

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2009**

The meeting was held in Conference Room B at the Department of Public Works (DPW) Headquarters.

1) Call to Order

The meeting of September 2, 2009, was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Roll Call

Present: Chair Robert A. Ringler
 Vice-Chair Thurston Reese
 Commissioner Rhett Price
 Commissioner John Watkins
 Commissioner Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Praful Kulkarni
 Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos

Also in attendance were the following:

Mr. William Winter, Assistant Deputy Director; Mr. Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; Mr. James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez, Associate Civil Engineer; Ms. Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant and Carlos Slythe, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant.

4) Approval of August 5, 2009, Minutes

The Minutes of the August 5, 2009, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5) Citizen Appeal of requests denied by Public Works.

a) Whittier Boulevard at Keenan Avenue
 Traffic Signal and Crosswalk
 Appellant: Jorge Venzor

Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez presented a power point presentation to the HSC. Mr. Gonzalez stated that Mr. Jorge Venzor requested that DPW install a marked crosswalk on Whittier Boulevard at Keenan Avenue. He stated that Mr. Venzor indicated that church attendees cross Whittier Boulevard at this location. Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that DPW has an expectation that pedestrians that are not comfortable with crossing at the subject location would use the existing signalized intersections of Leonard Ave or Gerhart Ave which are located 600 feet east and west of the intersection, respectively.

Mr. Gonzalez went over the guidelines DPW uses to determine when a traffic signal is needed at an intersection. He stated that DPW follows the signal warrants in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to determine when a signal should be installed. He stated that most Cities and Counties also follow the MUTCD Traffic Signal Warrants.

Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that traffic signal warrants take into account the following:

- Vehicle & Pedestrian Volumes (12 hour)
- Collision History (Latest year)
- Speed of Motorists
- Delay
- Existing Field Conditions

Mr. Gonzales stated a traffic signal wasn't warranted and summarized the results of a traffic signal warrant in the following table:

Warrant	Not Applicable	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
1. Seven Hour Vehicular Volume – Part A			X 21%
Part B			X 43%
2. Four Hour Vehicular Volume			X
3. Peak Hour			X
4. Pedestrian Volume			X
5. School Crossing	X		
6. Coordinated Signal System			X
7. Collision Warrant			X
8. Roadway Network			X

Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that DPW made the following observations and recommendations:

- Field observations revealed that motorists and pedestrians can enter or cross the intersection without conflict or undue delay when using normal caution.
- DPW does not recommend marking the crosswalk since that type of treatment would not be consistent with the other uncontrolled intersections on this stretch of Whittier Blvd.
- Since none of the traffic signal warrants were satisfied, DPW is not recommending a traffic signal.

Commissioner Watkins asked why people are crossing at this location in the first place. Commissioner Villalobos informed him that people are crossing the street because church patrons are parking in a parking lot across the street from the church.

Mr. Jorge Venzor spoke and mentioned that the church was using the parking lot of a Dialysis Center located across the street from the church. He mentioned that 15 years ago, there used to be a marked crosswalk at this location and recently, it was removed. Chair Ringler informed Mr. Venzor that crosswalks give people a false sense of security.

Mr. Venzor also mentioned that the Dialysis Center is no longer giving permission to the church to use their parking lot. Commissioner Kulkarni inquired about the collision statistics on Whittier Boulevard at Simmons Avenue, located just west of Keenan Avenue. Mr. Winter requested Chair Ringler take a short recess from the meeting so that he could have his Staff bring the collision statistics for Whittier Boulevard near Simmons Avenue.

Mr. Ringler asked for a break at 9:55 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:18 a.m.

After hearing collision statistics, Commissioner Kulkarni made the following motions:

- Deny request for a traffic signal at the intersection of Whittier Boulevard and Keenan Avenue.
- DPW to complete a comprehensive study on Whittier Boulevard between Gerhart Avenue and Leonard Avenue with primary emphasis on pedestrian movements. This study will also address any vehicular movement conflicts at the intersection of Montebello Parkway at Simmons Avenue. This study should be completed between 3 to 6 months at which time the appellant will be invited back to the HSC to hear the results of the study.

The motion was carried unanimously

6) Report on business other than appeals

At this point, Chair Ringler announced that Commissioner Praful Kulkarni has resigned from the HSC and that today was his last meeting. The HSC thanked him for his service. Commissioner Kulkarni explained that he reluctantly had to resign due to scheduling conflicts with his job, but he mentioned he had enjoyed his time with the HSC.

7) Public Comments on any matter not on agenda

There were no public comments on any matters not on agenda.

8) Reports from special committees.

There were no special committee's announcements.

9) Special Orders.

There were no special orders.

10) Unfinished Business and general notes

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC there was no unfinished business.

11) New Business

- a) Potential review of all marked/uncontrolled crosswalks in the unincorporated area.

Mr. Winter informed the HSC that DPW plans to complete a review of marked uncontrolled crosswalks in the unincorporated areas of the County. Mr. Winter stated that currently, there are some locations in the County with marked ladder-type crosswalks while other similar locations may only have two longitudinal lines. Mr. Winter informed the HSC that the review will include 10 locations and DPW will report their findings to the HSC when these studies are completed.

At this point, Chair Ringler changed subjects and mentioned that there seems to be a lack of flexibility for shooting radar in the residential areas. Mr. Winter mentioned that the most recent change in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices regarding determining speed limits was that the 85th percentile speed, which is the speed that the speed limit is determined by, must be rounded to the nearest 5 mile per hour increment as opposed to rounding down to the lower 5 mile per hour increment. Mr. Winter stated that he would send the HSC a link with the new guidelines that the State has issued for traffic professionals in California to use when setting radar-enforceable speed limits. Mr. Winter mentioned that the Engineering and Traffic Survey (ET&S) can be used to determine that 65 mph is not appropriate which then allows a prima facie to be set per the California Vehicle Code (CVC) section 22358 (a).

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Chair Ringler informed the HSC that the next meeting of the HSC is tentatively scheduled for October 7, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

A recording of the discussions held at this meeting is on file at Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE
Executive Officer
Highway Safety Commission

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