

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2008**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of May 7, 2008, was called to order at 9:17 a.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Roll Call

Present: Chair Robert Ringler
 Vice-Chair Thurston Reese
 Commissioner John Spix
 Commissioner Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos
 Commissioner John Watkins
 Commissioner Rhett Price

Also in attendance were the following:

Mr. William Winter, Assistant Deputy Director; Mr. James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Ms. Jalaine, Associate Civil Engineer and Ms. Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant.

4) Approval of April 2, 2008 Minutes

The Minutes of the April 2, 2008, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting was approved as amended.

Commissioner Villalobos took a moment to inform the Commission that his aunt, Ms. Esther Villalobos, had passed away at the age of 92 years old. He mentioned she was an educator (first grade teacher) and a survivor of the Mexican Revolution.

5a) Citizen Appeal of Traffic Control Requests denied by Public Works.

- a) Follow-up Report of La Crescenta Avenue at Prospect Avenue:
Removal of Marked Crosswalks

Appellants: Alexandra Hopkins, Prospect Avenue Neighborhood
Association
Claudia McCollum

Ms. Madrid informed the HSC that as part of the motion made at the February 6, 2008, HSC meeting, the Highway Safety Commission voted unanimously to retain the marked crosswalk across the south approach of the intersection of La Crescenta Avenue at Prospect Avenue. She also stated that at the March 5, 2008, HSC meeting, the HSC was informed that the traffic signal at this intersection would be modified.

Ms. Madrid informed the HSC that the traffic signal modifications involve upgrading the existing signal equipment and including an exclusive right-turn phase for eastbound traffic on Prospect Avenue. These modifications are anticipated to be completed by August 2008. The HSC also asked DPW to conduct a feasibility study for a pedestrian bridge crossing La Crescenta Avenue.

Ms. Madrid informed the HSC that DPW developed three alternative options for the design of a pedestrian bridge across La Crescenta Avenue at the south approach of the intersection. These options are:

Option 1- Straight Run Ramps

Option 2 – Elevator and Stairs

Option 3 – Switchback Ramps

Ms. Madrid provided estimates for the pedestrian overcrossing and those costs were as follows:

- Proposal 1 – Straight Ramps
Construction : \$1.4 Million to \$1.6 Million
- Proposal 2 – Elevator and Stairs
Construction : \$1.0 Million to \$1.2 Million
Long term cost for elevator maintenance.
- Proposal 3 – Switchback Ramps
Construction : \$1.0 Million to \$1.2 Million

Ms. Madrid informed the HSC stated that each of those three alternatives has additional factors that must be considered, including and not limited to:

- Maintaining signal visibility
- Condemnation of properties
- General on-going maintenance issues
- Enforcement of pedestrian violations
- Altered transportation circulation

Ms. Madrid stated that DPW's recommendation is to proceed with the signal modifications as scheduled, maintain both crossing guards at this intersection, and re-evaluate the traffic situation during the next school year.

The appellants did not attend the meeting and as a result, there were no presentations made to represent the appellants. After listening to DPW Staff, the HSC had discussion and the following motion was made:

- DPW to maintain crossing guards at the intersection of La Crescenta Avenue and Prospect Avenue.
- The crossing guards to remain at intersection of La Crescenta Avenue and Prospect Avenue.
- DPW to reevaluate the traffic conditions at this intersection during the next school year.

6) Report on business other than appeals

Mr. Winter informed the HSC that CALTRANS has just announced that July 18, 2008, will be the application deadline for the latest Federal Safe Routes To School Grant and that DPW will be applying for these grants. At that time, Commissioner Price suggested Countdown Traffic signals be considered for this grant. Mr. Winter informed the HSC that DPW will more likely be looking to upgrade traffic signal equipment at school crosswalks and that Countdown Traffic Signals will not be applied for at this time.

Commissioner Estey informed the HSC that Commissioner John F. Watkins of the HSC was being honored on May 19, 2008, by the Catholic Charities organization. Commissioner Estey read that "With pride and gratitude, Catholic Charities honors the following members of our community who have given generously of themselves in service to the San Gabriel Region: Mr. John F. Watkins, Humanitarian and Philanthropist." The HSC congratulated him on his upcoming presentation from Reverend Gabino Zavala.

7) Reports from special committees.

There were no special committees announcements.

8) Special Orders.

There were no special orders.

9) Unfinished Business and General Notes

There was no unfinished business.

10) New Business

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that DPW would be presenting a report for a traffic signal appeal at the intersection of El Segundo Boulevard and Towne Avenue.

11) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Ms. Guilmette informed the Commission that the next meeting of the HSC is scheduled for June 4, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am in memory of Commissioner Villalobos's aunt, Ms. Esther Villalobos.

A recording of the discussions held at this meeting is on file at Public Works. The next meeting was scheduled for June 4, 2008, at DPW Headquarters in Alhambra.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE
Executive Officer
Highway Safety Commission