

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2011**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of April 6, 2011, was called to order at 9:15 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 Marvin Estey
 Commissioner John Watkins
 Commissioner Greg Knapp

Absent: Commissioner Rhett Price

Also in attendance were the following:

Mr. Patrick DeChellis, Deputy Director; Mr. Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; Mr. James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez, Associate Civil Engineer; Mr. Alan Nino, Associate Civil Engineer; Ms. Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant; Mr. Omar Ahmed, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant; Mr. Leonel Gallegos, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant.

4) Approval of February 2, 2011, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the February 2, 2011, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5) Citizen Appeal of denied request by Public Works

a) Denial of multiway stop control at North Gage Avenue and Floral Drive

Appellant: Mr. Francisco Mendez

Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that DPW had received a request to install a multiway stop control at the intersection of North Gage Avenue and Floral Drive. Mr. Gonzalez stated that DPW did the following:

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

Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that there are four warrants that are used to consider multiway stop control for residential neighborhood streets and they are as follows:

1. Minimum Volume Warrant.
2. Accident Experience Warrant.
3. Visibility Warrant.
4. Speed Warrant.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded his power point presentation by indicating that the multiway stop control warrants were not met and that multiway stop control was not recommended at the intersection of North Gage Avenue and Floral Drive at this time.

Mr. Mendez indicated that there is speeding on North Gage Avenue and many children are crossing the roadway in the vicinity of Floral Drive. He stated that he has encountered collisions at the intersection, but those collisions have not been reported to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Mr. Mendez showed a video of the subject intersection on his cell phone to members of the HSC. He indicated that the video showed many children walking along North Gage Avenue. At this point, Officer Dave Davis from the CHP informed the HSC that the CHP has written numerous speeding violations on North Gage Avenue near Floral Drive. Chair Ringler informed Mr. Mendez that there could be negative effects to the installation of a multiway stop control at the intersection, such as the increased noise level.

Mr. Chon stated that the main purpose of a multiway stop control is to establish the right of way. Mr. Chon also stated the intersection of North Gage Avenue and Floral Drive has a very unfavorable split of traffic with 85 percent of the traffic on North Gage Avenue and only 15 percent of the traffic on Floral Drive, which is not ideal for a multiway stop control. Mr. Chon also indicated that rear-end collisions may increase if a multiway stop control is installed.

Chair Ringler asked if there were any Watch Downhill Speed signs on North Gage Avenue and Mr. Gonzalez responded that there were no Watch Downhill Speed signs posted on North Gage Avenue at this time.

Commissioner Greg Knapp commended Mr. Mendez for attending the meeting and for the effort and interest in traffic safety he had regarding the subject intersection. Commissioner Knapp then made the following motion:

- HSC concurs with DPW's recommendation to deny the installation of a multiway stop control at the intersection of North Gage Avenue and Floral Drive.
- HSC recommends increased speed enforcement by the CHP on North Gage Drive in the vicinity of Floral Drive.

After discussion, the HSC voted and the motion was unanimously approved.

After additional discussion, Commissioner Villalobos made the following second motion:

- Recommend DPW to investigate and determine where additional red curb could be extended at the intersection of North Gage Avenue and Floral Drive.
- Recommend the CHP deploy a radar speed trailer for additional speeding enforcement.
- Recommend DPW consider installing Watch Downhill Speed signs along North Gage Avenue.
- Recommend DPW restores faded crosswalk striping at intersection of North Gage Avenue and Floral Drive.

After discussion, the HSC voted and the motion was unanimously approved.

6) Report on business other than appeals

a. Crossing Guard Update

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that since the February 2, 2011, HSC meeting, DPW has the following to report on the crossing guard program:

Three new crossing guard requests received

- One denied: Lemon Avenue at Stamy Road.
- One implemented: Doty Avenue at 154th Street.
- One pending: Nadeau Avenue at Santa Fe Avenue.

Two additional locations (carried over from previous reporting) have been reviewed

- One implemented: Yukon Avenue at 147th Street. Original request came in 2010. Crossing guard implemented May 21, 2011.
- One cancelled: Yukon Avenue at 154th Street. The crossing guard service is no longer warranted. Service cancelled effective February 28, 2011.

The total number of locations with crossing guard service is at 208. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 208 locations is 213, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

The HSC received and filed this information.

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.

10) Unfinished business and general notes

- a. Follow up to denial of requests for speed humps on Salais Street.

Appellant: Maria Maldonado

Mr. Ahmed informed the HSC that at the September 1, 2010, HSC meeting, the HSC made the following motion:

- DPW to work with Federal officials on reclassifying Salais Street between Sandalwood Road and Hambledon Avenue from collector road to residential road.
- DPW to consider installing a No Left Turn or No Right Turn during certain time periods at Salais Street at its intersection with Azusa Avenue.
- DPW to further pursue suggestion of terminating Salais Street at the westerly end of the collector road for Azusa Avenue by pursuing input from the local community bordered by Azusa Avenue to the west, Gemini Road to the north, Hambledon Avenue to the East, and Salais Street to the south, as well as input from the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Mr. Ahmed informed the HSC that in order to reclassify a roadway from a collector road to a residential roadway the following procedure would have to be followed:

Step 1

Local jurisdiction must submit the following to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans):

1. Functional Classification Change Request Form.
2. Marked up California Roadway System (CRS) Map showing changes.
3. City/County Resolution.
4. MPO/RTPA Concurrence letter.

Step 2

Caltrans District Coordinator reviews and writes a district concurrence letter.

Step 3

Caltrans' Headquarters presents the proposed changes to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Step 4

The approved CRS maps are posted on the internet. The district coordinator and the HPMS branch are notified.

Mr. Ahmed provided a summary table of the items that needed to be completed in the road reclassification procedure for Salais Street and what dates these items were or are in the process of being completed. Please see below:

Item	Completed
SD1 concurrence	03/15/2011
Letter to MTA from PW with change form and map	03/23/2011
Response letter from MTA with concurrence	
Draft resolution and draft board letter submitted to County Counsel	
County Counsel concurrence	
Scheduled for board meeting	
Resolution adopted by Board of Supervisors	
Adopted resolution, change form, and MTA concurrence sent to Caltrans	
Caltrans/FHWA approves change in classification	
Post Salais Street for 25 mph	

Mr. Ahmed informed the HSC that DPW staff has been working with the Fire Department to determine their opinion regarding the possible closure of Salais Street. He stated DPW has done the following:

- Met with Juan Padilla from the Fire Department at the site in January 2011.
- The Fire Department was provided with a sketch depicting the closure of Salais Street and asked for their comments.
- The Fire Department stated that the first responding fire station, Fire Station 118, uses Salais Street about 80 percent of the time when responding to an emergency call in that area. The closure would create a detour delaying the response time of Fire Department equipment and personnel to protect adequately the life and property of the community.
- The Fire Department DOES NOT recommend or encourage the closure.

Mr. Ahmed informed the HSC that DPW has been working with the community by sending out surveys to find out their opinion regarding the possible closure of Salais Street and the possible turning restrictions that would be imposed.

Mr. Ahmed summarized what DPW has done as follows:

- A survey was mailed to every residence (538) in the area bordered by Azusa Avenue to the west, Gemini Road to the north, Hambledon Avenue to the East, and Salais Street to the south as specified in the motion made by the HSC.
- The survey requested input and comments regarding both the proposed street closure and the turn restrictions and included sketches depicting both measures.
- The survey also listed advantages and disadvantages for each proposed measure.
- The survey was mailed out in both English and Spanish.

Mr. Ahmed stated that a total of 74 out of 538 residents in the neighborhood bordered by Azusa Avenue to the west, Gemini Road to the north, Hambledon Avenue to the East, and Salais Street to the south returned the survey and the results were as follows:

Survey Results	Votes	Percentage
In favor of street closure	12/74	16.2 percent
Opposed to street closure	61/74	82.4 percent
Did not comment on street closure	1/74	1.4 percent
In favor of turn restrictions	19/74	25.7 percent
Opposed to turn restrictions	47/74	63.5 percent
Did not comment on turn restrictions	8/74	10.8 percent

Mr. Ahmed stated that a total of 14 out of 57 residents on Salais Street between Azusa Avenue to the west and Hambledon Avenue to the East returned the survey and the results were as follows:

Survey Results	Votes	Percentage
In favor of street closure	8/14	57.1 percent
Opposed to street closure	6/14	42.9 percent
Did not comment on street closure	0/14	0.0 percent
In favor of turn restrictions	0/14	14.3 percent
Opposed to turn restrictions	7/14	50.0 percent
Did not comment on turn restrictions	5/14	35.7 percent

Mr. Ahmed stated that many of the residents wrote in the comments section of the survey and suggested the following:

- Reduce speed limit on Salais Street.
- Additional enforcement
- Multiway stop control on Salais Street at Sandalwood Avenue or Winton Avenue.
- Place speed humps on Salais Street.
- Left-turn signal at Azusa Avenue and Salais Street.
- Close Azusa Way to left of street so traffic can only turn right.
- Place barrier on the frontage road.
- Adjust timing of the traffic signal at Azusa Avenue and Salais Street.
- Reduce number of people living in each household.
- Remove the island between Azusa Avenue and the frontage road.
- Install a traffic signal at Azusa Avenue and Renault Street.
- Close Salais Street at Hambledon Avenue.
- Add a right-turn arrow for Salais Street and Azusa Avenue.

In conclusion to his power point presentation Mr. Ahmed summarized the survey responses as follows:

- Of those who responded, approximately 82 percent were opposed to closing Salais Street at Azusa Avenue.
- Of those who responded approximately 64 percent were opposed to restricting turning from Salais Street onto Azusa Avenue.
- The Fire Department does not recommend or encourage the closure of Salais Street.
- The DPW does not recommend the closure of Salais Street or turn restrictions at Salais Street and Azusa Avenue.

After hearing Mr. Ahmed's presentation, the HSC staff commended DPW staff on the effort that has gone into preparing and circulating the surveys to the surrounding communities.

Ms. Maldonado informed the HSC that motorists are still speeding down Salais Street and using it as a by-pass route. Mr. Nino informed the HSC and Ms. Maldonado that in addition to the ongoing survey research, DPW was going to complete a multiway stop control study for the intersection of Renault Street at Sandalwood Avenue.

The HSC determined this item was to be tabled until a future meeting due to the fact that DPW is still collecting background data.

11) New Business

Chair Ringler informed the HSC that both he and Ms. Guilmette, Executive Officer for the HSC, had received a telephone call from Mr. Hans Laetz regarding a recent collision that had occurred on Kanan Dume Road in the City of Malibu. Chair Ringler stated that "although the actual collision occurred within the City of Malibu's jurisdiction, there were many sections of Kanan Dume Road that were located within the unincorporated County area." Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that she had spoken directly to Mr. Laetz regarding this matter. Ms. Guilmette stated Mr. Laetz had called inquiring whether it would be appropriate for the HSC to place an item on Kanan Dume Road traffic concerns on their next agenda.

Ms. Guilmette told the HSC that she had informed Mr. Laetz that the HSC's primary function is to be an appeals board for citizens whose traffic requests had been denied by DPW. Ms. Guilmette stated she recommended Mr. Laetz contact the Traffic Investigations Section at DPW to a request a traffic study of his traffic concerns on Kanan Dume Road be conducted. Ms. Guilmette stated Mr. Laetz informed her that he already had the contact information for the Traffic Investigations Section and he would pursue this further. Chair Ringler mentioned that he is aware that the County has posted curve warning signs along Kanan Dume Road.

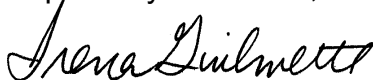
Commissioner Villalobos asked Mr. DeChellis whether he thought it would be appropriate to place an informational only item regarding traffic concerns on Kanan Dume Road on the HSC's next agenda. Mr. DeChellis advised HSC and DPW staff to forward this question to County Counsel for appropriate guidance on this matter. Therefore, this question will be forwarded to County Counsel for further consideration.

During this portion of the meeting, a concerned citizen, Mr. Guadalupe Lomeli, arrived late to the meeting to voice his concerns on Item 10a, the appeal for speeding concerns on Salais Street. Chair Ringler agreed to allow Mr. Lomeli to speak regarding this item. Mr. Lomeli informed the HSC that he just wanted to make sure the HSC knew that he disagreed with the possible closure of Salais Street. He also requested he be notified of any future meetings regarding this item. Mr. Gonzalez informed Mr. Lomeli that he would be notified by mail of any upcoming HSC meetings regarding this issue.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 4, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE
Executive Officer
Highway Safety Commission

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