

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa Traffic Commission
Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, California

The Agenda for this meeting was posted on April 27, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

ROLL CALL: TRAFFIC COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Calandra; Vice Chair Krulikowski; Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice.

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Director of Public Works/City Engineer Richard Leja; Engineering Project Manager Jeffrey Manchester; Associate Engineer Michael Kinnard; Police Traffic Sergeant Hildebrand; Administrative Coordinator Noemi Becerra; Administrative Assistant Daniela Rodriguez

INVOCATION – Vice Chair Krulikowski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. TRAFFIC ACTION ITEMS SINCE PREVIOUS TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

Mr. Manchester reported on the four items on the Traffic Work Order Log that were approved or completed since the April 4, 2018 Traffic Commission meeting. (See agenda attachment – Traffic Work Order Log 2018)

2. TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

Mr. Manchester gave an update on the status of the traffic calming as of May 02, 2018. (See agenda attachment – Traffic Calming Status: Update 05-02-18) Mr. Manchester reported the next meeting with residents of Howell Drive would be to determine the final traffic calming design. Director Leja reported that there is a lack of response from residents of Howell Drive and Guava Ave. He stated the community meetings are held in the affected areas and the purpose is to get

consensus on which traffic calming measures should be pursued. He also stated that when there is a lack of community interest the effected street would be moved to the bottom of the list. Vice Chair Krulikowski suggested a member of the commission should attend upcoming community meetings.

3. LIST OF STREETS TO RECEIVE SB1 FUNDING

Director Leja reported on the list of streets approved by Council on April 24, 2018 to receive funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account created by Senate Bill 1 (SB1) funding. He explained the Public Works Department is making a dedicated effort toward implementing the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan when resurfacing streets.

Commissioner Justice asked how much of Spring Street will the San Diego County Water Authority resurface once they have completed construction. Director Leja explained the San Diego County Water Authority has committed to resurfacing their effected areas of Spring Street from Lemon Avenue to High Street.

4. VISION SAFETY PARKING ZONE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Director Leja reported that the subcommittee will bring the red curb policy to the Commission prior to bringing the vision safety parking zone policy. With the purpose of that when the discussion of vision safety zones occurs, the Commission will have an understanding of how sight, distance and safety overlap in relation to red curbs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

Dorcas Hermsmeier, 4827 Beaumont Drive

Ms. Hermsmeier made a public request that a discussion of speed humps be placed on a future Traffic Commission agenda. Ms. Hermsmeier stated that La Mesa's 50 percent approval requirement for speed humps and speed tables is too low. She would like the residential approval percentage increased to 75 percent for speed humps and speed tables to be installed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2018 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

ACTION: Vice Chair Krulikowski moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion which carried 5-0.

AYES: Chair Calandra, Vice Chair Krulikowski, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

6. REQUEST TO EXEMPT SCHOOL BUSES FROM THE TIME RESTRICTION FOR RIGHT-HAND TURNING MOVEMENTS FROM HIGH STREET TO SACRAMENTO DRIVE (CONTINUED FROM MARCH 7, 2018 MEETING) (Attachment – Item 6)

Mr. Leja explained the item was continued from the March 7, 2018 meeting so that City staff could provide additional record information requested by the Commission.

Mr. Manchester presented a map showing the latest round of noticing that went out to residents, traffic counts for Sacramento Drive conducted on April 11, 2018 and a Traffic Collision History Report showing 3 incidents since January 1, 2008.

Mr. Bryant Jackson from the Grossmont Union High School District reported bus activity on Sacramento Drive. He noted buses from his district used Sacramento Drive for home to school transportation of a special education student and for extracurricular activities. Mr. Jackson emphasized he is obligated by federal and state regulations to transport students taking the most direct route possible. He noted that if busses are exempt it would not alleviate the traffic problems on Sacramento Drive. Mr. Jackson presented data showing the number of times his busses traveled on Sacramento Drive and the duration of the trips (See attachment).

Vice Chair Krulikowski asked if the primary reason for the request to exempt school busses is to pick up the special education students or to use the route for other busses. Mr. Jackson responded that the request for exemption was to provide the disabled students with the shortest ride time possible.

Mr. Jackson explained there are three levels of service provided to special education students and that the type of service is determined by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). The three types of pick-up service are; curbside, arterial, neighborhood stops. Commissioner Ortega asked how the no right turn impediment affects the overall bus schedule. Mr. Jackson responded that it results in the special education students being on the bus for a longer period of time. He noted many of his students ride with nurses, have oxygen, some have do not resuscitate orders and they should not be on a bus any longer than they have to be.

Director Leja reported on the original traffic study for the Serramar development conducted in 1984. A discussion followed and the consensus was that the study was adequate in 1984 but not adequate by present day standards.

The following is a summary of the public discussion heard by the Commission on this Item:

1. S. Skinner 7421 Orion Ave, La Mesa

Mr. Skinner is in favor approving the waiver for school busses. He is also in favor of removing the signs completely. He said his and other streets are much more impacted by school traffic and would like to know why Sacramento Drive receives so much attention from the Commission. He suggested the goal of the Commission should be to calm all traffic instead of just focusing on one street.

2. Ed Kirkpatrick – 3915 Sacramento Drive, La Mesa

Mr. Kirkpatrick is opposed to the action. He stated the exemption would lead to others also asking for exemptions.

3. Frank Baggett – 3980 Sacramento Drive, La Mesa

Mr. Baggett is opposed to the action. He urged the Commission not to approve the exemption due diminished home values and quality of life due to the traffic and speeding on Sacramento Drive.

4. Tim Morrow – 3970 Sacramento Drive, La Mesa

Mr. Morrow is opposed to the action due to the volume of school traffic. He presented 29 petitions from his neighbors all of which are also opposed to the action. He feels the exemption would lead to others also asking for exemptions.

5. Sean Russall – 3895 Sacramento Drive , La Mesa

Mr. Russall is opposed to the action. He stated the exemption would lead others to also ask for exemptions. He suggested the street should be blocked off and that granting the exemption would not solve the larger problem of high traffic volumes.

6. Claudette L. Reynolds – 7560 Eastridge Drive, La Mesa

Ms. Reynolds stated that the Commission should consider that there are 39 new homes being built on La Mesa Summit which will further increase the amount of traffic in the area.

7. Tysen BrodWolf – La Mesa Spring Valley School District - Transportation Department

Ms. BrodWolf clarified that general education school busses often times transport students with disabilities. She stated she is in favor of exempting all school busses.

The commission discussed the options available to them are removing the restrictions completely for all traffic, leaving the restrictions as is and rejecting the request from the school district, exempting busses from the restrictions, exempting disabled persons from the

turn restrictions, exempting busses while in the active transportation of disabled persons, and gathering additional information.

Traffic Sergeant Hildebrand reported that since January of 2016 close to 1,000 citations have been issued on Sacramento Drive. He stated the citations trend towards school traffic and people who were aware the signs are present. He stated he receives a high number of calls from residents on Sacramento Drive to enforce traffic laws in the area.

Considerable discussion on this item followed.

ACTION: Vice Chair Krulikowski moved to exempt busses while in the active transportation of disabled persons from the time restriction for right-hand turning movements from High Street to Sacramento Drive. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion which carried 4-1.

AYES: Vice Chair Krulikowski, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: Chair Calandra

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

7. RESHEDULING THE JULY 4, 2018 MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY CONFLICT

Director Leja explained that due to schedule conflicts the July 4, 2018 meeting should be moved to July 11, 2018 or the meeting cancelled.

ACTION: Chair Calandra moved to reschedule the July 4, 2018 to July 11, 2018. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion which carried 5-0.

AYES: Chair Calandra, Vice Chair Krulikowski, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

COMMISSION INITIATED ITEMS

A discussion followed regarding the Commission's concerns related to schools and traffic calming on Sacramento Drive. The Commission discussed that schools are overseen by the Division of the State Architect and the City has a limited role in approving any decisions that are made as it relates to traffic impacts on the community.

STAFF COMMENTS

Director Leja stated City staff is in the process of updating the traffic study flow chart and requirements, streamlining them to address the most impacted areas first and best utilizing City resources. Director Leja commented on the future items and the order in which they would be presented to the Commission.

FUTURE ITEMS – (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

PROVIDE TRAFFIC CALMING DESIGN FOR HOWELL DRIVE

RED CURB POLICY

REQUEST FOR ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES AT 4444 BEVERLY DRIVE AND
7842 MOHAWK STREET

THE VISION SAFETY PARKING ZONE POLICY

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PERMIT POLICY

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING IS June 6, 2018

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.