

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2011**

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

1) Call to Order

The meeting of May 4, 2011, 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  
                 Commissioner Marvin Estey  
                 Commissioner John Watkins  
                 Commissioner Greg Knapp

Absent:        Commissioner Rhett Price (excused)

Also in attendance were the following:

Patrick DeChellis, Deputy Director; Dean Lehman, Assistant Deputy Director; Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Alan Nino, Associate Civil Engineer; Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant; Omar Ahmed, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant; Kent Tsujii, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant.

4) Approval of April 6, 2011, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the April 6, 2011, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the May 6, 2011, HSC Agenda indicated approval of February 2, 2011, meeting minutes and that it should have read approval of April 6, 2011, meeting minutes. She indicated that the Minutes of April 6, 2011, HSC meeting were correctly printed and approved.

5) Citizen Appeal of denied request by Public Works

- a) Denial of multiway stop control at the intersection of 55th Street West and Avenue L-12.

Appellant: Attilio Petani

Mr. Ahmed informed the HSC that Public Works had received a request for multiway stop control at the intersection of 55th Street West and Avenue L-12. Mr. Attilio Petani (Appellant) had expressed concerns of speeding and pedestrians crossing on 55th Street West.

Mr. Ahmed stated that Public Works performed the following:

- Counted the number of vehicles and pedestrians at 55th Street West and Avenue L-12.
- Measured the speed of vehicles along 55th Street West.
- Reviewed the reported collision data.
- Conducted a field review to observe pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Mr. Ahmed informed the HSC that there are two warrants that are used to consider multiway stop controls and they are as follows:

1. Minimum Volume Warrant.
2. Accident Experience Warrant.

Mr. Ahmed concluded his power point presentation with the following recommendations:

- Since none of the warrants were satisfied, Public Works does not recommend the installation of a multiway stop control at the intersection of 55th Street West and Avenue L-12.
- The speed checks were forwarded to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for their appropriate enforcement on April 20, 2011.

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the appellant was unable to attend the meeting today because he is elderly (97 years old) and unable to drive to the meeting from Quartz Hill. Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the appellant requested that she speak on his behalf. Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the appellant's main concerns were the following:

- There are many children that walk along 55th Street West and cross the street to attend George Lane Park or Walker Middle School, located around the corner.
- There are many speeding vehicles on 55th Street West near Avenue L-12.

Ms. Guilmette also indicated that the CHP was unable to attend the meeting today due to staffing shortages. Ms. Guilmette stated that she provided the Commissioners a hard copy of a letter prepared by the CHP that indicated how they addressed the traffic issues on 55th Street West near Avenue L-12. Ms. Guilmette indicated that the letter primarily stated the following:

- There was only one non-injury collision reported at the subject intersection since January 1, 2005.
- The CHP has monitored 55th Street near Avenue L-12 repeatedly and have been citing motorists for minor infractions, such as failing to wear seatbelts and expired registrations.

Mr. Ahmed informed the HSC that the CHP has been unable to deploy the radar speed trailer because it currently needs repair. Discussion ensued regarding the repair of this equipment and Public Works will work with the CHP on getting this equipment repaired.

After hearing the testimony of Public Works' staff, as well as Ms. Guilmette' comments made on behalf of the appellant, the HSC made the following motion:

- The HSC concurs with Public Works' recommendation to deny the installation of a multiway stop control at the intersection of 55th Street West and Avenue L-12.
- The HSC concurs with Public Works' recommendation for CHP to continue speed enforcement along 55th Street West near Avenue L-12.

After discussion, the HSC voted and the motion was unanimously approved.

6) Report on business other than appeals

Crossing Guard Update

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that since the April 6, 2011, HSC meeting Public Works has the following to report on the crossing guard program:

- Zero new crossing guard requests received

One additional location (carried over from previous meeting) has been reviewed.

- One request denied at the intersection of Nadeau Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue

The total number of locations with crossing guard service is 208. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 208 locations is 213, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

The HSC received and filed this information.

7) Public comments on any matter not on the agenda

Chair Ringler indicated that Hans Laetz attended this meeting and that he wanted to speak on a matter not on the agenda. At this point, Mr. Laetz introduced himself to the HSC. Mr. Laetz informed the HSC that he was here to speak about a stretch of Kanan Dume Road that is located within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Mr. Laetz stated that in April 2011 there was a fatal collision involving a large asphalt truck, which occurred on Kanan Dume Road within the Malibu city limits. Mr. Laetz reported that he has observed numerous signs posted along Kanan Dume Road to warn motorists of the truck weight limits and the 8 percent grade of the roadway. He stated that these signs are on the 101 Freeway as well. Mr. Laetz stated that he believed some of the signs are faded and/or blocked by trees. Mr. Laetz also stated that he is aware of the state law that allows for local deliveries but he was not sure what is considered a local delivery.

Mr. Laetz went on to say that he believed the existing truck arrester bed on Kanan Dume Road was in the wrong location. He indicated that the County should consider having a capital improvement project in which they would either relocate the truck arrester bed or build additional ones on Kanan Dume Road.

Commissioner Villalobos stated that Kanan Dume Road was mentioned at the April 6, 2011, HSC meeting and that the HSC had instructed Public Works' staff to contact County Counsel to determine whether this item should be presented as an informational item at a future meeting.

Mr. Lehman informed the HSC that he and Ms. Guilmette had spoken to County Counsel regarding whether this item should be presented as an informational item.

Mr. Lehman stated that County Counsel agreed, since the HSC's primary function is to be an appeals board for requests that have been denied by Public Works, any traffic concerns should be forwarded to the Traffic Investigations Section of Public Works first. Mr. Lehman stated that if the person making the request is unsatisfied with Public Works' recommendation, that individual can formally make an appeal to the HSC and their appeal would be placed on the agenda at an upcoming HSC meeting. Mr. Lehman stated he would be happy to have Mr. Laetz meet with a traffic investigations staff member to discuss his traffic concerns.

8) Reports from special committees

There were no special committee announcements.

9) Special orders

There were no Special Orders.

10) Unfinished business and general notes

Commissioner Villalobos mentioned that on April 16, 2011, he attended the Salesian Gala for Bishop Mora Salesian High School. He wanted to recognize the fact that Commissioner John Watkins from the HSC was noted as the Humanitarian on the invitation. Commissioner Villalobos and the rest of the HSC commended Commissioner Watkins on his efforts.

Commissioner Villalobos also stated that a vending/catering truck consistently parks near the intersection of Beverly Boulevard and Hillview Avenue. He stated that this truck causes the sidewalk to be blocked due to patrons using the County's right of way to access the truck. Commissioner Villalobos stated he believed many of the people pushing vending carts along the sidewalks in the area are doing so without the appropriate permits.

Mr. Lehman informed Commissioner Villalobos that Public Works' Road Maintenance Division works with the County Health Department to help clean up the County's portions of the sidewalk for vendors that do not cleanup after selling their products. Mr. DeChellis mentioned that if Commissioner Villalobos observed vendors that appeared to be vending without appropriate permits, those vendors should be reported to the Sheriff's Department for further enforcement. Chair Ringler mentioned that this same issue occurs within the City of Los Angeles and that the city's Health Department deals with these same issues.

Commissioner Reese asked if anyone on Public Works' staff knew the name of the school where the crossing guard request was denied. Mr. Ahmed mentioned that the name of the school was Academia Moderna and he believes it is a Charter School.

11) New Business

Ms. Guilmette provided each Commissioner with a hard copy of the invitation to the Commissioners' Leadership Conference to be held May 12, 2011. Ms. Guilmette reminded the HSC that the R.S.V.P. deadline for this event was May 3, 2011, and if they have not responded they should do so.

Ms. Guilmette also informed the HSC that she sent some of the Commissioners a link to attend an online Ethics Training Course. Ms. Guilmette asked if any of them had trouble using the link and if they preferred to attend a class instead. All the Commissioners who had received the link stated they had difficulty accessing the website. Ms. Guilmette stated that if the online class was too difficult to use, she would set up classroom training

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 1, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Irena Guilmette". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

IRENA GUILMETTE  
Executive Officer  
Highway Safety Commission

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