

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of February 3, 2010, was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Roll Call

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

Also in attendance were the following:

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

4) Approval of January 6, 2010, Minutes

The Minutes of the January 6, 2010, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

Since the appellant was present for item 10a, Chair Ringler decided to take Item 10a out of order as a courtesy.

- 10a) Salais Street between Azusa Avenue and Hambledon Avenue
 Speeding
 Appellant: Maria Maldonado

Mr. Nino presented a power point presentation to the HSC in regards to the appeal on Salais Street. Mr. Nino informed the Commission of the original motion made at the October 7, 2009 HSC meeting. The motion was as follows:

- ◆ HSC made a motion for Public Works to conduct a study to lower the speed limit on Salais Street between Sandalwood Avenue and Azusa Avenue.
- ◆ If the study finds that this can be done, install 25 Speed limit signs with accompanying "25" pavement markings for eastbound and westbound traffic on Salais Street between Sandalwood Avenue and Azusa Avenue.

Mr. Nino also provided the HSC with the following information related to Salais Street:

- ◆ The posted speed limit of 30 mph on Salais Street between Azusa Avenue and Hambledon Avenue was adopted on November 2, 1971.
- ◆ Salais Street is classified as a local street between Azusa Avenue and Sandalwood Avenue.
- ◆ Salais Street is classified as a collector street between Sandalwood Avenue and Hambledon Avenue.

Mr. Nino stated that Section 22357 of the California Vehicle Code clearly states the following:

The declared prima facie or maximum speed limit shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected upon the street and shall not thereafter be revised except upon the basis of an engineering and traffic survey.

Mr. Nino explained to the HSC that in order to change the speed limit signs on Salais Street, and Engineering and Traffic Survey would have to be conducted. He stated that based on the speed information we have received, DPW could not justify lowering the speed limit to 25 mph. Mr. Nino stated that based on these findings, DPW does not recommend lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on Salais Street within the subject limits.

At that point, Ms. Maldonado stated that there are 45 homes along Salais Street and the roadway is being used as a collector route. She also mentioned that the collisions that were occurring were occurring at nighttime or the weekend and oftentimes have not been reported.

Chair Ringler indicated that the bypass traffic seemed to be the issue. Commissioner Ringler talked about the possibility of posting signs that limit traffic to residents only. After hearing the testimonies of both DPW Staff and the appellant, Commissioner Price made the following motion:

- 1) DPW to investigate the feasibility of converting Salais Street between Sandalwood Avenue and Azusa Avenue to a westbound one-way street.
- 2) DPW to investigate the feasibility of closing Salais Street at its westerly terminus located at the Azusa Avenue East Frontage Road.
- 3) DPW to investigate the feasibility of posting signs on Salais Street prohibiting non-residents between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 am and 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm weekdays.
- 4) Recommend to Baldwin Park California Highway Patrol to continue to enforce speeding and other infractions along Salais Street between Azusa Avenue and Hambledon Avenue.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The HSC took break at 10:50 a.m. and Chair Ringler resumed the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Chair Ringler returned to Item 5 on the agenda.

5) Citizen Appeal of requests denied by Public Works

There were no new Citizen Appeals of requests denied by Public Works.

6) Report on business other than appeals

Informational Item: Sunset Review

Ms. Guilmette gave a Power Point Presentation starting with the background of the Sunset Review. She stated that on December 21, 2009, the HSC received a copy of a letter from the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors requesting the HSC complete Sunset Review Evaluation forms. These forms are to be reviewed and forwarded to the Audit Committee.

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC to reference the handouts she had provided for the meeting. Those handouts included the following:

- a) A Draft letter from Chair Ringler to the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that provides a summary of the accomplishments of the HSC between November 7, 2007 and December 2, 2009.
- b) A copy of the completed Sunset Review Evaluation Form for use by Commissions, Committees and Task Forces.
- c) Attachment A: Highway Safety Commission Chronological Listing of Meetings between November 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007.

Ms. Guilmette referenced the accomplishments indicated in these forms throughout her power point presentation. In particular, she indicated that the HSC held 20 meetings, heard 11 traffic appeals and heard 13 traffic and informational items involving such issues as California legislation, removal of crosswalks, economic stimulus packages and Grant Applications for California Safe Routes to School. Ms. Guilmette stated that the HSC had an excellent attendance record with an average of six commissioners present at all meetings. Ms. Guilmette commended the HSC on their fine attendance over the two-year review period. Ms. Guilmette stated that if there are any additions to the handouts that they would like included in the HSC letter to the Auditor Controller, they could either mention it now or email it to her within the next few weeks.

At that time, Commissioner Villalobos suggested a statement be added that indicates that the Commissioners have been compliant with the Board mandated Commissioners training courses of Ethics and Cultural Diversity/Sexual harassment Prevention Training. Ms. Guilmette stated she could add a statement about that.

Ms. Guilmette mentioned that in the future, the HSC might want to attempt expediting their decisions on appeal items so that the items don't carried over to future meetings. She suggested that they review their Traffic Calming Toolbox Pamphlet as a guide to making their decisions on speed related issues. Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that she would forward them another copy of the County's Traffic Calming Toolbox Pamphlet.

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.

11) New Business


Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the appeal for Kagel Canyon Road at Lopez Canyon Road is scheduled to be heard at the April 7, 2010, HSC meeting. Ms. Guilmette also informed the HSC that there was a new appeal for the removal of crosswalks on Seville Avenue in the Walnut Park Area. Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the appellant for Seville Avenue was requesting the HSC meeting be held during the evening hours, at a location in the Walnut Park Area, on a different day other than Wednesday or maybe on a weekend. After discussing the matter, the HSC decided that they would not hear the meeting during the evening hours, but they were willing to go to a location in Walnut Park to hear the appeal. They also said they'd even consider a Saturday. Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that she'd relay the information to the appellant and let them know when the meeting was scheduled.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Chair Ringler informed the HSC that the next meeting of the HSC is tentatively scheduled for March 3, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 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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