal parking and lane changes except for the red curb.

Development Services Director Noda suggested providing the opportunity for staff to go back and re-evaluate the proposed modifications.

Commissioner Mejia briefly expressed concern over the calming measures proposed being combined with the initial request for a red curb. Additionally, he proposed consideration for addressing each problem separately.

Development Services Director Noda briefly referenced the discussion from the April meeting on this agenda item.

Commissioner D. Hill asked and received clarification about the red curb requests at the corner of Lexington Drive and Howard Avenue and how it creates a sight triangle concern. Traffic Engineer Iranitalab briefly discussed the conditions that typically create sight triangle issues in the area.

Commissioner R. Hill briefly discussed the increased speed limit conditions and increased vehicles which pass through the area.

The Traffic Commission discussed the following:

- Traffic Commissioners against the traffic calming measures includes Commissioners D. Hill, Mejia, Murphy and Salai.
- Traffic Commissioners against the diagonal parking includes Commissioners D. Hill, Mejia, and Salai.
- Traffic Commissioners against the red curb includes Commissioners D. Hill, Mejia, Murphy, and Salai

Development Services Director Noda advised that staff re-evaluate and bring back the item to the Traffic Commission for consideration.

B. Traffic Commission Status Log

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

Commissioner Mejia inquired about the following:

- A7/A35: expressed the need for the immediate improvements to the traffic markings. Development Services Director Noda advised that this item is going before Council for CIP budget approval for FY 23/24.

Vice Chair Murphy asked for clarification as to how long pavement marking should last. Development Services Director Noda briefly described the characteristics considered when determining the appropriate paint used for pavement markings.

Commissioner R. Hill inquired about the following:

- F1: Expressed concern over the need to address the safety concern in the area. The Traffic Commission and staff briefly discussed possible options to address the safety concern.

7. FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Development Services Director Noda advised of the following:

- Introduced Department Secretary Vandine Ouk.
- Large concrete project scheduled for the week of June 19th near McAuliffe Middle School.
- Updated Commissioner Pictures tentatively slated for August.
- City Council Meeting schedule for Tuesday, June 20th.
- Wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

8. **TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS**

The Traffic Commission thanked Chair Patz' son for his service.

Vice Chair Murphy briefly discussed the following:

- The hazardous conditions at Katella Avenue and Walnut Street for vehicles traveling westbound, and the possible consideration for better markings.
- Vehicles turning onto Florista Street (west of Bloomfield Street) headed towards Catalina Street (westbound) travel too fast.

Commissioner Mejia briefly discussed the following:

- The conditions of the bus pad on Walnut Street.
- Attendance of the *Good Morning, Los Al!* Event.
- Reminder on the request for a visit from the Southern California Edison (SCE) representative. Development Services Director Noda advised that he would communicate with the City's representative.
- Possibility of upgrading safety lights to LEDs.

Chair Patz briefly discussed the following items:

- Expressed concern over the roadway on Cerritos Avenue heading west towards the bridge. Development Services Director Noda advised that the area falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Long Beach and noted that staff will communicate with the jurisdiction.
- Concern over the flashing speed alert sign on Bloomfield Street south of Cerritos Avenue. Development Services Director Noda advised that the sign will be disconnected until it is removed.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion/Second: Murphy/D. Hill

Carried 6/0 (Marchese absent): The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until July 12, 2023.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



Daniel Patz, Chair

Attest:



Vandine Ouk, Department Secretary