

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2013**

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

1) Call to order

The meeting of June 5, 2013, 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 John Watkins
 Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos
 Commissioner Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Rhett Price
 Commissioner Greg Knapp

Also in attendance were the following:

Guita Sheik, Principal Engineer; Mary Reyes, Senior Engineer; Guillermo Gonzales, Associate Civil Engineer; Leonel Gallegos, Principal Civil Engineering Assistant and Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant.

4) Approval of February 6, 2013, meeting Minutes

The Minutes of February 6, 2013, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5) Citizen appeal of denied request by Public Works

Speed Humps on Southside Drive between Olympic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue

Appellant: Richard Felix
 Edgar Sanchez

Mr. Gallegos provided a power point presentation to the HSC. Mr. Gallegos indicated that Mr. Edgar Sanchez requested Public Works install speed humps on Southside Drive to prevent vehicles from speeding. Mr. Gallegos indicated Public Works did the following:

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

Mr. Gallegos stated the low annual daily traffic of 863 vehicles per day indicated this roadway is not regularly being used as a cut-through street. Mr. Gallegos provided the following other statistics:

- ◆ 100' wide local roadway with a 50' wide park-like median
- ◆ 1 travel lane in each direction and parking is allowed on each side of the street
- ◆ Posted Speed Limit –**25 mph**
- ◆ 85TH Percentile Speed (machine) - **31 mph**
- ◆ Average Daily Traffic – **863 Veh/Day**

Mr. Gallegos indicated there are guidelines used for consideration of speed humps in Los Angeles County. He summarized that Southside Drive does not meet the minimum guidelines for speed hump installation. A summary of the guidelines is as follows:

- ◆ The roadway be classified as a “local” roadway (yes)
- ◆ The roadway has between 500 and 2000 vehicles per day (yes)
- ◆ The roadway cannot be a public transit route (yes)
- ◆ The roadway cannot have a grade greater than 8 percent (yes)
- ◆ The roadway width cannot be greater than 40-feet (no)
- ◆ The prevailing speed must be greater than 35 mph (no)

Mr. Gallegos summarized Public Works' recommendations as follows:

- ◆ Public Works not recommending the installation of speed humps on Southside Drive between Olympic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue. Based on the guidelines the prevailing speed being lower than the required 35 mph is the main reason for not recommending speed humps.
- ◆ Public Works has asked the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to provide necessary enforcement on Southside Drive between Olympic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue. Enforcement is effective in reducing vehicle movement infractions and excessive speeding in our neighborhoods.

- ◆ The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the CHP are aware of Mr. Felix' concerns and have performed speed and parking enforcement on Southside Drive.

Commissioner Watkins asked if Southside Drive is a former route for the trolley. Commissioner Knapp stated that this location showed a favorable collision history. Commissioner Price asked about those counts and Mr. Gallegos stated that the highest 85th percentile speed between 1:00 and 6:00 pm was 47 miles per hour (mph) with 3 in the morning and 50 going 30 mph. Commissioner Reese asked what day the March 23, 2013, count was taken on. Mr. Gallegos indicated that the March 23, 2013, count taken on a Saturday because that was day of the week the appellant said people are probably driving the fastest. Commissioner Watkins noted that the photo on the screen indicated that motorists appear to be doing "donuts" in the middle of the street by evidence of the tire markings.

Commissioner Villalobos asked the other commissioners to look at page 7 of the background package and noted that Metrolink Station is between Atlantic Boulevard and Garfield Avenue and there is a lot of traffic in this area. Commissioner Villalobos indicated that Northside Drive is similar to Southside Drive and it has speed tables installed between Garfield Avenue and Saybrook Drive. Ms. Sheik indicated that these sections of the roadway are different because Southside Drive has horizontal curvature. Commissioner Price and Estey inquired whether there is any background information on Northside Drive. Ms. Sheik indicated that Public Works only retains records for five years and it may be difficult to research background on those speed table installations.

Commissioner Estey asked what kind of traffic patterns there were on Hereford Drive, Olympic Boulevard and Garfield Avenue. Mr. Gallegos stated he's conducted studies in the past in the area and he knows there are speed tables on Simmons Avenue and Coolidge Drive because there are cut-through issues on those roadways. Commissioner Knapp asked if a stop sign installed on Southside Drive at Coolidge Drive would slow the traffic down. Mr. Gallegos stated that in order for stop signs to be installed, stop sign warrants had to be met.

Commissioner Price inquired whether a drainage channel would slow traffic down. Ms. Sheik stated that a drainage channel wouldn't be recommended to slow traffic. Mr. Gallegos stated that drainage ditches may create other problems when resurfacing the roadway.

Commissioner Ringler stated there appears to be a "perceived" speeding issue on Southside Drive. Commissioner Villalobos informed the appellant that the majority of cases they review are related to speeding. Commissioner Villalobos stated that it appeared speed humps have been installed regardless of what the fire department thinks of them. Ms. Sheik stated that Public Works always consults with the fire department before installing

speed humps because speed humps do reduce emergency response time. Commissioner Villalobos stated that he only remembers one time 19 years that the HSC recommended speed tables and they were installed. Ms. Sheik stated that even if the minimum guidelines for speed humps had been met, a majority of the residents would still need to sign a petition for their installation.

Commissioner Ringler mentioned that the “donuts” occurring in the roadway are occurring because of lack of law enforcement in the area.

After listening to all parties, the HSC made the following motion:

- Deny request for speed humps on Southside Drive between Olympic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue.
- Refer speeding and parking enforcement to CHP and LASD.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Report on business other than appeals

Crossing Guard Update

Ms. Sheik informed the HSC that the Board of Supervisors made a motion to implement a crossing guard at an uncontrolled marked crosswalk at Rosemont Avenue and Los Amigos Street for a middle school. Ms. Sheik stated that this is unusual because crossing guards are usually only assigned for grades 1 through 6. As a result, Public Works has been given the task of revisiting whether or not crossing guards should be implemented at the middle school level, because some middle schools do have 6th graders. She stated that financially, there are only limited funds set aside for crossing guards and this could possibly mean the need for more additional funds to provide crossing guard service to middle schools with 6th graders.

7) Public comments on any matter not on the agenda

There were no comments on any matters not on the agenda.

8) Reports from special committees

There were no special committee announcements.

9) Special orders

There were no special orders.

10) Unfinished business and general notes

There was no unfinished business or general notes

11) New business

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that there were no new appeal or information items scheduled at this time.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Commissioner Ringler stated that since there are no new items, that the HSC should consider cancelling the meeting of July 3, 2013, since it was so close to the July 4, 2013, holiday. The HSC made a motion to cancel the July 3, 2013, HSC meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The HSC then dedicated the meeting to all the upcoming high school and college graduates. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for August 7, 2013. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE
Executive Officer
Highway Safety Commission

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