

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2010**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of April 7, 2010, was called to order at 9:20 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 Marvin Estey  
   Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos

Absent but excused:                      Commissioner Rhett Price

Also in attendance were the following:

Mr. Bill Winter, Division Engineer; 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 March 3, 2010, Minutes

The Minutes of the March 3, 2010, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5) Citizen Appeal of requests denied by Public Works

There were no new appeals.

6) Report on business other than appeals

There was no business other than appeals.

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) Update on Seville Avenue Crosswalk Removal

Mr. Winter informed the HSC that at the March 3, 2010, HSC meeting, a motion was made to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Seville Avenue and Hill Street. Mr. Winter informed the HSC that as a result of this motion, the Board of Supervisors must be notified since this is a budgetary decision. Mr. Winter also informed the HSC that a letter has been drafted to the principal of Walnut Park Elementary. This letter states that pursuant to a Board-adopted policy, DPW would be conducting a traffic signal warrant study in order to validate or refute this recommendation. Mr. Winter stated that the letter says that as part of the traffic signal study, DPW would be removing the marked uncontrolled crosswalks on Hill Street. After removal of those crosswalks, DPW will then observe the location in order to determine if pedestrians continue to use this location to cross Seville Avenue. The traffic signal study will be conducted 3 months after the removal of the marked crosswalks in order to allow a new traffic pattern to become established.

Mr. Winter asked the HSC if their intention of the motion was a recommendation to DPW or a recommendation to the Board. Chair Ringler stated that he believed this motion was intended for DPW. Mr. Winter explained that if the motion was intended for the Board, a letter for a regulation would have to be drafted for the Board because they would make the ultimate decision on whether a traffic signal were to be installed. Commissioner Watkins asked what the attendees at the meeting believe at this point. Mr. Winter stated that the above –mentioned letter would be sent to Walnut Park Elementary School and the parents would be notified of the meaning of the motions made at the HSC meeting.

Mr. Nino mentioned that there was a park at Hill Street and that the gate for this park was only open between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Mr. Winter informed the HSC that if the basis for the recommendation to install a traffic signal was to assist parents through this gate at Hill Street, perhaps this gate should be closed during school hours and would not be a need to install a traffic signal.

Mr. Winter also informed the HSC that another motion was made to install a 4-way stop at the intersection of Seville Avenue and Hope Street. Mr. Winter mentioned that he didn't understand what the basis for this recommendation was. Commissioner Estey stated that the recommendation was made because of the unlicensed drivers in the area who might understand the meaning of a stop sign and the fact that there was a pre-school at the intersection.

Chair Ringler informed Mr. Winter there was a large turnout of citizens for the March meeting and that the Sheriff and California Highway Patrol spoke at the meeting also. Mr. Winter informed the HSC that it seemed that the scope of the meeting changed and the HSC's main duty at the meeting was to determine whether or not some crosswalks should be removed. Mr. Winter indicated that there could be unintended consequences for installing a multi-way stop control where it is not warranted. Mr. Winter suggested DPW provide the HSC with a SYNCHRO program simulation of the traffic with existing conditions and with a multi-way stop control installed.

Commissioner Villalobos asked why this item was being discussed. He stated that there must have been some kind of problem if law enforcement attended the meeting. Chair Ringler suggested that more discussion on this item should be continued at the next meeting when Commissioner Price could be present to discuss the matter further. The HSC agreed on continuing this item until the next meeting.

11) New Business

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the appeal for the crosswalk removal at the intersection of Western Avenue and 110th Street has been tentatively scheduled for the June 2010 HSC meeting. In the meanwhile, DPW will be posting the removal of crosswalks on Rosemead Boulevard between Thorndale Road and Green Street.

Mr. Winter mentioned that recently, there have been some new traffic study updates that have “debunked” the 1971 San Diego Crosswalk Study findings that have stated that it was safer to cross at an unmarked crosswalk as opposed to a marked crosswalk. Mr. Winter stated that DPW is considering alternative pedestrian friendly measures on the roadway such as bulb-outs to shorten the distance the pedestrian has to cross the roadway.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Chair Ringler informed the HSC that the next meeting of the HSC is tentatively scheduled for May 5, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 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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