

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2009**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of March 4, 2009, was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Roll Call

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

Absent: Chair Robert Ringler

Also in attendance were the following:

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

4) Approval of February 4, 2009, Minutes

The Minutes of the February 4, 2009, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

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

a) Citizen appeal for traffic signal on Indiana Street at 5<sup>th</sup> Street:

Appellant: Eleanor Vasquez

Alan Nino presented a Power Point presentation to the HSC. Mr. Nino stated that Ms. Eleanor Vasquez requested DPW install a traffic signal at the intersection of Indiana Street at 5th Street. He stated that she indicated that pedestrians have difficulty crossing Indiana Street.

Mr. Nino stated that Public Works did the following:

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

Mr. Nino informed the HSC that DPW determines when a traffic signal is needed in the following way:

- DPW follows the signal warrants in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to determine when a signal should be installed.
- Most Cities and Counties also follow the MUTCD Traffic Signal Warrants.

Mr. Nino informed the HSC that traffic signal warrants take into account the following:

- Vehicle & Pedestrian Volumes (12 hour).
- Collision History (Latest year).
- Speed of Motorists.
- Delay.
- Existing Field Conditions.

Mr. Nino presented a summary of the traffic signal warrants in the following table:

Warrant	Not Applicable	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
1. Seven Hour Vehicular Volume			<b>Condition A - 29%</b> <b>Condition B - 59%</b>
2. Four Hour Vehicular Volume			<b>X</b>
3. Peak Hour			<b>X</b>
4. Pedestrian Volume			<b>X</b>
5. School Crossing	<b>X</b>		
6. Coordinated Signal System			<b>X</b>
7. Collision Warrant			<b>X (1 collisions)</b>
8. Roadway Network			<b>X</b>

Mr. Nino summarized the findings as follows:

- None of the traffic signal warrants were satisfied.
- Field observations revealed sight distance is adequate for motorists and pedestrians to safely enter or cross the intersection without conflict or undue delay when using normal caution.

Mr. Nino concluded his presentation with the following recommendations:

- Since none of the warrants were satisfied, we are not recommending a traffic signal.
- It was recommended to install ladder-type markings at the existing white crosswalk on Indiana Street (completed in April 2008).
- It was recommended to update the warning signs at the crosswalk to satisfy the current federal guidelines (completed in April 2008).

Ms. Vasquez made a presentation to the HSC. Ms. Vasquez expressed her concerns for pedestrians crossing at the intersection. She stated that the church on the corner has Mass held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and twice on Sundays and that many of the parishioners walk across the street at this intersection to attend those Masses. She stated that the new signs and pavement markings haven't been helpful.

Ms. Vasquez presented a petition with almost 600 signatures from residents and local business owners. A few other residents spoke of their traffic concerns when they are crossing this intersection due to the amount of traffic passing through the intersection. Ms. Vasquez also mentioned the idea of installing In-Roadway Warning Lights (IRWL's) due to the fact that the Mass held on weekdays is held during the evening hours.

Mr. Winter informed the HSC that when DPW installs IRWL's, they install them in conjunction with flashing beacons and they are typically installed at locations with higher nighttime pedestrian activity. Mr. Winter also informed the HSC that since this location has joint jurisdiction with the City of Los Angeles, any recommendations would have to be approved by the City of Los Angeles also. Mr. Winter stated that both jurisdictions share similar guidelines for flashing beacon installations.

After hearing testimony from DPW Staff, Ms. Vasquez and some other community members, the HSC made the following motion:

- Deny request to install a traffic signal.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The HSC made a second motion as follows:

- DPW to complete a study for In-Roadway Warning Lights with flashing beacons at the intersection of Indiana Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This study to include nighttime pedestrian counts. DPW to work concurrently with the City of Los Angeles on this study.
- A letter from the Highway Safety Commission is to be sent to the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation recommending they review DPW's study to determine the appropriateness of In-Roadway Warning Lights with flashing beacons at the intersection of Indiana Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Reese called for a short recess at 10:45 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:55 a.m.

6) Report on business other than appeals

Mr. Winter informed the HSC that there is a Federal Economic Stimulus Package that may affect DPW directly. Mr. Higley continued to state that DPW submitted a list of needs totaling 100 million dollars.

He stated that 8 million dollars of this is slated for airport funding. He stated the remaining money is to go for transportation funding. He stated that DPW is proposing converting the entire County's internally illuminated street name signs to the newer highly reflective street name signs. Mr. Higley stated that this proposal will remove the need for electricity to light the signs, which may allow DPW to become eligible for the economic stimulus due to fact that DPW would meet a goal to achieve energy conservation. Mr. Higley also mentioned that DPW has a proposal to replace the existing street name signs located in the unincorporated areas with street name signs depicting the community name.

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 committees announcements.

9) Special Orders.

There were no special orders.

10) Unfinished Business

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the follow-up meetings regarding the appeal for speed humps on New York Street and the appeal for a traffic signal at the intersection of Valley Boulevard and Alderton Avenue will be scheduled when DPW has completed their follow-up studies.

Ms. Guilmette stated that the appeal for a traffic signal and crossing guard at the intersection of Del Mar Avenue and Montrose Avenue is scheduled to be presented at the April 1, 2009, meeting of the Highway Safety Commission.

11) New Business

Mr. Winter stated that on March 19, 2009, Mr. Will Kempton, Director of the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), was scheduled to make a presentation at the California Traffic Controls Devices Committee (CTCDC) meeting to discuss the current policies for allowing increase or decrease of a speed limit. The current policy listed in the California MUTCD forces an increased speed limit in conditions where the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 23, 28, 33, 38, 43 or 48 mph.

The term "nearest" has caused many concerns with local agencies. However, Mr. Winter stated that he's aware that this item may be postponed due to the fact that Mr. Kempton was flying to Washington D.C. to discuss the Federal Economic Stimulus packages.

Commissioner Estey requested that DPW adjust the projector viewing before the next meeting.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Vice-Chair Reese informed the HSC that the next meeting of the HSC is tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2009. He then adjourned the meeting in honor of Deputy Police Chief Kenneth Otto Garner, who passed away earlier this week.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 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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