

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2010**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of November 3, 2010, 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
Absent:	Commissioner John Watkins Commissioner Rhett Price Commissioner Marvin Estey

Also in attendance were the following:

Mr. William Winter; Division Engineer; Mr. Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; Mr. James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez, 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 October 6, 2010 Minutes

The Minutes of the October 6, 2010, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5) Citizen Appeal of requests denied by Public Works

There were no new citizen appeals or requests.

6) Report on business other than appeals

a. Crossing Guard Update

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that for the one-month period since the October 6, 2010, HSC meeting, the following applies:

- 1 crossing guard request received
- 4 crossing guard studies completed
- 3 locations where service was denied
- 1 location recommended for service *
- 4 locations where service was cancelled due to school closures

The total number of locations with crossing guard service is at 207. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for these 207 locations is 212 (which are due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard).

*This location is shared jurisdiction with the City of Hawthorne and we are currently awaiting their response/comments to our notification letter.

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

Election of New Officers (Chair and Vice-Chair)

This item was tabled until the next scheduled meeting due to the fact that only three commissioners were present for a vote.

10) Unfinished Business and general notes

- a. Follow-up to denial of requests for traffic signal, multiway stop, and speeding concerns on Union Pacific Avenue at Sunol Drive.

Appellants: Mr. Angelo Logan, Mr. Sonny Roque

Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that at the July 7, 2010, HSC meeting, the HSC made the following motion:

- Public Works should conduct a comprehensive traffic study of the area bounded by Marianna Avenue to the east, Olympic Boulevard to the north, Rowan Avenue to the west, and the Union Pacific tracks to the south.

Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that since that meeting, 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 at the intersection of Union Pacific at Bonnie Beach Place, there is a traffic signal with the following:

- Audible Alert Unit with a custom audible message:
- English: "Warning lights are flashing, cross with caution, traffic may not stop."
- Spanish: "El semaforo esta activo, cruce con precausion, el trafico podria no parar."

Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that a traffic signal warrant analysis was conducted at the intersection of Union Pacific Avenue at Sunol Drive and with that analysis, the following specific data was taken into consideration:

- Vehicle and Pedestrian Volumes (12 hour)
- Accident History (Latest year)
- Speed of Motorists
- Existing Field Conditions

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the study indicated that none of the traffic signal

warrants were met at the intersection of Union Pacific Avenue at Sunol Drive. Mr. Gonzalez stated that a review of traffic conditions at the intersection of Sunol Drive at the I-5 Southbound Offramp/Boswell Place was conducted to determine whether the motorists exiting the freeway were using Sunol Drive as a by-pass route. Mr. Gonzalez stated that this study concluded that Sunol Drive was not being used as a by-pass route. Mr. Gonzalez informed the HSC that for congestion relief on the I-5 freeway, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve Interstate 5 between State Route 91 and Interstate 710 by widening to provide a minimum of 10 lanes. At present, the I-5 consists of eight lanes from SR-91 to Beach Boulevard, six lanes from Beach Boulevard to I-605, and eight lanes from I-605 to I-710.

Mr. Gonzalez also talked about the Pedestrian Danger Index (PDI) for Sunol Drive and compared The PDI is a measure of the relative risk of walking, adjusted for exposure. It is calculated by dividing the average pedestrian fatality rate (year), by the percentage of residents walking to work (year).

Metropolitan areas are organized within each state from the safest to the least safe places according to their PDI for 2007-2008; the safest places for walking are those with lower PDI. Mr. Gonzalez indicated that the PDI for the County of Los Angeles is 70.8 while the PDI for the East Los Angeles Area was 23.8, which was less than the County's PDI.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded that as a result of the follow-up studies, DPW made the following recommendations:

- DPW to install "25" pavement markings adjacent to the existing 25 mph speed limit signs along Union Pacific Avenue between Indiana Street and Marianna Avenue.
- Since the speed survey on Union Pacific Avenue between Indiana Street and Marianna Avenue revealed an average 85th percentile speed of 30 mph, DPW will forward speed survey to the East Los Angeles, CHP for their appropriate enforcement
- DPW to remind Eastman Elementary School staff that DPW developed a Suggested Route to School Map for their use and will forward this map for distribution to the parents.

After DPW's presentation, Ms. Isella Ramirez and Ms. Debbie Vongviwat, employees of the East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, handed out brochures on the Pedestrian Environmental Quality Index (PEQI) and the Berkshire Street Traffic Calming studies. Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Vongviwat provided the HSC with the following handouts:

- Curb Extensions for Transit Access
- Safe Route to Schools Program
- Berkshire Street Traffic Calming;

They also submitted a letter to Chair Ringler stating that they recommend that the HSC direct staff to incorporate additional community-driven traffic/pedestrian safety studies within their own studies, as a way to identify the best possible solutions for the Union Pacific Neighborhood. They informed the HSC that they had attended the UNC Highway Safety Research Center's "Designing for Pedestrian Safety," County Vehicle Code Section, a two-day training for city planners, engineers, public health officials, and civic organizations. In addition to Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Vongviwat speaking at the meeting, a student, Manny Gaona, spoke to the HSC and informed them he had also attended the two-day training course for pedestrian safety and that he would also like to request some traffic control measures in the Union Pacific Neighborhood.

At this point, Commissioner Villalobos informed the community that the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Commission should be contacted for various improvements, not the Public Works Department. Commissioner Villalobos compared the Union Pacific neighborhood to the Maravilla neighborhood.

Mr. Winter interjected and stated that Los Angeles County Regional Planning puts together a General Plan where they look at "Complete Streets." Chair Ringler mentioned that the community could also engage the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and Caltrans regarding any of the future improvements to Interstate 5 Freeway that may affect the Union Pacific Neighborhood. Commissioner Villalobos said he would provide the East Yard with information on who was managing the I-5 expansion project.

Commissioner Villalobos made a motion to implement the three recommendations DPW Staff had made which were as follows:

- DPW to install "25" pavement markings adjacent to the existing 25 mph speed limit signs along Union Pacific Avenue between Indiana Street and Marianna Avenue.
- Since the speed survey on Union Pacific Avenue between Indiana Street and Marianna Avenue revealed an average 85th percentile speed of 30 mph, DPW will forward speed survey to the East Los Angeles, CHP for their appropriate enforcement
- DPW to remind Eastman Elementary School staff that DPW developed a Suggested Route to School Map for their use and will forward this map for distribution to the parents.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Ringler called for a five-minute recess at 10:56 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:04 a.m.

11) New Business

Mr. Winter informed the HSC about the handout they had received regarding some pedestrian collisions that had occurred on October 27, 2010. He indicated that all of these collisions involved a pedestrian in a marked, uncontrolled crosswalk. Mr. Winter informed the HSC that this is one of the reasons DPW reviews whether or not marked crosswalks should be removed at uncontrolled locations.

Mr. Winter also informed the HSC that DPW has been awarded grant money for the California's Safe Routes to School Program. He stated one of these grants will fund the installation of driver feedback speed signs for eight school locations within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The other grant will fund a traffic signal installation at the intersection of Vermont Avenue and 119th Street, which is very close to West Athens Elementary School.

Chair Ringler stated that he had heard a lot in the news lately about privacy issues with the Red Light Photo Enforcement cameras and he asked Mr. Winter whether the County's Red Light Photo Enforcement Program has experienced any of these issues. Mr. Winter stated that the County's current vendor contract was set to expire in April 2011, at which time a decision would be made regarding whether the program should be continued. Mr. Winter stated that the

County does not "make" money from this program and that the Board has asked DPW to evaluate whether the program should be continued. Mr. Ringler stated that he believed people drive safer through red light photo locations. Mr. Winter stated that the collisions have been reduced at the County's Red Light Photo Enforcement locations. Mr. Ringler asked where the County gets their collision data. Mr. Winter informed him that the CHP takes collision reports in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Mr. Ringler asked whether removing the Red Light Photo Enforcement Program would increase collisions. Mr. Winter stated there has been no study to determine this. Mr. Reese asked if any Arizona based companies ran the County's Red Light Photo Enforcement program. Mr. Winter stated that no Arizona based companies ran the County's program and that Affiliated Computer Services Inc (ACS), a Xerox company out of Connecticut, runs the program. Mr. Reese asked how many Red Light Photo locations there were in the County and Mr. Winter informed him there were eight locations, of which three of those intersections were in Supervisorial District 4.

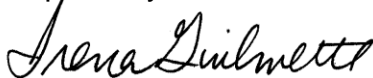
Commissioner Villalobos mentioned that he had noticed that some parking meters he has seen now accept credit cards. Mr. Winter mentioned that there are also new street sweeping devices that could save taxpayers money on police patrol because they take photos of the license plates of vehicles that are parked on the street during street sweeping days. He stated that currently, the County does not use this device and they would need to research whether or not street sweeping drivers would be comfortable operating both a street sweeping truck and photo enforcement equipment. Commissioner Villalobos mentioned he would be interested in knowing law enforcement's view on this issue.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 1, 2010. 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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