

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2021**

The meeting was held virtually using the WebEx Platform.

1. Call to order

At 9:08 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: Chair Guillermo Villalobos
Vice-Chair Vincent Rosario
Commissioner Marvin Estey
Commissioner Robert Guthrie
Commissioner Rhett Price
Commissioner Robert A. Ringler
Commissioner Thurston T. Reese

Also, in attendance were the following:

Staff: Emiko Thompson, Assistant Deputy Director
James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer
Lee Miller, Civil Engineer
Gonul Duren, Associate Civil Engineer
Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant
George Valdibia, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant
Stepan Saryan, Senior IT Technical Support Analyst

Appellants: None

4. Approval of September 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 2, 2020, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5. Citizen Appeal of Denied Request by Public Works

There were no new citizen appeals.

6. Report on Business other than Appeals

Crossing Guard Update

Ms. Guilmette reported that during the 6-month period since our September 2, 2020, Highway Safety Commission meeting, Public Works did not complete any studies for crossing guard service, since studies could not be conducted because children were not physically attending school.

Ms. Guilmette stated that the total number of locations with crossing guard service remains at 233. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 233 locations is 239, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

Ms. Guilmette stated we have received feedback that the East Whittier City School District will be returning on or around March 1, 2021. The District stated they will start with K-2 grades first and then slowly add other grades.

7. Public Comment on Any Matter Not on the Agenda

None.

8. Special Orders

None.

9. Continuation of business from prior agenda

Update on Denial of No U-turn sign on southbound Azusa Avenue,
north of Temple Avenue

Appellant: Dennis Kane

Mr. George Valdibia introduced himself and proceeded to provide a PowerPoint Presentation on the Denial of the No U-turn sign on southbound Azusa Avenue, north of Temple Avenue (see attached PowerPoint Presentation).

Mr. Valdibia concluded his presentation by stating the following:

- Median treatments will be evaluated for another 2 months.
- Final recommendations on the median treatments will be provided at the next Highway Safety Commission meeting tentatively scheduled for June 2, 2021.

Commissioner Rhett Price commented that he wondered why the County didn't use the K-71 bollard treatments across the entire temporary median treatment. Staff informed him that bollards are not typically used to delineate a centerline. Commissioner Price also mentioned that the drivers may make a right turn because they are not able to cross left due to the placement of the temporary median treatment. Mr. Valdibia stated he would check with our Traffic Design section to determine alternatives to the placement of the K-71 bollards throughout the temporary median treatment.

Commissioner Marv Estey asked if Mr. Kane, the appellant, had been notified of the meeting. Ms. Guilmette stated that Mr. Kane had not been notified of the meeting but would be notified when Public Works was ready to present their final recommendations. Commissioner Estey stated that this Parish has 9,000 families and that they were making this request to the Highway Safety Commission as a community.

Commissioner Price asked if there has been any feedback from Mr. Kane. Staff informed Commissioner Price that Mr. Kane had been providing his feedback to Public Works, which included the report that many of the delineators had been knocked down and were missing. Commissioner Price suggested Public Works consider installing large barrels full of water instead of the K71 bollards. Chair Villalobos suggested K-Rails as an option as well.

Mr. James Chon stated that the large barrels full of water, also known as action attenuators, could be considered, but some may find them aesthetically unpleasing. Commissioner Price stated that the centerline should've been extended further so that drivers were forced to not cut in front of the motorists turning right out of the church driveway. Mr. Chon agreed with this statement.

Commissioner Reese questioned whether Mr. Kane had made any comments about the K-71 bollard installations. Mr. Valdibia stated that Mr. Kane was aware of the bollards.

Chair Villalobos suggested a wrought iron fence to close off the median as an alternative. Commissioner Price stated that would likely be a liability. Mr. Chon stated that the residents from the apartment complexes adjacent would complain because they would now have to make U-turns at the traffic signal at Temple Avenue. Commissioner Villalobos stated the church community would be happy that Public Works has been looking for a solution to their traffic concerns.

Commissioner Robert Guthrie asked if there was such thing as a sign that says right turners should yield to U-turners. He stated we are putting the responsibility

on the left turner instead of making the right turners accountable for yielding to U-turners.

Commissioner Ringler suggested a sign that says, "Watch Opposing Traffic". Staff indicated that sign would not be inappropriate at this location.

10. New Business

Commissioner Price announced he would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Supervisor Holly Mitchell on her appointment to the second supervisorial district.

Chair Villalobos stated he had heard there was a new traffic signal planned at the intersection of 1st Street at Marianna Avenue. He stated he would observe and report the status once the installation was complete. Mr. Lee Miller stated he would report to him the status of this traffic signal at the meeting.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 2, 2021.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

IG:

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REQUEST TO EXTEND CENTER MEDIAN ON AZUSA AVENUE AT ST. MARTHA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Highway Safety Commission

March 3, 2021

George Valdibia

Background

Requestor: Mr. Dennis Kane

Location: St. Martha's Catholic Church
444 N. Azusa Avenue, La Puente

Request: Prohibit U-turns for SB drivers on N. Azusa Ave at St. Martha Catholic Church

Concern: Conflicts with parishioners exiting church driveway & drivers on N. Azusa Ave making U-turns

Location Map

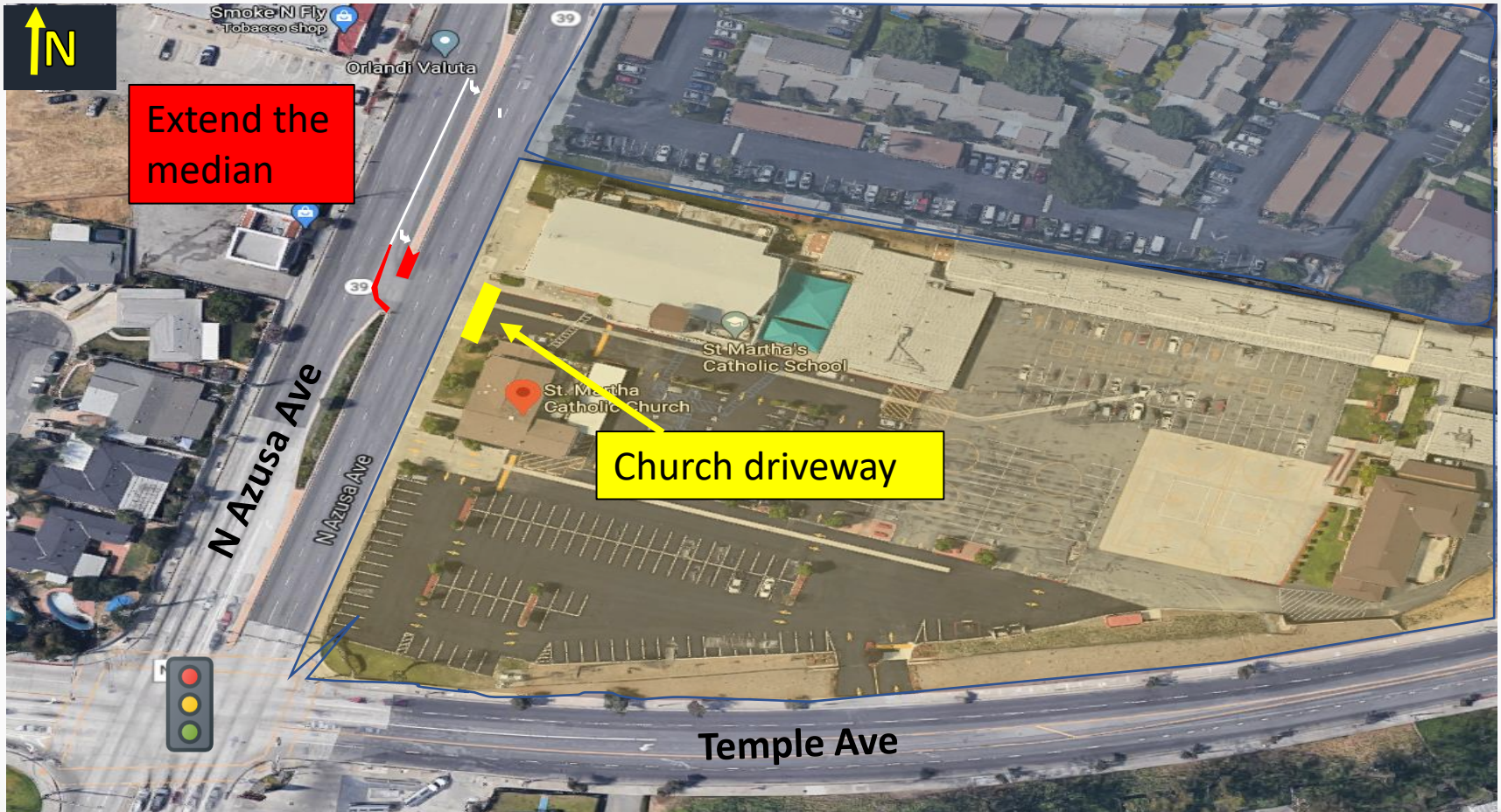


Recommendation

On September 2, 2020, the Highway Safety Commission made the following motions:

- Deny the appeal to post a sign prohibiting southbound U-turns on Azusa Avenue, north of Temple Avenue in front of Saint Martha's Church
- Recommend Public Works' Staff investigate the possibility of modifying/extending the median for southbound motorists at the left turn pocket adjacent to the Saint Martha's Church driveway

Vicinity Map



Previous Condition

Church's northerly driveway on Azusa Ave, facing West



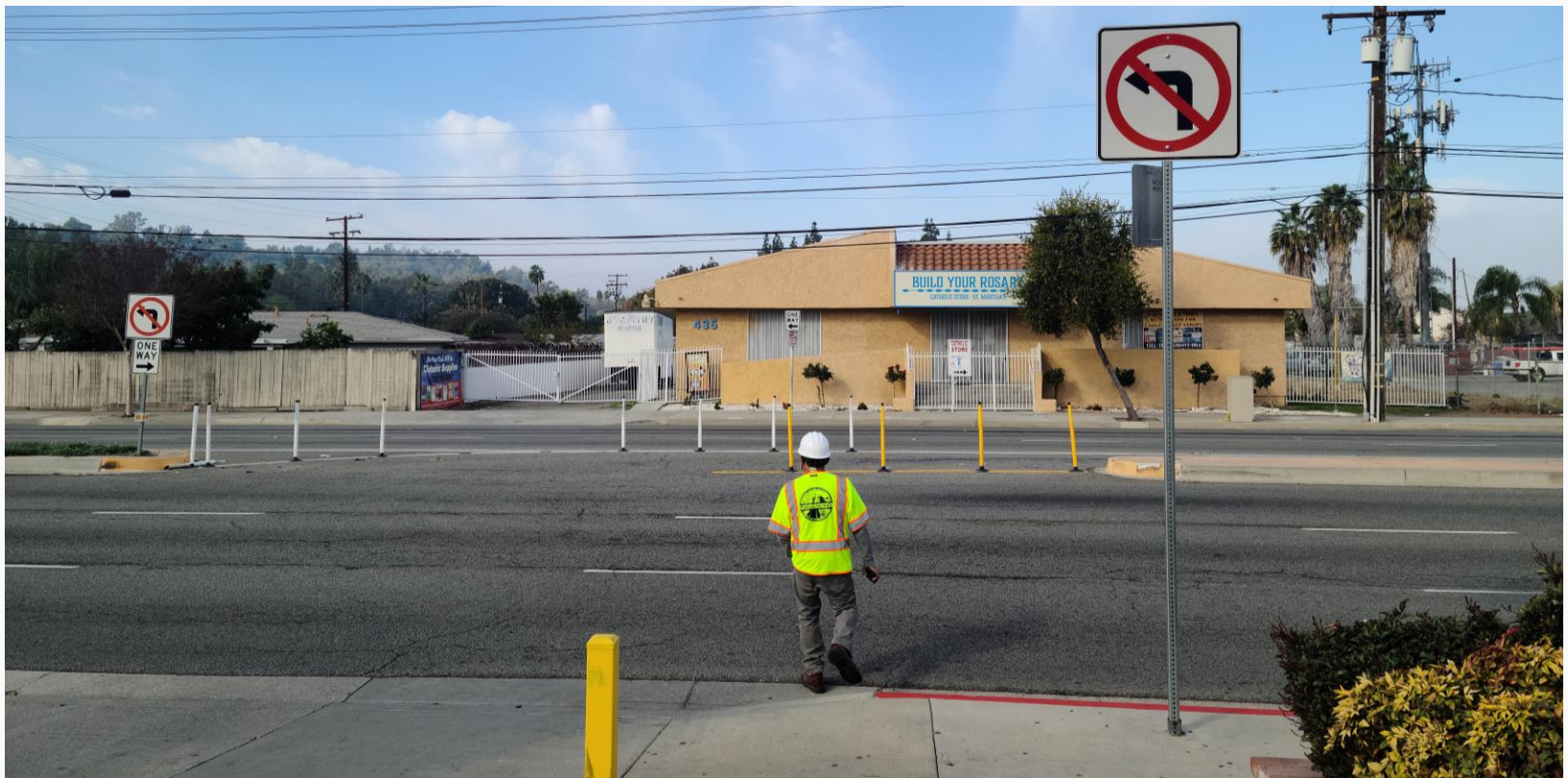
Condition as of 12/14/20

Temporary delineators were installed on Azusa Avenue at Church's northerly driveway



Condition as of 01/03/21

Church's northerly driveway on Azusa Ave, facing West



Current Condition

Existing delineators replaced with K71 bollards



Previous Condition

In left-turn lane, traveling SB on Azusa Ave



Condition as of 01/03/21

In left-turn lane, traveling SB on Azusa Ave



Current Condition

In left-turn lane, traveling SB on Azusa Ave



Delineators

Surface mount flexible delineator posts:

- Epoxy finish to mount
- Require less force to unmount

K71 posts:

- Require a bolt to mount
- Require more force to unmount
- More sturdy
- More visible



Evaluation Period

- Median treatments will be evaluated for another 2 months
- Final recommendations on the median treatments will be provided at next Highway Safety Commission meeting tentatively scheduled for June 2, 2021.

Question and Answer

Any questions?