

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES – August 6th, 2025

1. Call to Order

At 9:02 am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited

3. Roll Call

Present: Chair Villalobos
Commissioner Guthrie
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Flores
Commissioner Lum

Excused Absence: Commissioners Ringler
Commissioner Davis-Overstreet

Participants in attendance:

Staff: Elaine Kunitake, Assistant Deputy Director
Kevin Kim, Senior Civil Engineer
Vilong Truong, Senior Civil Engineer

Commissioner Robert Ringler was excused due to ongoing absence; the commission agreed to request a replacement if no response is received by the next meeting. It was clarified that Commissioner Ringler remains on the commission until officially replaced, per commission rules.

4. Approval of February 5, 2025 Minutes

Correction was made to the next meeting date in the previous minutes. The minutes from the February 5, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved. The February 5, 2024, HSC meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Citizens' Appeals Requests Denied by Public Works

Denial of Speed Cushions on Via Corona fronting Arts in Action Elementary School

Appellant: Kalin Balcomb

The commission revisited the appeal for speed cushions on Via Corona. Staff explained that the engineering analysis did not meet the 85th percentile speed criteria for installation, but recommended posting 25 mph speed limit signs based on a new traffic survey. These signs were installed in March 2025.

The speed cushion installation is programmed for implementation and is expected to be funded and installed within the current fiscal year, pending coordination with Road Maintenance. No definitive timeline is available yet, but efforts are being made to expedite the process due to community urgency and school concerns.

Commissioners discussed the impact of cut-through traffic, local and regional traffic patterns, and the challenges of balancing neighborhood requests with county-wide priorities. The commission reaffirmed the denial of immediate installation but acknowledged ongoing efforts to address the issue.

6. Report on Business other than Appeals

Crossing Guard Update

Since the February 5, 2025 meeting, Public Works has not recommended any new crossing guard deployments. However, requests were received to relocate crossing guard services at several schools due to renovations or closures:

- Wedgeworth Elementary (Hacienda Heights): Relocated crossing guard from Wedgeworth Drive/Manor Gate Road to Wedgeworth Drive/Heather Hill Road (service began May 27, 2025).
- Palm Elementary (Hacienda Heights): Relocated crossing guard from Palm Avenue/Finegrove Avenue to Los Robles Avenue/Ridley Avenue (service to begin August 6, 2025 through January 6, 2026).
- Loma Vista Elementary (South Whittier): Relocated crossing guard from Leland Avenue/Utica Street to Meyer Road/Mina Avenue/Beaty Avenue due to gate closure; two crossing guards assigned (service to begin August 16, 2025).

Due to the Eaton Fires, crossing guard services were suspended at 7 locations, reducing the total to 230 locations with 240 crossing guards employed.

Commissioners discussed funding constraints, the impact of after-school programs, and the county's budgetary process for crossing guard services.

7. Public Comments on any matter not on the agenda

None.

8. Special Orders

None.

9. Continuation of Business from Prior Agenda

None.

10. New Business

Commission Structure and Future

Chair Villalobos reported receiving a questionnaire from the Executive Office regarding the commission's duties and caseload, as part of the county's 10-year "sunset review" of all commissions. The commission's continued relevance and value to the community were discussed.

The Board of Supervisors is considering the creation of a new Transportation Commission, which may result in the dissolution of the Highway Safety Commission. Commissioners advocated for preserving the commission's functions and ensuring current members are considered for the new body. The timeline for this transition is now projected for the end of fiscal year 2025-26.

Infrastructure Recovery and Community Requests

Updates were provided on post-fire infrastructure recovery, including traffic safety improvements, sidewalk requests, and coordination with utility companies for undergrounding power and communications lines. Commissioners discussed balancing rural character with new infrastructure needs and the importance of community input in future planning. Staff described efforts to survey affected areas and prioritize improvements.

11. Next Meeting date: November 5, 2025

12. Adjournment - At 9:56 am