

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa Traffic Commission
Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa. California

The Agenda for this meeting was posted on March 2, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL: TRAFFIC COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Calandra; Vice Chair Krulikowski; Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Director of Public Works/City Engineer Richard Leja; Engineering Project Manager Jeffrey Manchester; Police Lieutenant Brian Stoney; Fire Chief Brian Manns; Administrative Coordinator Noemi Becerra; Administrative Assistant Daniela Rodriguez

INVOCATION – Commissioner Justice

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. TRAFFIC ACTION ITEMS SINCE PREVIOUS TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

Mr. Manchester reported on the eight items on the Traffic Work Order Log that were approved or completed since the February 7, 2018 Traffic Commission meeting. (See agenda attachment – Traffic Work Order Log 2018)

2. TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

Mr. Manchester gave an updated report on the status of traffic calming as of March 05, 2018. (See agenda attachment – Traffic Calming Status: 03-05-18) Director Leja reminded the Commission that the projects listed are the top projects in Quadrant 1 of the Traffic Commission Policy Update presented to and approved by Council.

3. SMART GROWTH AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION GRANT APPLICATIONS (ATTACHMENT)

Director Leja reported that the City is applying for the Smart Growth and Active Transportation grant opportunities advertised by SANDAG and would like to present the support of the Commission when applying for grants. Mr. Manchester reported on the five grant opportunities the City is pursuing, the total grant values and scopes of work. Commissioner Ortega asked if the projects align with the

City's General Plan. Director Leja confirmed that the projects do align with the General Plan. Director Leja also explained that the City has a bicycle facilities master plan that the projects would also align with. Vice Chair Krulikowski asked who at SANDAG would be reviewing the applications. Director Leja explained that the process includes an application submittal, a review by SANDAG, an interview, and a presentation with visuals among other things. Mr. Manchester informed the Commission that applications are due March 15, 2018 and the interview would proceed sometime in April.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

Director Leja reminded all present that the Commission and City staff members are not allowed to respond to public comments since they are non-agenda items.

Dorcas Hermsmeier, 4827 Beaumont Drive

Ms. Hermsmeier made a public request that a discussion of speed humps be placed on a future Traffic Commission agenda. Ms. Hermsmeier stated that La Mesa's 50 percent approval requirement for speed humps and speed tables is too low. She would like the residential approval percentage increased to 75 percent for speed humps and speed tables to be installed.

Susan Sullivan & Mary Kate Miller – Lemon Avenue

Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Miller expressed traffic concerns at the corner of Lemon Avenue and Wood Street due the number of large tractor trailers and delivery trucks using Lemon Avenue. They would like traffic calming and police monitoring to be conducted in order to reduce the number of large vehicles using Lemon Avenue.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION)

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2018 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING (ATTACHMENT)

Vice Chair Krulikowski requested Item 4, "Vehicle Safety Code" be changed to read "California Vehicle Code".

ACTION: Vice Chair Krulikowski moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2018 meeting with the change to Item 4. Commissioner Ortega seconded and the motion which carried 5-0.

AYES: Chair Calandra, Vice Chair Krulikowski, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

5A. REQUEST TO REMOVE THE NO LEFT TURN AND NO RIGHT TURN SIGNAGE ON SACRAMENTO DRIVE AT HIGH STREET (ATTACHMENT)

Lieutenant Stoney reported that Sacramento Drive is one of the Police Department's top complaint locations. He presented speed data, collision data and enforcement efforts in the area. He stated the average car count for southbound traffic was 680 cars, average car count for northbound traffic is 950 cars and approximately 11,000 cars travel on Sacramento Drive every two weeks. The average speed is 24 MPH.

Director Leja emphasized the data presented only applies to the timeframes when data was being collected. Director Leja reported the large traffic volume of cars from Lemon Grove and surrounding areas are traveling north to get to school during peak hours. Murray Hill is classified as a collector street and Sacramento Drive is classified as a residential street. Director Leja reported that an extension on Junior High Drive will change the traffic patterns after construction is complete.

Mr. Manchester presented volume study data conducted in 2012 post installation of the signs average daily trips is 800-900 cars per day on Sacramento Drive. SANDAG 2014 data shows Murray Hill Drive with an average of 8,500 trips per day. Commissioner Ortega asked what type of traffic study was originally conducted during the development of this community.

The following is a summary of the public discussion heard by the Commission on this item.

1. Kale Hopkins – 3830 Sacramento Drive

Ms. Hopkins would like to keep the current traffic laws in place to help facilitate safety and assist in reducing traffic. She submitted a written statement for her husband Marcus Hopkins who is also in favor of keeping the signs.

2. RJ Zienkowski – 3986 Sacramento Drive

Mr. Ziewnkowski expressed he is in favor of keeping the signs due to safety concerns when crossing the street and also due to the high traffic volumes. He also submitted a written statement.

3. Joanne Macdonald-Morrow – 3970 Sacramento Drive

Ms. Macdonald-Morrow requested future items be kept on the agenda for the next 30 days to keep the public informed. She submitted 50 signed petitions from neighbors in favor of keeping the signs up. The main concerns expressed by the neighbors are safety issues due to the high volume of cars, residents not being able to enter or exit their driveways during peak hours and unsafe conditions when crossing the street.

4. James Hargrove – 3978 Apore Street

Mr. Hargrove stated that he is in favor of removing the signs because they restrict the flow of traffic to other streets. He also would like more enforcement on Yale Avenue and other street surrounding the high school.

5. Ed Kirkpatrick – 3915 Sacramento Drive

Mr. Kirkpatrick indicated that he is in favor of keeping the signs. He is also in favor of installing speed bumps to reduce the speed of vehicles traveling on Sacramento Drive.

6. Richard Asher – 3945 Sacramento Drive

Mr. Asher is in favor of keeping the signs and adhering to the Traffic Management Plan which the Commission adopted.

7. Sean Russall – 3895 Sacramento Drive

Mr. Russall is in favor of keeping the signs. He presented photos showing damage to the side mirrors of his vehicle due to buses traveling on Sacramento.

8. Timothy Morrow – 3970 Sacramento Drive

Mr. Morrow expressed he is in favor of keeping the signs due to safety issues. He presented slides to the Commission and also submitted a written statement.

Vice Chair Krulikowski requested results of the traffic impact report that was initially done for the development of the area.

ACTION: Commissioner Ortega moved to deny the request to remove the no left turn and no right turn signage on Sacramento Drive at High Street. Chair Calandra seconded the motion which carried 5-0.

AYES: Chair Calandra, Vice Chair Krulikowski, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

5B. REQUEST TO ALLOW SCHOOL BUSES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE TIME RESTRICTION FOR RIGHT-HAND TURNING MOVEMENTS FROM HIGH STREET TO SACRAMENTO DRIVE (ATTACHMENT)

Director Leja explained there was a request from the school district to exempt school buses from the turn prohibitions because it takes too long to transport a special needs student to Helix High School.

Brian Jackson, Transportation Supervisor for Grossmont High School District reported that it takes 20 minutes to pick up the student due to the current restrictions on school buses. Vice Chair Krulikowski asked if there are any other buses using the route. Mr. Jackson

indicated that he only has one bus currently taking the route and he is unaware of other school districts using the route. In response to concerns about school buses speeding in the area, Mr. Jackson stated that his buses are GPS tracked and that he has no data of buses speeding on neighborhood streets.

Commissioner Justice asked if it would be possible to lift the exemption for just one bus. Director Leja explained that if the exemption for school buses is removed it would have to apply to all school buses.

Chair Calandra requested item 5b be tabled to gather more information regarding other school district bus route information.

ACTION: Chair Calandra moved to table the item pending more information regarding other school buses using the route. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion which carried 5-0.

AYES: Chair Calandra, Vice Chair Krulikowski, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

COMMISSION INITIATED ITEMS

Chair Calandra reported that the Traffic Commission's Work Plan which was presented to the City Council last month was well received. The three main items were the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan, Parking Districts and Vision Safety Zones.

STAFF COMMENTS

Director Leja asked the Commission to clarify if they would like to keep the future items on the agenda moving forward. Chair Calandra suggested they be listed under the informational items so that the Commission and the public are aware of the items but they are not discussed at length during a meeting where no action will be taken. Director Leja suggested they be listed with "no discussion" or "informational only" listed next to them.

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING IS APRIL 4, 2018

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.