

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2014**

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

1. Call to order

The meeting of May 7, 2014, was called to order at 9:09 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll call

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

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

Also in attendance were the following:

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

4. Approval of April 2, 2014, meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the April 2, 2014, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5. Citizen appeal of denied request by Public Works

There were no citizen appeals of denied requests by Public Works.

6. Report on business other than appeals

Crossing Guard Update

Ms. Guilmette report that during the 1 month period since the April 2, 2014, HSC meeting, Public Works studied two sites for crossing guard services. Both sites were denied due to not meeting the minimum criteria for crossing guard services. Also, Public Works is currently evaluating two new locations for crossing guard service.

The total number of locations with crossing guard service is 206. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 206 locations is 213, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

On March 4, 2014, the Board of Supervisors approved the revised policy to formally include middle schools in the Adult Crossing Guard Program.

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 comments from special committees.

9. Special orders

Election of Officers.

Chairperson Ringler opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson of the HSC. Chairperson Ringler nominated Vice-Chairperson Reese for Chairperson and the motion was seconded. The HSC voted and Commissioner Reese was unanimously voted to be Chairperson.

Commissioner Estey nominated Commissioner Knapp to be Vice-Chairperson and the motion was seconded. Commissioner Reese nominated Chairperson Ringler to be Vice-Chairperson and the motion was seconded. The HSC voted and Commissioner Knapp was unanimously voted to be Vice-Chairperson.

10. Unfinished business and general notes

Unfinished business and general notes.

- a. Update on roadway conditions on Pearblossom Highway at 82nd Street East (HSC Crossing Guard appeal for Pearblossom Highway at 82nd Street East).

Ms. Guilmette stated that at the July 6, 2005, HSC meeting, the HSC made the following motion:

- ◆ Continue crossing guard service at the intersection of 82nd Street East and Pearblossom Highway.
- ◆ Reevaluate the need for crossing guard service after construction of sidewalk and curb ramps is completed at the intersection.
- ◆ Department of Public Works to work with the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) to make sure construction of sidewalk and curb ramps are expedited.

Ms. Guilmette stated CALTRANS confirmed that the construction of sidewalk and curb ramps at the intersection of Pearblossom Highway and 82nd Street East was completed on June 28, 2013. Ms. Guilmette stated that DPW conducted a new crossing guard study at the intersection of Pearblossom Highway and 82nd Street East on April 24, 2014, when Alpine Elementary School was in session and the study indicated that a crossing guard is still warranted and should remain at this location.

Ms. Guilmette stated that since field observations have confirmed there is a new marked school crosswalk at the west approach of the intersection of Pearblossom Highway and 82nd Street East, DPW is in the process of modifying the existing Suggested Route to School Map to include the new crosswalk as well as a directional arrow that would provide an option for the pedestrians to cross the west approach of Pearblossom Highway and 82nd Street East.

Ms. Guilmette summarized the findings of the study by stating that since this location now meets the crossing guard warrants, it will retain a crossing guard. She also stated that the Suggested Route to School Map is currently being modified to include the new marked school crosswalk at the west approach of Pearblossom Highway and 82nd Street East.

- b. Update on Union Pacific Neighborhood, Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (HSC speed hump/traffic signal appeal for Union Pacific Avenue at Sunol Drive).

Mr. Gonzalez stated that on July 7, 2010, Mr. Angelo Logan appealed to the HSC the decision of DPW not to install a multiway stop on Sunol Drive at Tuttle Street and Sunol Drive at Triggs Street, a traffic signal on Union Pacific Avenue at Sunol Drive, and speed humps on Sunol Drive between Union Pacific Avenue and Triggs Street. Mr. Gonzalez stated at the July 7, 2010, HSC meeting, the HSC concurred with DPW findings and recommendations but made the following motion:

DPW to 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 stated that at the follow-up HSC meeting held on November 4, 2010, the HSC approved the following motion:

- ◆ 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, we are forwarding the speed data to the East Los Angeles California Highway Patrol for their enforcement efforts.
- ◆ To forward Eastman Elementary School staff that DPW developed a Suggested Route to School Map for their use.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that on December 14, 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion instructing DPW to conduct an independent comprehensive neighborhood-wide traffic calming study of the Union Pacific community. Mr. Gonzalez stated that as a result, on July 27, 2011, DPW selected and authorized Katz, Okitsu and Associates (KOA) Corporation located in Monterey Park, California, to conduct this study. Mr. Gonzalez stated that KOA completed this study on February 23, 2012.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that Phase I Short-Term Plan of KOA's study included the following recommendations:

- ◆ Install speed cushions on Ditman Avenue between Olympic Boulevard and Union Pacific Avenue, on Downey Road between Olympic Boulevard and Noakes Street and on Sunol Drive between Union Pacific Avenue and Triggs Street.
- ◆ Install driver feedback speed display signs on Union Pacific Avenue between Indiana Street and Marianna Avenue.
- ◆ Install raised medians on Union Pacific Avenue between Indiana Street and Marianna Avenue.
- ◆ Install bulges (curb extensions) on Union Pacific Avenue at the intersection of Bonnie Beach Place.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that Phase 2 of KOA's study included the following

recommendations:

- ◆ Install speed cushions on Herbert Avenue between Olympic Boulevard and Union Pacific Avenue, on Bonnie Beach Place between Olympic Boulevard and Union Pacific Avenue, on Tuttle Street between Sunol Drive and Marianna Avenue, on Triggs Street between Sunol Drive, on Dunham Street between Sunol Drive and Marianna Avenue and on Marianna Avenue between Union Pacific Avenue and Lovett Street.
- ◆ Install bulges (curb extensions) or raised intersections, at the intersections of Union Pacific Avenue at Sunol Drive, Sunol Drive at Tuttle Street, Downey Road at Triggs Street and Sunol Drive at Dunham Street.
- ◆ Install a raised median on Union Pacific Avenue between Eastman Avenue and Gage Avenue.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire Department) reviewed these recommendations and supported everything except the raised medians. Mr. Gonzalez stated that DPW agreed with the Fire Department's recommendations and the raised medians have been deleted from Phase 1 and 2 of this project. Mr. Gonzalez stated that DPW applied for a State grant to fund implementation of traffic calming measures for Phase 1. Mr. Gonzalez stated that in December 2012, the State grant was awarded to DPW and construction of Phase 1 should begin September 2014 and will last about 2 months. Mr. Gonzalez stated that traffic measures for Phase 1 will be monitored for 6 months to measure their effectiveness.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that Phase 2 traffic calming measures will be implemented depending on the results of the Phase 1 improvements and community input. Chairperson Ringler asked staff what their opinion was regarding this independent traffic calming study. Ms. Sheik stated that the community was very specific about what kind of traffic calming devices they wanted to see in their community and the consultant took a more global approach to this location. Ms. Sheik indicated that a comprehensive study such as this would have been conducted by the County if there had been a crash-rate issue in the area.

Vice-Chairperson Reese asked if any representatives from the Fire Department had attended these community meetings. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Fire Department had not attended those meetings. Ms. Sheik stated that it is not the practice of the Fire Department to attend DPW meetings and that DPW staff typically would report the Fire Department's recommendations.

Commissioner Estey asked Mr. Gonzalez if there was a school or day care center on Union Pacific Avenue between Downey Road and Sunol Drive.

Mr. Gonzalez stated there was foot traffic because there was a market on the southwest corner of Union Pacific and Sunol Drive and a community center including a child care center and community classrooms on the north side of Union Pacific Avenue between Downey Road and Sunol Drive. Commissioner Estey also mentioned there was foot traffic from the pallet company located on the southwest corner of Union Pacific Avenue near Bonnie Beach Place and that installing a bulge (curb extension) at that intersection could be an issue.

Commissioner Watkins asked staff what the raised medians were supposed to do. Ms. Sheik indicated that the intention of the raised medians was to slow traffic. Vice-Chairperson Ringler stated that the Fire Department probably didn't recommend those raised medians because the fire trucks would have difficulty negotiating curves.

- c. Update on recommendation for traffic signal on Vermont Avenue at 245th Street (HSC Traffic Signal Appeal for Vermont Avenue at 245th Street).

Ms. Reyes stated that DPW Staff drafted a letter on behalf of the HSC to the Board of Supervisors recommending the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Vermont Avenue at 245th Street. Ms. Reyes indicated this item would be placed on the June 10, 2014, meeting Agenda for the Board of Supervisors.

11. New Business

Chairperson Ringler indicated Commissioner Reese had a new item he wanted to discuss regarding the Los Angeles County Office of Education's (LACOE) contracts for hiring crossing guards. Mr. Reese specifically stated that he had some issues with two requirements in the contract between the LACOE and the crossing guard agency. One of his issues was that the crossing guard agency must have at least 5 years of experience in providing crossing guard services to County or City agencies. The other issue was that the crossing guard agency must be currently supplying crossing guard services to at least three county or City agencies.

Commissioner Estey asked if private schools were considered when choosing locations for crossing guard service. Ms. Reyes stated that yes, private schools are taken into consideration when choosing crossing guard locations.

Commissioner Reese asked if they could hear more about these crossing guard contracts at an upcoming HSC meeting. Ms. Sheik informed Commissioner Reese that at the next scheduled HSC meeting, Public Works' staff could request LACOE to attend to answer their questions related to the current crossing guard contract. A motion to place a Crossing Guard Contract briefing on the next HSC

meeting agenda was unanimously carried.

Chairperson Ringler introduced the original new business item regarding an appeal of the denial of a No U-turn sign at the intersection of Rosemead Boulevard and Fairview Avenue. Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that Mr. Tai Cho wanted to appeal DPW's decision to deny installation of a No U-Turn sign at the intersection of Rosemead Boulevard and Fairview Avenue. Ms. Guilmette stated that since this was the first time Mr. Cho had made this request and because he was not part of a school group or community organization, it was at the discretion of the HSC whether they wanted to hear this appeal item. The HSC agreed to have this item placed on an upcoming HSC agenda.

13. Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 4, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE
Executive Officer
Highway Safety Commission

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