

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2010**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of May 5, 2010, was called to order at 9:20 a.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Roll Call

Present: Chair Robert A. Ringler
 Commissioner Rhett Price
 Commissioner John Watkins
 Commissioner Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos

Absent but excused: Vice-Chair Thurston Reese

Also in attendance were the following:

Mr. Bill Winter, Division Engineer; Mr. Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; Mr. James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Mr. Alan Nino, Associate Civil Engineer; Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez, Associate Civil Engineer; Ms. Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant and Mr. Omar Ahmed, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant.

4) Approval of April 7, 2010, Minutes

The Minutes of the April 7 , 2010, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5) Citizen Appeal of requests denied by Public Works

There were no new appeals.

6) Report on business other than appeals

a. Crossing Guard Update

Mr. Winter informed the HSC that from this point on, the HSC will provide a crossing guard update memo to inform them of how many crossing guard requests were received, how many were completed, how many locations were denied and how many locations crossing guard service was recommended at. For the month of April, the following applies:

- 2 crossing guard requests received
- 2 crossing guard studies completed
- 0 locations where service was denied
- 2 locations recommended for service and they are:
 - 1) Wallen L. Andrews Elementary School
Basetdale Avenue/Belgreen Drive at Caraway Drive
 - 2) Torch Magnet Middle School
Vineland Avenue at Giordano Street

The HSC received and filed this information.

b. Safe Routes to School Grant

Mr. Winter informed the HSC that DPW will be applying for Speed Display signs in its upcoming Safe Routes to School Grants. Mr. Chon mentioned these signs would be turned on during school hours only. Mr. Winter informed the HSC that DPW would like a letter of support from the HSC on this roadway. Commissioner Villalobos asked if there was an outreach program. Mr. Chon informed Commissioner Villalobos that DPW does provide a Suggested Routes to School Map to the schools and that recently, DPW has been updating these Suggested Routes To School Maps.

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

a) Update on Whittier Boulevard at Keenan Avenue.

Mr. Gonzalez provided a power point presentation regarding Whittier Boulevard at Keenan Avenue. He stated that this presentation was a follow-up to the HSC's September 2, 2009, appeal by Mr. Jorge Venzor's in which he requested a marked crosswalk on Whittier Boulevard at Keenan Avenue. At that meeting, a motion was made for Public Works to conduct a comprehensive study on Whittier Boulevard between Gerhart Avenue and Leonard Avenue with primary emphasis on pedestrian movements.

Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that DPW reviewed the collision history on file during the last year period ending 11/30/2009 at Whittier Boulevard at its intersection with Gerhart Avenue, Simmons Avenue, Montebello Parkway, Keenan Avenue, Bradshaw Avenue, and Leonard Avenue as well as made field observations at these locations.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded that the following findings were made:

- A review of the collision history for Whittier Blvd at its intersection with, Simmons Ave, Montebello Pkwy, Keenan Ave, and Bradshaw St revealed no collisions within the last 12 month period.
- Field observations revealed that traffic controls devices are adequate for the prevailing conditions.
- DPW has not received any request for traffic studies on Whittier Blvd within the subject limits since Mr. Venzor's request for the installation of a marked crosswalk on Whittier Blvd at Keenan Ave.
- DPW does not recommend anything further at this time.

Mr. Gonzalez also presented a concept plan for the subject area that showed potential median modifications for the area. Commissioner Price asked when these modifications would be implemented. Mr. Winter responded that it would take one to five years before these changes are made.

Commissioner Villalobos mentioned that bus stops block visibility and that since there were ADA (American Disabilities Act) ramps at Whittier and Keenan, perhaps bus turnouts should be considered. The HSC received and filed this report.

The HSC took a short recess at 9:50 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:10 a.m.

b) Update on Seville Avenue Crosswalk Removal

Mr. Nino presented some maps in a power point presentation and showed the HSC the locations of where their motions for traffic enhancements were made. Those motions were as follows:

- Install a four-way stop at Seville Avenue and Hope Street.
- Install a pedestrian actuated traffic signal at Seville Avenue and Hill Street.

At that point, Commissioner Price mentioned that the motion for the pedestrian actuated traffic signal was made to help park patrons and students cross the street. Mr. Nino informed the HSC that DPW has been working with the Department of Parks and Recreation to close the gate on Seville Avenue at Hill Street so that students and park patrons would not have a need to cross the street and would instead either cross at the signalized intersections of Seville Avenue at Broadway or Seville Avenue at Olive Street. Commissioner Price also said that the recommendations were made as a compromise for speeding vehicles. Edgar Cisneros, Field Deputy from Supervisor Molina's Office spoke to the HSC and DPW and informed them that the Walnut Nature Park was open on the weekends and that he believed that the gate will be used at Seville Avenue and Hill Street.

Mr. Winter informed the HSC that he wasn't sure whether their motion was directed at DPW or the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Winter mentioned that DPW did not agree with their recommendation and that installation of a four-way stop may have unintended consequences. After discussing the issue in length, the HSC informed Mr. Winter that their intention was for these motions to be brought to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. They also clarified that they recommended a pedestrian actuated flashing beacon at Seville Avenue and Hope Street, not a pedestrian actuated traffic signal. Mr. Winter informed the HSC that DPW would draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors on their behalf recommending the above mentioned motions.

11) New Business

Commissioner Estey asked Ms. Guilmette about the status of the Auditor Controller's Sunset Review of the HSC. Ms. Guilmette informed him that she had submitted the documents presented to them and had forwarded some additional information to them upon their request.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Chair Ringler informed the HSC that the next meeting of the HSC is tentatively scheduled for June 2, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 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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