

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2008**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of September 3, 2008, was called to order at 9:18 a.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Roll Call

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

Also in attendance were the following:

Mr. William Higley, Deputy Director; Mr. William Winter, Assistant Deputy Director; Mr. Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; Mr. Alan Nino, Associate Civil Engineer and Ms. Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant.

4) Approval of June 4, 2008 Minutes

The Minutes of the June 4, 2008, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

During this time, Chair Ringler informed the HSC that Commissioner Spix has left the Commission to pursue other endeavors. Chair Ringler commended Commissioner Spix on his many years of dedicated service and mentioned what an outstanding asset Commissioner Spix was to the HSC. He also mentioned that Commissioner Spix has requested that he didn't want a luncheon or party given for him. Chair Ringler stated that a "Goodbye" card would be passed around for every

Commissioner to sign and that the Board of Supervisors had prepared a scroll that that was to be mailed to him.

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Chair Ringler announced that Commissioner Spix has been replaced by Commissioner Praful Kulkarni, who was in attendance at the meeting. The HSC welcomed Commissioner Kulkarni. Chair Ringler also announced that Mr. Bahman Hajialiakbar, Assistant Division Engineer for the Traffic and Lighting Division of DPW, has been transferred and replaced by Mr. Scott Schales, who was also in attendance at the meeting. The HSC welcomed Mr. Schales.

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

a) New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue:
Speed Humps

Appellant: Benjamin Rubalcaba

Mr. Alan Nino stated that Mr. Benjamin Rubalcaba requested DPW install speed humps on New York Street to deter motorists from using New York Street as an alternate route after exiting the 710 freeway. Mr. Nino said that Mr. Rubalcaba stated that these motorists speed through New York Street.

Mr. Nino informed the HSC that DPW did the following:

- Measured the speed of vehicles.
- Counted the number of vehicles.
- Reviewed the reported collision data.
- Observed pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- Conducted a speed humps study.

Mr. Nino informed the HSC that DPW uses the following guidelines for speed hump consideration:

- Roadway is classified as "local".
- Roadway has between 500 and 2000 vehicles per day.
- Roadway cannot be a public transit route.

- Roadway cannot be greater than 40 feet.

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- 85th percentile speed is greater than 35 miles per hour.

Mr. Nino informed the HSC that a review of the location indicated the following:

- Field observations revealed that northbound motorists on Ford Boulevard are delayed since there is effectively only one travel lane when motorists are parked on the east side.
- Field observations also revealed that some motorists are using New York Street as an alternate route after exiting the 710 freeway due to backup of northbound vehicles on Ford Boulevard.
- DPW has a future resurfacing project scheduled along Ford Boulevard which will involve the installation of a left-turn pocket for northbound motorists which may alleviate the congestion on Ford Boulevard and may reduce the daily volume of traffic on New York Street.

Mr. Nino stated that DPW made the following recommendations:

- Install 25-mph speed limit signs on New York Street between subject limits to remind motorists of the prima facie speed limit.
- Refer New York Street to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for their enforcement of the speed limit.
- Since the resurfacing project is no longer funded, it is recommended the restriping modifications be implemented independent of the future resurfacing project.

Next, the HSC listened to testimony from the appellant's son, Mr. Ramiro Rubalcaba. Mr. Rubalcaba indicated that there were many children walking along New York Street and that there was no crossing guard at New York and McDonnell Avenue. Mr. Ramiro suggested removing the parking along Ford Boulevard and installing speed humps on New York Street between the subject limits. Mr. Rubalcaba thanked the HSC for their time.

After hearing the testimonies of both DPW and the appellant's son, Mr. Ramiro Rubalcaba, the HSC made the following motion:

- DPW Staff shall present a proposal of signing and striping modifications on Ford Boulevard between Cesar Chavez Avenue and New York Street/Northbound 710 Freeway Offramp. This proposal should include removal of parking on both sides of Ford Boulevard between the subject limits, a northbound left turn pocket on Ford Boulevard at Cesar Chavez Avenue and a southbound left turn pocket on Ford Boulevard at New York Street/Northbound 710 Freeway. All property owners that may be affected by the parking restrictions should be notified of the upcoming meeting so that they may provide their input.
 - DPW Staff shall present a proposal for speed humps on New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue. All property owners that may be affected by the speed humps should be notified of the upcoming meeting so that they may provide their input. Additionally, the Fire Department should be consulted regarding the speed hump installation and invited to the upcoming meeting to provide their input.
- 6) Report on business other than appeals

a) Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Grant

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the County submitted their applications for Cycle 2 of the Federal Safe Routes to School program and met the July 18, 2008, deadline for turning in the applications. Ms. Guilmette stated DPW applied for the following grants:

- Traffic Signal at the intersection of Broadway and Reichling Avenue.
- Revised Suggested Routes To School Maps for unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.
- Center Median for Firestone Boulevard for Russell Elementary School.

Ms. Guilmette informed the Commission that DPW will know whether these grants were awarded in early October 2008, at which time she would update the HSC.

- b) Informational Item: Cesar Chavez Avenue at Gifford Avenue
Removal of Marked Crosswalk

Mr. Nino informed the Commission that East Los Angeles High School Number 2 was under construction, and as a result, the north approach of Gifford Avenue at Cesar Chavez Avenue will be vacated. With the vacation of the street, DPW will be removing the marked crosswalk and accompanying school crosswalk flasher equipment on Cesar Chavez Avenue at Gifford Avenue.

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 there was a request from an appellant for speed humps on Dunlop Crossing Road in the Whittier Area. She stated that the appellant has made this request to DPW for the first time. The appellant was referred to the HSC by Supervisor Molina's office. The Highway Safety Commission decided they would hear the appellant's appeal at the next HSC meeting held at DPW Headquarters.

11) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Chair Ringler informed the HSC that the next meeting of the HSC is tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2008, to be held at Farnsworth Park in Altadena. At that point, Commissioner Kulkarni informed the HSC that he would be unable to attend the November 5, 2008, HSC meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

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A recording of the discussions held at this meeting is on file at Public Works. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2008, at Farnsworth Park in Altadena.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE
Executive Officer
Highway Safety Commission

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