

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2008**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of November 5, 2008, 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 Ringler  
                              Vice-Chair Thurston Reese  
                              Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos  
                              Commissioner John Watkins  
                              Commissioner Marvin Estey

Absent:                   Commissioner Praful Kulkarni  
                              Commissioner Rhett Price

Also in attendance were the following:

Mr. Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; Mr. James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Mr. Alan Nino, Associate Civil Engineer and Ms. Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant.

4) Approval of October 1, 2008 Minutes

The Minutes of the October 1, 2008, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved as ammended.

5a) Citizen Appeal of Traffic Control Requests denied by Public Works.

- a) New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue  
Speed Humps/Speed Cushions  
Appellant: Ben Rubalcaba

Mr. Alan Nino stated that at the September 3, 2008, HSC meeting, the HSC made the following motions:

- Public Works should notify all affected property owners regarding the proposal to restripe Ford Boulevard at Cesar Chavez Avenue to deter cut-through traffic on New York Street. The restriping would include the prohibition of parking on both sides of Ford Boulevard between Cesar Chavez Avenue and New York Street/Northbound 710 Freeway Offramp in order to accommodate left-turn pockets.
- Public Works should gather comments from the Fire Department before making a final decision regarding the request to install speed cushions on New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue.

Mr. Nino provided the following update:

- The Los Angeles Unified School District has been conditioned to install a new traffic signal at the intersection of Ford Boulevard and New York Street/710 Freeway northbound offramp as part of the East Los Angeles Star Adult Education School project.
- This traffic signal is scheduled to be installed within the next 12 months.
- Crosswalks will be installed at all approaches of this intersection except for the north approach, due to the heavy left-turn movement from the 710 Freeway Offramp.
- A letter was sent to residents of New York Street and business owners of Ford Boulevard informing them of the proposed striping changes that would eliminate parking on both sides of Ford Boulevard.
- We received a letter in response from a business owner as well as his attorney indicating that they were concerned about the potential impact of these parking restrictions.
- In response to these concerns, DPW is recommending the removal of existing parking only on the west side of Ford Boulevard.

Next, the HSC listened to testimony from the appellant, Mr. Ben Rubalcaba, Mr. Kostich (the business owner who sent a letter regarding the parking restrictions on Ford Boulevard) and other community members.

Mr. Rubalcaba provided the HSC with a speed hump petition to have speed humps installed on New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue.

Mr. Kostich along with some of his tenants, stated he was opposed to having parking removed from both sides of Ford Boulevard and requested that parking only be eliminated on the west side of Ford Boulevard.

At 10:10 a.m., Chair Ringler called for a short recess and this was granted. The HSC meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.,

After hearing from DPW Staff and community members, the HSC made a motion to continue this item until an upcoming meeting and for the following actions to be completed:

- 1) DPW to evaluate the concept plan that would allow for full-time parking restrictions on the west side and peak-hour parking restrictions on the east side of Ford Boulevard between New York Street and Cesar Chavez Avenue. At a follow-up HSC meeting, DPW to provide a presentation that will explain the pros and cons of these modified parking restrictions on both sides of Ford Boulevard.
- 2) DPW to follow-up with the Los Angeles County Fire Department regarding their comments on the possibility of speed hump installation on New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue. DPW to present these findings at the follow-up meeting for this appeal.
- 3) DPW to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning to find a representative involved with the recent development projects surrounding New York Street and invite this representative to provide input on the recommended parking restrictions at a follow-up HSC meeting.
- 4) DPW to order vehicular/pedestrian handcounts at the intersection of Ford Boulevard and Cesar Chavez Avenue.

DPW also to count the number of pedestrians crossing Ford Boulevard midblock between New York Street and Cesar Chavez Avenue to evaluate the operational need for northbound left-turn and right-turn lanes.

- 5) DPW to work with DPW's Programs Development Division regarding the implementation time of the modified striping.

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 committees announcements.

9) Special Orders.

There were no special orders.

10) Unfinished Business and General Notes

a) Update on La Crescenta Avenue at Prospect Avenue:

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that an appreciation letter was forwarded to Chair Ringler from the Prospect Avenue Neighborhood Association. In this letter, the Association thanked and commended the HSC for their assistance with the improvements to the crosswalks at Crescenta Valley Elementary School.

b) Update on Safe Routes To School Grants:

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the County was awarded the Safe Routes To School Grant for the traffic signal at Broadway Avenue and Reichling Avenue and for the Countywide Suggested Routes to School Maps. Mr. James Chon informed the HSC that the County would be reapplying for a Safe Routes To School grant for the median modifications along Firestone Boulevard near Hooper Avenue.

c) Update on Dunlap Crossing:

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that there would be an update to the Dunlap Crossing request at the next scheduled meeting.

11) New Business

Commissioner Villalobos announced that he had recently attended the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Angel Awards at which time he received a gift of a "time capsule" for his service to the community of which 15 years have been dedicated to the HSC. Commissioner Villalobos suggested he share this gift with the HSC and that the HSC consider donating some artifacts or media for insertion into this time capsule to be part of the history of the East Los Angeles community. This time capsule is to be reopened in 2058, as a memorial and testimony for an enduring healthy environment.

Commissioner Villalobos stated that in order to enclose the artifacts in this time capsule, the time capsule would have to be placed in a concrete vault. He inquired whether DPW would be able to donate a concrete vault for this time capsule. He provided DPW Staff with a plan specifications for a concrete vault ( flatwall pull box and stated that this concrete box could cost approximately \$1,500).

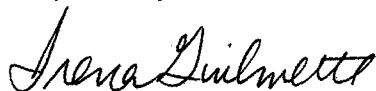
At that time, DPW Staff stated they would evaluate the feasibility of obtaining a concrete vault. The HSC stated they would consider placing a Mission statement of the HSC and examples of agendas and minutes in this time capsule if a concrete vault was obtained.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Chair Ringler informed the HSC that the next meeting of the HSC is tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

A recording of the discussions held at this meeting is on file at Public Works. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2008, at DPW Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE  
Executive Officer  
Highway Safety Commission

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