

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2022**

The meeting was held virtually using the WebEx Platform.

1. Call to order

At 9:28 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: Chair Guillermo Villalobos  
Vice-Chair Vincent Rosario  
Commissioner Rhett Price  
Commissioner Robert Ringler  
Commissioner Bob Guthrie  
Commissioner Wajenda Chambeshi (Introduction)  
Commissioner Rogers-Ocañas (Introduction)

Commissioners Chambeshi and Rogers-Ocañas provided an introduction and brief background of themselves.

Also, in attendance were the following:

Staff: Emiko Thompson, Assistant Deputy Director  
Julian Garcia, Principal Civil Engineer  
Ron Matsuoka, Senior Civil Engineer  
Lee Miller, Civil Engineer  
Rezwan Kabir, Associate Civil Engineer  
Irena Guilmette, Supervising Highway Engineering Specialist I  
Jorge Galvan Rosales, Civil Engineering Assistant

Appellants: Marco Gallegos, Jose Sanchez-Gallegos, Sofia Quinones

4. Approval of August 4, 2021, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the March 3, 2021, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5. Citizen Appeal of Denied Request by Public Works

## Denial of All-Way Stop Control at the intersection of Gage Avenue and Harris Avenue

Appellant: Marco Gallegos

Mr. Rezwan Kabir introduced himself and proceeded to provide a PowerPoint presentation regarding the appeal of the denial of an all-way stop control at the intersection of Gage Avenue and Harris Avenue (see attached PowerPoint Presentation).

Mr. Kabir concluded his presentation by stating the following:

Deny the installation of an all-way stop control at the intersection of North Gage Avenue at Harris Avenue as the criteria were not met.

Commissioner Margot Rogers-Ocañas asked Mr. Kabir exactly what the traffic issue was at the intersection. Mr. Kabir responded that this request was initiated due the constituent informing him of a fatal collision and other collisions that had occurred in and around the intersection of Gage Avenue and Harris Avenue. Commissioner Ocañas stated that during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was more difficult to get enforcement data and she asked what kind of collisions were occurring at the intersection. Mr. Kabir stated that Public Works (PW) had no specific data and that the fatality mentioned occurred years ago and PW didn't have background information on that incident. Commissioner Rhett Price informed Commissioner Ocañas that the California Highway Patrol handles the speed enforcement and traffic collision reports for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

Chair Villalobos stated that after hearing the appellant and PW's Staff, the HSC can postpone their decision if they feel they don't have adequate information to render a decision that day. Commissioner Villalobos stated that in the past, the HSC would meet monthly. However, over the last few years, the HSC has instead been meeting on a quarterly basis or meeting "as needed".

Commissioner Price asked Mr. Kabir if a visibility evaluation was conducted as part of the study. Mr. Kabir affirmed that PW had looked at the visibility and there were no visibility restrictions at the intersection.

Chair Villalobos stated that he represents Supervisorial District 1 and that he is very familiar with the area. He asked if traffic counts were taken at the four-way intersection of Gage Avenue and Eastman Avenue as part of this study. Mr. Kabir responded that counts were not taken there. Mr. Kabir stated there is an all-way

stop control north of the intersection at Gage Avenue and Eastman Avenue and south of the intersection at Gage Avenue and Blanchard Street.

Commissioner Ocañas asked Mr. Kabir if a study of speed tables or speed cushions was conducted. Mr. Kabir stated that speed cushions were evaluated, and it was determined that Gage Avenue did not qualify for speed cushions because it is considered a major collector, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 38 miles per hour, there are varying grades along the roadway and that Gage Avenue is an active transit corridor. Mr. Kabir stated that PW will be installing edge line striping as part of a traffic calming effort along Gage Avenue. Commissioner Price indicated that the Fire Department would also have to provide approval for speed humps.

Commissioner Robert Ringler stated that speed humps can be noisy if installed near the front of your house.

The appellant, Mr. Marco Gallegos, stated that there is a blind spot at the intersection of Gage Avenue and Harris Avenue and there is no record of the fatality because it occurred in 2005 or 2006.

Commissioner Ringler indicated that edge line striping has been used in the City of Los Angeles and has proven to be very successful. Commissioner Price asked Mr. Kabir when this edge striping would be installed, and Mr. Kabir responded the edge line striping should be installed in early March of 2022.

Chair Villalobos stated that according to the California Road System (CRS) map, Gage Avenue is a major collector street. He said the streets are narrow and don't have sidewalks and visibility is limited due to the number of parked vehicles.

Ms. Sophie Quinones stated that in this area there have been two fatalities. She stated that the City Terrace area has fog and there needs to be reflectors and more street lighting on Gage Avenue and in this area. Ms. Gallegos stated that the edge line striping should be painted in the area where the family was involved in a collision. She stated Gage Avenue is a shortcut and that people use the bus stops. She suggested the words "SLOW DOWN ON ROAD" be painted on roadway. She stated there is a blind spot.

Mr. Gallegos stated that he believes speed humps and reflectors would help slow down the traffic on Gage Avenue. Mr. Gallegos stated he agreed with Ms. Quinones' suggestions.

Chair Villalobos stated that he works closely with Supervisorial District 1 and that this is the first time these issues have been brought to his attention.

Commissioner Price said he was familiar with the fog and curves on Gage Avenue in the City Terrace Area. He stated that some of the warrants for an all-way stop control are close, but others are not close. Commissioner Price suggested possible reflectors on the existing large arrow signs at the intersection or rumble strips as you enter the curve near Harris Avenue. Mr. Gallegos asked what other tools can be used along the Gage Avenue corridor. Ms. Quinones suggested reflectors and additional street lights. Commissioner Price stated that you can post all kinds of signs, and motorists may still disobey the law. Mr. Lee Miller stated that PW can investigate whether any additional signs can be posted and possibly reflective tape on the poles. Mr. Miller stated that raised reflective pavement markers could be installed along the centerline striping on Gage Avenue.

Chair Villalobos stated that the street lights should be evaluated in the area. Mr. Ron Matsuoka informed Chair Villalobos that the street lights are maintained by Southern California Edison (SCE) and that PW can submit a request to them for their evaluation.

Chair Villalobos mentioned that some cars park their vehicles half in the road and half within the parkway easement. He suggested parking may need to be eliminated. Ms. Quinones stated that the neighborhood needs the on-street parking spaces, and the vehicles act as reflectors.

Commissioner Price looked at a google street view map and observed there appeared to be a northbound sign on Gage Avenue approaching Harris Avenue, but the sign was missing from the actual recent photo. Commissioner Price asked PW Staff to investigate what the missing sign was and to replace if necessary.

Commissioner Bob Guthrie asked if there were any advance signs on Gage Avenue advising there was a "T" intersection ahead at Harris Avenue. Mr. Miller stated PW will evaluate whether side road symbol signs should be posted on Gage Avenue approaching Harris Avenue.

Commissioner Guthrie asked when the last Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS) was completed. Mr. Miller informed the Commission that there is no recent E&TS and with the higher 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds, the speed limit may have to be raised after an E&TS is completed.

Chair Villalobos stated that there appears to be vehicles parked within the Stop and stop bar section of Harris Avenue and it may be causing visibility concerns. He suggested red curb. Mr. Gallegos mentioned that the red curb would be helpful.

Commissioner Wajenda Chambeshi stated that he believes a more comprehensive approach is needed and he suggested a corridor study be conducted along Gage Avenue.

Commissioner Price made the following motion, and the motion was seconded:

- Uphold PW's recommendation to deny the installation of an all-way stop control at the intersection of Gage Avenue at Harris Avenue.
- PW to evaluate possible installation of side road symbol signs on Gage Avenue approaching Harris Avenue.
- PW to evaluate whether additional reflectors can be installed on existing large arrow signs at intersection of Gage Avenue and Harris Avenue.
- PW to evaluate the feasibility of installing rumble strips or reflective raised pavement markers at the southwest curve of Gage Avenue and Harris Avenue.
- PW to consider installation of red curb at the southeast and northeast corners of Gage Avenue and Harris Avenue, particularly in the area where vehicles are parking across the Stop and stop bar pavement markings.
- PW to investigate whether there is a missing sign for northbound Gage Avenue approaching Harris Avenue.
- PW to contact SCE regarding an evaluation of the street lighting in the vicinity of Gage Avenue and Harris Avenue.

The motion was unanimously approved.

#### 6. Report on Business other than Appeals

##### Crossing Guard Update

Ms. Irena Guilmette informed the HSC that during the 7-month period since our August 4, 2021, Highway Safety Commission meeting, Public Works has not recommended any new crossing guard deployments. The total number of locations with crossing guard service remains at 233. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 233 locations is 239, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

7. Public Comment on Any Matter Not on the Agenda

Ms. Quinones stated she wanted to mention some issues not mentioned at the meeting. She stated that she believes the roundabout projects at Rowan Avenue and Michigan Avenue as well as Indiana Street at Lorena Street are not good for the East Los Angeles community. She stated she believed that these roundabouts are MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) projects and that the MTA doesn't have the right to install roundabouts.

Ms. Quinones mentioned that the emissions from planes flying overhead are bad for the community and that this is a form of discrimination. She stated she would be bringing up these issues at the upcoming Democratic Convention, specifically the roundabouts on Rowan Avenue. Ms. Quinones brought up issues about the land-use projects in the East Los Angeles Area. Chair Villalobos informed Ms. Quinones that the Highway Safety Commission does not review land-use issues, and instead review traffic issues. He thanked Ms. Quinones for her time. Ms. Quinones stated that she can be contacted at 323-494-6005.

8. Special Orders

None.

9. Continuation of business from prior agenda

Update on Denial of No U-turn sign on southbound Azusa Avenue,  
north of Temple Avenue

Appellant: Dennis Kane

Mr. Jorge Rosales gave an update and informed the HSC that 4 bollards, also known as K71's, had been on back order, but were installed on March 1, 2022.

10. New Business

Commissioner Ringler mentioned that he wanted to thank former Commissioners Marv Estey and Thurston Reese for their many years of service to the HSC.

Commissioner Ringler mentioned that in the future, public comment should be limited to 3 to 5 minutes. Chair Villalobos stated that the public comment item may have to be discussed with County Counsel. Ms. Quinones responded she was still in attendance at the meeting and that they were in violation of the Brown Act to be

discussing this item. Commissioner Guthrie stated that this item would be brought back at a future meeting to discuss, and they were not in violation of the Brown Act.

Mr. Miller stated that Ms. Guilmette had an announcement. Ms. Guilmette stated she was retiring from County service, and this would be her last meeting as the Executive Officer of the HSC. The HSC commissioners thanked her for her service.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 6, 2022.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

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