

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2015**

The meeting was held in Conference Room A at the Department of Public Works Headquarters.

1. Call to order

At 9:13 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Thurston T. Reese
 Commissioner Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Rhett Price
 Commissioner Robert A. Ringler
 Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos
 Commissioner John Watkins

Absent but excused: Vice Chair Greg Knapp

Also in attendance were the following:

Mary Reyes, Senior Civil Engineer; Leonel Gallegos, Associate Civil Engineer; Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant; and Lance Cervantes, Civil Engineering Assistant.

4. Approval of February 4, 2015, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the February 4, 2015, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5. Citizen Appeal of Denied Request by Public Works

Denial of Crossing Guard at the intersection of 120th Street and Success Avenue.

Appellant: Dr. Damian Kessler, Principal Carver Elementary School
 Ms. Angela Ayala

Mr. Leo Gallegos presented the attached Power Point presentation.

After Mr. Gallego's presentation, Ms. Mary Reyes informed the HSC that the Compton Creek Trail will be extended to the south in 1 year. Ms. Reyes stated that once that trail is extended, a pedestrian signal will be installed across 120th Street at the Compton Creek Trail and the existing crosswalk and crossing guard located across 120th Street at Parmelee Avenue will be removed. Mr. Gallegos stated that the crosswalk on 120th Street at Parmelee Avenue will remain in place until the new signal at Compton Creek Trail is installed. Mr. Reese asked Mr. Gallegos when the passenger loading zone was completed and Mr. Gallegos stated that the passenger loading zone and school bus loading zone were to be installed this week. Commissioner Price asked if a traffic count had been taken on Success Avenue at the 120th Street frontage road. Mr. Gallegos stated there had not been a traffic count at the 120th Street frontage road. Commissioner Price stated that the children were more likely crossing 120th Street at the traffic signal than the crosswalk at Parmelee Avenue because it was closer to the entrance of the school. Commissioner Price asked what kind of use is intended for the Compton Creek Trail and Ms. Reyes stated it would be a multiuse path. Commissioner Villalobos stated that some of the curb extensions in the median islands were overlapping the crosswalks on 120th Street at Success Avenue and that the bus stops on 120th Street at Success Avenue could block the view of the pedestrians in the crosswalks. Commissioner Villalobos stated that there were many conflicting movements on Success Avenue at the 120th Street frontage road and that the intersection with the frontage road should be evaluated also. Commissioner Villalobos stated that the 120th Street frontage road should be considered in future traffic counts.

Dr. Kessler introduced himself and stated that Ms. Ayala was going to speak on behalf of Carver Elementary School. Ms. Ayala stated that her son was struck 3 weeks ago by a vehicle in the crosswalk on 120th Street at Success Avenue. Ms. Ayala stated that she was parked on the 120th Street frontage road when she waved for her son to cross the street. Ms. Ayala stated that when her son crossed the street, some of the motorists stopped for him to cross, but one motorist did not see him and struck him. Ms. Ayala stated that motorists are speeding on 120th Street. Ms. Ayala stated that the day after her son's collision, there were Public Works' trucks out there adjusting or checking the traffic signal. Ms. Ayala stated that although there is a passenger loading zone next to the school, there is still not enough room for the parents to park to pickup their children. Commissioner Price read the collision report involving Ms. Ayala's son and stated that her son observed the light had turned red when he was half way across the crosswalk. Mr. Price stated that the motorist was cited for Section 21951 of the California Vehicle Code, which was a violation of

the motorist failing to stop for a pedestrian in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Commissioner Reese asked Ms. Ayala how old her son was and she responded that he is 11 years old. Commissioner Price also stated that the collision report stated there were no witnesses and the officer placed the blame on the driver. Ms. Ayala showed photos of her son and indicated he had a broken wrist and bruises. Chair Reese asked how many students attended Carver Elementary School and Dr. Kessler stated there were 400 students. Dr. Kessler stated he believes there are some missing school signs surrounding the school. Commissioner Price asked Public Works' staff if the Speed Limit signs had Radar Enforced plaques and Ms. Reyes stated that an active Engineering and Traffic Survey needs to be completed along 120th Street in order for radar enforcement to be used. Commissioner Villalobos suggested an on-site parking lot for the parents to park and pickup their children. Dr. Kessler informed him that the existing on-site parking lot is a staff parking lot and there was no additional room on campus for a parent pickup/drop off turnout. Dr. Kessler indicated there was also a Boys and Girls Club located directly to the west of the school near Parmelee Avenue. Commissioner Price asked Dr. Kessler how many children crossed 120th Street at the Parmelee Avenue crosswalk. Dr. Kessler indicated about 50 students crossed there. Ms. Reyes indicated that the Parmelee crosswalk has a crossing guard which means at some point it had met guidelines for a crossing guard which requires a minimum of 20 pedestrians crossing during any 2 hours of the day. Commissioner Price suggested relocating the crossing guard to the traffic signal at 120th Street and Success Avenue. Ms. Reyes stated that there are still pedestrians crossing 120th Street at Parmelee Avenue to access the Boys and Girls Club. Commissioner Ringler suggested this item be continued because the HSC needed more information before they could render a motion. Commissioner Reese asked the other woman in the audience if she had any input. The other woman introduced herself as Ms. Maria Onofre. Ms. Onofre stated that when she crosses 120th Street at Success Avenue, vehicles come close to her and she has had near misses. Ms. Onofre stated that in the morning, motorists on 120th Street were speeding. Ms. Onofre stated that she thinks there should be more School Speed Limit signs. Commissioner Villalobos informed Ms. Ayala and Ms. Onofre that the HSC commissioners were appointed by the Board of Supervisors and told them he appreciated the fact that they came to the meeting to present their appeal and that he was sorry for what happened to Ms. Ayala's son. Chair Reese suggested to Dr. Kessler that he contact King Medical Center and remind them to be mindful of the students crossing 120th Street at Success Avenue. Commissioner Price made the following motion and the motion was seconded:

- It is recommended this item be continued to a future meeting and it is further recommended that Public Works look for some options/alternative recommendations for Carver Elementary School. It is also recommended County Counsel be present at the follow-up meeting for this item.

The vote went as follows:

Chairperson Thurston T. Reese	Yes
Commissioner Marvin Estey	Yes
Commissioner Rhett Price	Yes
Commissioner Robert A. Ringler	Yes
Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos	Yes
Commissioner John Watkins	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Report on Business Other Than Appeals

Crossing Guard Update

During the 3 month period since our February 4, 2014, Highway Safety Commission meeting, Public Works completed three studies for crossing guard services. Of those three sites, all were recommended for new crossing guard services. Also, Public Works is still evaluating 16 additional locations for crossing guard services.

The total number of locations with crossing guard service is 211. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 211 locations is 217, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

7. Public Comments on Any Matter Not on the Agenda

None.

8. Reports from Special Committees

None.

9. Special Orders

None.

10. Unfinished Business and General Notes

Chair Reese stated that he noticed on the Board Agenda that new crossing guards were deployed in the Lancaster area and that wasn't mentioned during the crossing guard update. Ms. Reyes informed the HSC that sometimes the Board makes a motion to deploy a crossing guard regardless of whether a location has been studied by the Traffic Investigations Section and that the HSC would not necessarily be notified of that action. Chair Reese also asked whether the County had been receiving many requests for crossing guard deployment at middle school locations. Ms. Reyes stated that so far, they have not deployed many crossing guards at middle school locations. Ms. Reyes stated that the County still gives requesters the option to appeal crossing guard decisions to the HSC.

11. New Business

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that there was an appeal for speed humps on Orkney Street/Enid Avenue between Azusa Avenue and Arrow Highway. Ms. Guilmette stated that this item was being appealed by one citizen and that speed humps at this location had not been evaluated in the past. Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC it was at their discretion whether they wanted to hear this item at an upcoming meeting. The HSC unanimously agreed to hear the item at a future HSC meeting.

12. Date for Next Meeting Announced and Adjournment

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 3, 2015. The meeting was moved to Conference Room E where the Commissioners completed a County Policy of Equity Training. The meeting and training was completed and meeting adjourned by 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE
Executive Officer
Highway Safety Commission

IG:la
p:\t\pub\invest\hsc\minutes\2015\may 6-2015.docx

Attach.