

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – April 10, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Chair Murphy presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Staff: Ron Noda, Development Services Director
Irving Montenegro Jr., Development Services
Manager
Chris Kelley, City Engineer
Vandine Ouk, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Marchese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chair Murphy opened oral communications.

Chair Murphy 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 March 13, 2024.

Motion/Second: Patz/Marchese

Carried 5/0 (D. Hill and Mejia abstained): The Traffic Commission approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2024, with noted revisions.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Neighborhood Permit Parking and Street Sweeping Survey Results

Development Services Director Noda summarized the staff report.

Commissioner R. Hill recommended investigating the areas of Old Town East and West and Woodcrest, as the results show that a higher percentage of residents are unhappy with street sweeping and parking enforcement there.

Development Services Director Noda stated that a meeting with the City's contracted street sweeping vendor and trash hauler will take place in the upcoming months to discuss proposing a new schedule to the Traffic Commission and then to the City Council since street sweeping is tied to the municipal code.

Commissioner R. Hill requested more detailed data on who has a problem with the street sweeping schedule. Development Services Director Noda stated that he would attempt to embed the information.

Vice Chair Mejia asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that Carrier Row still has permit parking.

B. New California Daylighting Law

Development Services Director Noda summarized the staff report.

Commissioner D.Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that the Daylighting law is applicable to residential areas even if the crosswalks are unmarked.

Vice Chair Mejia asked and received clarification from City Engineer Kelley that it is called Daylighting Law because it refers to the line of sight.

Chair Murphy asked and received clarification from City Engineer Kelley that any area where there is a stop sign or curb ramp is considered an unmarked crosswalk.

Commissioner Rojas asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that there will be no visible physical infrastructure change, but the residents will have to be aware that even though there is no red marking, they will not be able to park there.

Commissioner R. Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that if an existing curb is painted at (20) twenty feet and a resident requests to have it reduced to (10) ten feet, due to lack of parking, the City will be able to accommodate the request.

Commissioner Patz expressed concern about enforcement being unequal across the City. Development Services Director Noda informed Commissioner Patz that he would discuss the concern with the Police Department before outreach started.

Commissioner Patz stated the law is a state ordinance.

Chair Murphy stated that if you do not paint the curbs red, there will be a problem.

Development Services Director Noda suggested there be an assessment period after the outreach, before taking it to council.

Commissioner Marchese suggested the City have a grace period and issue notices instead of ticketing during the beginning phase of the red curb painting.

Commissioner Rojas expressed concern that no one will know of the new law because street markings or signage is not required. Development Services Director Noda will confer with Traffic Engineer Iranitalab.

Vice Chair Mejia asked and received clarification from City Engineer Kelley on how buffer zone is marked.

Vice Chair Mejia suggested ticketing cars who are in violation of parking ordinance.

Commissioner Patz expressed concern about the residents not knowing the correct distance if no physical marking or visible sign is there and suggested publishing a notice in the local newspaper.

Chair Murphy requested City Staff to conduct an assessment with the Police Department to see if it is viable for them to issue.

C. Traffic Commission Status Log

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

Commissioner D. Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that item C3 will be completed by the end of 2024.

Chair Murphy inquired about item C1 and wanted to know if there were any plans about placing crossing guards near the schools. Development Services Director Noda stated that the Safe Route to School Program will analyze this aspect and confirm if there is a need for crossing guards, crosswalks or recommended traffic control standards.

Chair Murphy recommended moving item A44 to “completed”.

Development Services Director Noda stated that he would request additional appropriations to cover additional costs at the next Budget Standing Committee Meeting.

7. FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Development Services Director Noda discussed the following:

- Striping of the intersection at Katella Avenue and Lexington Drive and Katella Avenue and Siboney Street.
- Sidewalk Repair near the high school will be added to the next fiscal year's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) chart.
- Red Light Camera at the intersection of Los Alamitos Boulevard and Katella Avenue and Bloomfield Street and Katella Avenue
- E-bike training will be conducted at the middle schools at the beginning of the year and after the holidays.
- Lampson Park Place Project details will be available on the City Website the week of April 23rd
- Arbor Day Event on April 25th from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Neighborhood Clean Up Event on April 27th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Race on the Base on April 13th
- Pine Street Concerts on Thursdays from May 2nd through June 6th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner R. Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that potholes will be filled if it is in the striping zone.

Development Services Director Noda informed the Traffic Commission that an engineer's assessment is currently being done on Katella Avenue for grinding, overlay, and striping. The repair has been estimated to cost around eight to nine million dollars.

Commissioner R. Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that we are getting grants like Measure M and SP1 to assist us with our projects.

Development Services Director Noda stated that the City can request a traffic mitigation fee from developers in surrounding cities if the project affects traffic in the City.

Commissioner Patz asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that the City manages the synchronization of the traffic signals on Katella Avenue and will notify Traffic Engineer Iranitalab.

Commissioner D. Hill asked and received clarification from the Development Services Director Noda that a traffic study was done, and it confirmed that The Square in the City of Cypress does not impact traffic.

Commissioner Rojas asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that the Lampson Park Place Project is reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. briefly discussed the Revive Los Alamitos Program.

Commissioner R. Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that St. Isidore approached the City for their window restoration and received an application.

Commissioner Marchese asked and received clarification from Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. that the City has been conducting outreach for the program.

Development Services Director Noda informed the Traffic Commission that Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. will soon be taking over the Traffic Commission Meetings.

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Vice Chair Mejia inquired about the following:

- Striping on Los Alamitos Boulevard: City Engineer Kelley stated that the Striping of Los Alamitos Boulevard will be out to bid next week.
- Southern California Edison Representative to attend the upcoming meeting
- Renaming of Apartment Row: Development Services Director Noda informed the Traffic Commission that City Council chose four options for the renaming of Apartment Row: Midtown, Cottonwood “blank,” Cottonwood Place, and a write-in option. The renaming of the neighborhood will be linked to the Neighborhood Entry Signage survey.
- Retiring American Flags: Chair Murphy stated the American Legion has a drop box for retired American flags. Commissioner Patz stated the local Boy Scouts also accept American flags. Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. stated he would inquire with the local Eagle Scouts to see if they can use retired flags.
- Celebrating Public Works Week in May

Motion/Second: Patz/Marchese

7/0 Carried: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to add the attendance of the Southern California Edison Representative to the next meeting's agenda.

Commissioner R. Hill expressed concern about the water table issue near the potential tunnel at Wallingsford Road. Development Services Director Noda stated that an official assessment has not been done yet, but there are ways to mitigate the water table issue.

Commissioner Patz asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that businesses can sell parking permits to park on their private property as long as they have a business license.

Chair Murphy asked and received clarification that an internal conversation had taken place about building a parking structure in Apartment Row – but building one in a neighborhood would be challenging.

Commissioner Marchese suggested making the street one-way with diagonal parking spaces.

Commissioner Rojas asked and received clarification from Development Services Manager Montenegro Jr. that businesses can rent out parking as long as they meet their code requirements for customer parking.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second: Patz/Marchese

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until May 8, 2024.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:18 p.m

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Bruce Murphy 7/11/2024

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Bruce Murphy, Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Vandine Ouk 7/11/2024

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Vandine Ouk, Department Secretary