

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2016**

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

1. Call to order

At 9:15 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Thurston T. Reese
 Commissioner Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Robert A. Ringler
 Commissioner John Watkins

Absent but excused: Vice Chair Greg Knapp
 Commissioner Rhett Price
 Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos

Also in attendance were the following:

Emiko Thompson, Principal Engineer; Arnel Dulay, Senior Civil Engineer; John Ickis, Associate Civil Engineer; Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant; and Nayeri Vartanian, Principal Civil Engineering Assistant

4. Approval of May 4, 2016, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the May 4, 2016, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5. Citizen Appeal of Denied Request by Public Works

Denial of crossing guard at intersection of Woodbury Road and Casitas Avenue:
Appellant: Principal Rita Exposito

Mr. John Ickis presented the attached PowerPoint presentation and summarized Public Works' recommendations as follows:

- Based on the results of the study, the intersection of Woodbury Road at Casitas Avenue did not meet the County's minimum criteria for crossing guard services and crossing services are not recommended.

Commissioner Estey asked Mr. Ickis if the east leg of the intersection was on the Suggested Route to School Map, and Mr. Ickis replied that it was. Commissioner Estey stated it appeared that the students were not following the guidelines suggested on the existing Suggested Route to School Map. Commissioner Estey asked Mr. Zach Fogel if there is a County crossing guard deployed at the intersection of Woodbury Road and Casitas Avenue. Mr. Fogel stated that the Pasadena Unified School District pays for a crossing guard at this location. Mr. Fogel stated that there are children from another school that also cross at this intersection. Mr. John Watkins asked if any children crossed the west approach of the intersection and Mr. Arnel Dulay stated that some children crossed the west approach as well. Commissioner Estey asked Mr. Ickis if there was a traffic signal at this intersection, and Mr. Ickis stated there was. Commissioner Estey asked if there were many right-turning motorists at this intersection. Mr. Dulay explained the right turning conflicting turning movements at the subject intersection as well as the other conflicting turning movements to the HSC. Commissioner Ringler asked what the 85th percentile speed was on Woodbury Road near Casitas Avenue and Mr. Ickis informed him the 85th percentile speed was 41 miles per hour (mph) with a 40-mph posted speed limit. Commissioner Estey asked if there were any visibility issues at the intersection and Mr. Ickis replied there were no visibility issues and there was some red curb preceding the intersection to enhance driver awareness.

At this point the representative for the appellant, Mr. Fogel, spoke on behalf of Ms. Exposito. Mr. Fogel informed the HSC that he was at the meeting due to parent complaints, the fact that Jackson Elementary school's student population will be growing by 10 percent in the 2016-2017 academic school year and the fact that there is no parking for Jackson Elementary School. Mr. Fogel stated that there are 600 students that are dropped off in a 30-minute window. Mr. Fogel stated that there are plans to build a new school parking lot on the south side of Woodbury Road and this intersection is going to get even busier.

The appellant, Ms. Rita Exposito, stated that there will be more students using the crosswalk once the new parking lot opens and the school will be getting more kindergarten students this year and parents usually walk their kindergarten students. Commissioner Ringler asked if it was just the children that are counted or are the parents counted also. Mr. Ickis responded that both are counted separately.

Commissioner Estey asked if Jackson Elementary School was a year-round school and whether they had summer school. Ms. Exposito responded that during the summer, there were approximately 300 children. She stated that in the fall, there are 552 children with 50 preschool students for a total of over 600 students in the fall. She stated the promoting class right now will have 51 students and that the incoming class will have 120 students. Commissioner Estey asked what grades attend Jackson Elementary School, and Ms. Exposito replied that Jackson Elementary School had Pre-Kindergarten to Fifth Grade.

Commissioner Watkins asked if there were any parking restrictions, and Mr. Fogel stated the parents fight with the neighbors when it comes to parking. Ms. Exposito stated there was a drop-off zone, but the Kindergarten parents are parking and walking their children. She stated that they are evaluating whether a teacher's parking lot can be turned into a drop-off zone. Ms. Exposito stated she has continually asked for enforcement from the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Commissioner Estey suggested the School work with the Altadena Sheriff Substation on enforcing parking restrictions around school.

Commissioner Estey asked when the new parking lot will open and Mr. Fogel stated it would be opened by the end of September 2016. Chair Reese stated that it appeared that Jackson Elementary School experiences typical school arrival and dismissal issues. Ms. Exposito indicated that Jackson Elementary School is located near a freeway entrance ramp. Commissioner Ringler stated it is difficult to render a decision based on the proposed increase in enrollment and the opening of a new parking lot.

After hearing the testimony of both staff and the appellants, the HSC made the following motion:

1. Deny the appeal to implement a crossing guard at the intersection of Woodbury Road and Casitas Avenue.
2. Public Works to conduct new study once the new parking lot has been opened by the Pasadena Unified School District.

The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Report on Business Other Than Appeals

Crossing Guard Update.

Ms. Irena Guilmette stated that during the 4-month period since the, HSC meeting on May 4, 2016, Public Works completed three studies for crossing guard services, one in which new crossing guard service was recommended and two in which crossing guard services were not recommended. Public Works is still evaluating 14 additional locations for crossing guard services.

Ms. Guilmette stated the total number of locations with crossing guard service is 224. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 224 locations is 232, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

7. Public Comments on Any Matter Not on the Agenda

None.

8. Reports from Special Committees

None.

9. Special Orders

None.

10. Unfinished Business and General Notes

None.

11. New Business

There were no new business items.

12. Date for Next Meeting Announced and Adjournment

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 5, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

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Attach.