

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of February 4, 2009, 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 Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Rhett Price
 Commissioner John Watkins
 Commissioner Praful Kulkarni

Also in attendance were the following:

Jim LeClair, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Mr. William Higley, Deputy Director; Mr. Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; Mr. James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Mr. Alan Nino, Associate Civil Engineer; Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez, Principal Civil Engineering Assistant; Ms. Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant and Ms. Sonia Perez, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant

4) Approval of January 7, 2009, Minutes

The Minutes of the January 7, 2009, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

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

a) Follow-up to appeal for speed humps on New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue:

Appellants: Ben Rubalcava, Sinisha Kostich and Dominic Trutanich

Alan Nino presented a follow-up power point presentation to the HSC. In this presentation, he stated that at the November 4, 2008, HSC meeting, the HSC made the following motions:

- ◆ Public Works should present advantages and disadvantages of parking restrictions on both sides of Ford Boulevard. 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.
- ◆ Public Works should follow-up with the Fire Department regarding their comments on the possibility of speed hump installation on New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue.
- ◆ Public Works should contact Regional Planning to provide input on the recommended parking restrictions.
- ◆ Public Works should conduct vehicular and pedestrian counts at the intersection of Ford Boulevard and Cesar Chavez Avenue. Also count the number of pedestrians crossing Ford Boulevard midblock between New York Street and Cesar Chavez Avenue.

Mr. Nino stated that since the time of the November 4, 2008, meeting, the following has been completed:

- ◆ A letter was sent to the Fire Department to ask them to provide comments regarding HSC's consideration for speed cushions on New York Street.
- ◆ The Fire Department indicated that they do not endorse the installation of speed cushions on New York Street and concurs with the Public Works recommendations.
- ◆ Regional Planning was notified to provide comments but no response was received from their Department.
- ◆ The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has been conditioned to install a new traffic signal at the intersection of Ford Blvd at New York as part of the ELA Star Adult Education School.

- ◆ This traffic signal plan is being reviewed by Caltrans and will be installed within the next 12 months.

Mr. Nino stated that additional field data gathered produced the following findings:

- ◆ Approximately 45% of vehicles at south approach of Cesar Chavez at Ford are making a left turn.
- ◆ Only 21% of vehicles at south approach of Cesar Chavez at Ford are making a right turn.
- ◆ The addition of left turn lanes will improve the congestion that occurs for northbound vehicles on Ford Blvd between Cesar Chavez and New York Street.
- ◆ The addition of a left turn arrow for left turning vehicles on Ford at Cesar Chavez will further improve operations.
- ◆ Since the proposed through travel lane for northbound vehicles will measure 18 feet, there is no guarantee that there may be room for right turning vehicles since any vehicle may center themselves on the lane, thereby blocking right turning vehicles.
- ◆ Whether or not parking is eliminated, traffic operations will improve from a level of service F to a level of service A at the south approach of Cesar Chavez at Ford Boulevard.
- ◆ Parking will have to be eliminated on the west side of Ford Blvd in order to accommodate a left turn lane.

Next, Ms. Sonia Perez made a SYNCHRO (computer program that simulates traffic conditions) presentation to the HSC in which she visually showed how the traffic will look before and after a traffic signal is installed at the intersection of Ford Boulevard and the Northbound Interstate 5/New York Street.

In conclusion, Mr. Nino stated that at such time that the LAUSD is ready to proceed with the installation of the traffic signal at Ford Boulevard at New York Street / 710 off ramp, it is recommended to do the following:

- ◆ Proceed with the improvements which include the addition of a left turn pocket and exclusive left turn arrow for the south approach of Ford at Cesar Chavez.

- ◆ Eliminate parking on the west side of Ford between Dozier and New York St.
- ◆ Retain parking on the east side of Ford between Dozier and New York St.
- ◆ Post no pedestrian crossing signs across Ford Boulevard at a midblock location between Cesar Chavez Ave and New York St.
- ◆ Reevaluate the request for speed cushions on New York Street between Ford and McDonnell once the traffic signal and striping modifications are complete.

At that point, Jim Le Clair from the Los Angeles County Fire Department stated that overall, the County Fire Department's position on this issue was that they are adamantly opposed to speed humps in general. He stated that although they don't endorse them, they don't object to speed cushions as much as speed humps.

After hearing the testimony of DPW, the appellant (Ben Rubalcava) and the Fire Department, the HSC made the following motion:

- 1) Deny request for speed humps on New York Street between Ford Boulevard and McDonnell Avenue and reevaluate the request for speed cushions on New York Street between Ford and McDonnell once the traffic signal and striping modifications are completed.
- 2) Proceed with the improvements which include the addition of a left turn pocket and exclusive left turn arrow for the south approach of Ford at Cesar Chavez .
- 3) Eliminate parking on the west side of Ford between Dozier and New York St.
- 4) Retain parking on the east side of Ford between Dozier and New York St.
- 5) Post pedestrian crossing prohibition signs across Ford Boulevard at a midblock location between Cesar Chavez Ave and New York St.
- 6) Reevaluate the request for speed cushions on New York Street between Ford and McDonnell once the traffic signal and striping modifications are completed.

The motion was carried unanimously.

At 10:05 a.m., Chair Ringler asked for a short recess. The HSC reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

- b) Appeal for traffic signal at the intersection of Valley Boulevard at Alderton Avenue:

Appellant: Hermila Mendoza

Mr. Nino informed the HSC that Ms. Hermila Mendoza requested DPW install a traffic signal at the intersection of Valley Blvd at Alderton Ave because she indicated that there were many collisions that occurred at this intersection. She indicated that it is difficult for motorists to make left turns from Alderton Ave onto Valley Blvd. She also mentioned that sight distance was limited due to on-street parking on Valley Blvd.

Mr. Nino informed the HSC that DPW did the following regarding this intersection:

- ◆ Counted the number of vehicles and pedestrians at the intersection.
- ◆ Measured speed of vehicles.
- ◆ Reviewed the reported collision data.
- ◆ Observed pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- ◆ Conducted a traffic signal study.

Regarding traffic signal warrants, Mr. Nino informed the HSC that DPW uses the signal warrants in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to determine when a signal should be installed. Most Cities and Counties also follow the MUTCD Traffic Signal Warrants. Mr. Nino informed the HSC that traffic signal studies take into account the following:

- ◆ Vehicle & Pedestrian Volumes (12 hour)
- ◆ Collision History (Latest year)
- ◆ Speed of Motorists
- ◆ Delay

◆ Existing Field Conditions

Mr. Nino presented a summary of the traffic signal warrants in the following table:

| Warrant | Not Applicable | Satisfied | Not Satisfied |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--|
| 1. Seven Hour Vehicular Volume | | | Condition A - 47% Condition B - 92% |
| 2. Four Hour Vehicular Volume | | | X |
| 3. Peak Hour | | | X |
| 4. Pedestrian Volume | | | X |
| 5. School Crossing | X | | |
| 6. Coordinated Signal System | | | X |
| 7. Collision Warrant | | | X (0 collisions) |
| 8. Roadway Network | | | X |

Mr. Nino presented the following results from the first traffic signal study:

- ◆ None of the traffic signal warrants were satisfied.
- ◆ Field observations revealed sight distance is adequate for motorists and pedestrians to safely enter or cross the intersection without conflict or undue delay when using normal caution.
- ◆ Subsequent to this study, the City of Industry restriped Valley Boulevard to add a third lane in the westbound direction. After the restriping was completed, a second traffic signal study was conducted at this intersection.

Mr. Nino stated that as planned, an additional traffic signal study was conducted after the restriping on Valley Boulevard was completed. The following table represents the results from the second study:

| Warrant | Not Applicable | Satisfied | Not Satisfied |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--|
| 1. Seven Hour Vehicular Volume | | | Condition A - 38% Condition B - 75% |
| 2. Four Hour Vehicular Volume | | | X |
| 3. Peak Hour | | | X |
| 4. Pedestrian Volume | | | X |
| 5. School Crossing | X | | |
| 6. Coordinated Signal System | | | X |
| 7. Collision Warrant | | | X(0 Collisions) |
| 8. Roadway Network | | | X |

Mr. Nino concluded his presentation with the following recommendations:

- ◆ Since none of the warrants were satisfied, a traffic signal is not recommended.
- ◆ The City of Industry is in the process of restriping a third travel lane for eastbound traffic.

Ms. Mendoza made a presentation to the HSC via DPW interpreter, Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez. Ms. Mendoza expressed her concerns for pedestrians crossing at the intersection to use the bus stops, concerns about trucks and cars parking on Valley Boulevard because No Stopping Anytime signs are not posted east of the intersection, concerns about lack of a crosswalk painted on Valley at Alderton and concerns about criminal activity at the intersection including a recent gun shooting incident.

At that time, Commissioner Villalobos informed Ms. Mendoza that he would personally contact Nicole Englund of Supervisor Gloria Molina's office regarding the criminal activity at the intersection.

After hearing testimony from DPW Staff, Ms. Mendoza and some other community members, the HSC made the following motion:

- ◆ Continue this appeal item until a future meeting, possibly in April.

- ◆ DPW to reevaluate the intersection of Valley Bl at Alderton to determine whether any additional traffic control measures can be taken such as installation of KEEP CLEAR pavement markings.
- ◆ DPW to update the collision data at the intersection.
- ◆ DPW to make sure that all NO STOPPING ANYTIME signs are properly posted on the north side of Valley Blvd east of Alderton.

The motion was carried unanimously.

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.

11) New Business

Commissioner Villalobos updated the HSC on the time capsule dedication ceremony that was held at the East Los Angeles Community Center on January 8, 2009. He stated that Gloria Molina attended the meeting and that the time capsule is scheduled to be opened in January 2059. He sent out a special thanks to Vice-Chair Reese and Commissioner Watkins for attending the ceremony and representing the HSC. Commissioner Villalobos presented all the commissioners with the front page newspaper article from the *Los Angeles Eastside Sun* printed on January 15, 2009.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

Chair Ringler informed the HSC that the next meeting of the HSC is tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 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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