



Chair Person Emerson opened nominations for the position of Vice-Chair; Commissioner Mejia nominated Commissioner Patz, seconded by Chair Emerson. There being no further nominations, Vice-Chair Emerson closed the nominations.

Unanimously Carried: The Traffic Commission appointed Commissioner Patz to the position of Vice-Chair.

6. **MINUTES**

**Motion/Second: PATZ/WILHELM:** Motion unanimously carried to approve the November 13, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes.

**Motion/Second: PATZ/VARDEMAN:** Motion unanimously carried to approve the December 11, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes.

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Review of Draft Scope of Work for School Traffic Study**

Dave Hunt gave a summary of the report and information contained therein. This draft scope is being brought to the Commission for their review and input. He then turned discussion over to the Chair. Chair Emerson then solicited comments from two high school students in the audience.

The first student to speak was Greg Wolstead, a student at Los Alamitos High School. He commented that having a double left-turn from the school parking lot onto Los Alamitos Boulevard would help with congestion caused by students leaving school in the afternoon. He also suggested having someone help direct traffic during peak times.

Logan, a student at Los Alamitos High School, stated that he gets to school early (7:20 a.m.) to avoid most of the traffic. However, on Wednesdays, which is a late start day for the high school, traffic is a problem which causes students to be late for school. He also stated the need for widening of the parking lot exit.

At this time, discussion was turned over to the Commission. Following is a summary of their comments:

- School District is looking at the possible purchase of the corner property at Los Alamitos Boulevard and Cerritos Avenue. Possible to use as drop-off and pick-up area?

- President of School Board, Dave Boyer, is open to meeting with the City regarding school traffic issues.
- Create an on-site drop-off/pick-up area on Los Alamitos Boulevard next to the teachers' parking lot.
- Look into possibility of removing red curbing in front of the parking lot off of Los Alamitos Boulevard so curb can be used as drop-off.
- Concern for signal coordination phasing if changes made with crosswalk at Katella Avenue and Wallingsford Road.
- Add protected right-turn from Bloomfield Street onto Cerritos Avenue for cars going to McAuliffe School.
- Put in a protective right-turn phase at the signal on Bloomfield Street to Cerritos Avenue.
- Separate exit and entrance locations to high school parking lot.
- Improve bus service and implement shuttle service, and encourage students to use them.
- Map showing the locations of where the students come from to get to schools in Los Alamitos and Rossmoor.
- Add lanes to the entrance and exits of the high school even if it requires the relocation of the portable classrooms that border the student parking lot road.
- Look at how to improve traffic flow from Los Alamitos to the schools in Rossmoor.
- Discuss if crossing guard uniforms have an impact on the safety of students.
- Improve pedestrian routes to get to school, including footbridges over existing control channels to shorten walking distances.
- Comprehensive look at school starting times and at traffic during non-school times.
- Consider possible location of pedestrian bridge on Cerritos Avenue.
- Consider impact of out of district students on overall traffic congestion.
- Include Alice Jempsa's concerns regarding pedestrian bridges.

The Commissioners' comments addressed issues that they would like to see included in the draft scope. Comments will be forwarded to School Board Safety Officer. Commissioner Patz requested that the comments be forwarded to the President of the School Board also.

## **B. Review of Existing and Projected I-605/Katella Avenue Interchange Traffic Conditions**

Purpose of this staff report is to keep Traffic Commission up to date on status of Katella/605 Interchange study. Mr. Hunt gave a summary of report and information contained therein. Study needs to accommodate the reality of conditions on Katella Avenue and how traffic backup on Katella affects the interchange; the study is still in data-gathering stage. The City's traffic engineer has looked has reviewed the data and comments or corrections will be submitted. Data will be reviewed and alternatives will be developed. These alternatives will be brought to the City for review, and at this time Mr. Hunt will present them to the Traffic Commission. Data that is gathered can be used to apply for funding from Orange County Transportation Authority to make improvements on Katella Avenue.

The Traffic Commission received and filed this information.

#### **6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Signs and striping is completed at Farquhar Avenue/Los Alamitos Boulevard intersection.

Commissioner Patz inquired about the southbound Los Alamitos Boulevard at Florista Street street marking. Mr. Hunt stated that it is pending with the Public Works crews.

#### **7. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Mejia:

- Temporary detour signage on Katella Ave. – some are starting to encroach on roadway. Mr. Hunt will notify Caltrans, the project is expected to go on for another eight months.
- Entrance to Civic Center Drive is tight. Consider options for widening.
- Is the 'NO THRU TRAFFIC' sign @ Katella Avenue & Lexington Drive – southbound new? Mr. Hunt answered, yes; it was requested by the Police Department.
- New street name signs look great.

Commissioner Wilhelm:

- Encountered difficulty going north on Bloomfield Street to make a right onto Katella Avenue at 2:45 p.m. Trapped in right-turn pocket (NO RIGHT TURN ON RED WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT). Could not turn on green either because school kids are crossing. Is it possible to install a protected right-turn arrow, or is it possible for the crossing guard to let one to two cars per red light through. Mr. Hunt will look into installation of

countdown pedestrian signal at that location and will ask the Chief of Police to talk to the crossing guards.

Vice-Chair Patz:

- Inquired about speed studies on Katella Avenue and Cerritos Avenue. Mr. Hunt stated that the data will be presented next month.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

### **MOTION/SECOND: PATZ/WILHELM**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 12, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.



Dave Hunt, City Engineer