

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 8, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular meeting of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 7:05 PM on April 8, 2015, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Mejia presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners:

Chair Javier Mejia
Vice-Chair Gina Biri
Commissioner Dave Emerson
Commissioner Thomas Lindsey
Commissioner Daniel Patz
Commissioner Jason Seaman
Commissioner James Wilhelm

Present: Staff:

Dave Hunt, City Engineer
Community Development/Public Works Director
Steven Mendoza
Bruce McAlpine, Police Captain
Dawn Sallade, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chair Biri.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Mejia opened the meeting for Oral Communications.

There being no speakers, Chair Mejia closed Oral Communications.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider the Approval of the March 11, 2015 Regular meeting Minutes.

Motion/Second: Patz/Biri.

Unanimously carried. The Traffic Commission approved the Minutes of the Regular meeting of March 11, 2015.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE INSTALLATION OF AN ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL AT CHERRY STREET AND CATALINA STREET.

Consideration of the Commission's request to install All-Way STOP control at the intersection of Cherry Street and Catalina Street.

City Engineer, Dave Hunt, indicated Jerry Stock of Hartzog-Crabill wrote the report so he handed the meeting over to Mr. Stock.

Jerry Stock, Hartzog-Crabill, Traffic Engineers, explained that at last month's Traffic Commission meeting, the CEO of Trend Off-Set requested an All-Way Stop at the intersection on Cherry & Catalina Streets. Mr. Stock said he conducted a site study and following review, he has concluded that an all-way stop sign is indeed warranted for the following reasons:

- 1) There is a reduced line of sight when traveling westerly on Catalina and looking to the south; and,
- 2) The notation that there are vehicles traveling southbound on Cherry and cutting the corner which is a definite safety issue.

There being no speakers, Chair Mejia closed the public hearing and brought it back to the Commission for their comments.

Responding to comments from the Commission regarding comments from last month's meeting, Mr. Stock explained they did look at enhancements to that crossing and concluded that in-roadway lights in conjunction with enhanced signing at that forklift crossing would be something that they would recommend as that would enhance safety at the intersection and to those crossings.

Mr. Hunt said what he felt the City needed to do but after investigating the cost, it would not be cost effective at this point. Normal stop signs are very inexpensive and he felt that these need to be installed.

Vice-Chair Biri observed that at the March 11th meeting, they didn't speak about cost and she indicated that what would help her to process when they go over these kinds of things is the budgetary impact the project would have on the City. She suggested adding this information in the future to the Staff report.

Mr. Hunt explained the process as to what will happen to this request once it is approved tonight. He said the report/request will go to the City Attorney so as to review the report before it is forwarded to the City Council for their approval.

Motion/Second: Patz/Lindsey

Unanimously Carried: The Traffic Commission approved the request for an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Cherry and Catalina Streets as presented by Hartzog and Crabill (HCI).

Mr. Hunt requested a change in the order of discussion of agenda items, and further requested that 7B followed by item 6B on the agenda be discussed at this time. There were no objections to the requested change of order of discussion.

7. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

B. Staff to Provide Verbal Update on Pilot Parking Meter Project.

Mr. Mendoza provided the Traffic Commission with a verbal update on the parking meter working group status.

6. STAFF REPORTS, CONTINUED

B. CONTINUED CONSIDERATION OF THE TRAFFIC SCHOOL STUDY

Continued discussion of Traffic circulation around the four schools north of Katella Avenue. Staff has been having open discussions with the school district about how to improve the traffic flow around the school.

Mr. Hunt turned the item over to Jerry Stock of HCI once again.

Jerry Stock from Hartzog & Crabill, Traffic Engineers, introduced himself to the Commission once again and, as a brief refresher, he said they gave a PowerPoint last month and provided the Commission with handouts of that presentation. He indicated that all of the Commission's suggestions and comments thus far were incorporated into the Draft Traffic Study. He was directed by the Traffic Commission to submit a final draft a week in advance so that the Commission could review it and to make sure the school district was also included in delivery. He said all the tasks were completed.

Responding to Commissioner Emerson's question about what the next step would be, Mr. Hunt explained that his desire is for the Commission to give him a prioritization of what they want to see first, second, etc. and then he's going to put that prioritization in the 7 year CIP.

Commissioner Emerson felt that the Commission should go over the high school first tonight.

Mr. Hunt explained that once all the priorities are identified and agreed to, he'll encourage John Echlect from the Los Alamitos School District to take the Study before the School Board and he'll take it to the City Council as soon as he can.

Following a lengthy discussion, the priorities for the schools are as follows:

Priority #1 - Los Alamitos High School: Options for improving traffic flow in the vicinity of Los Alamitos High School:

- #1 Improvements recommended for the Cerritos Avenue traffic signal controlled high school entrance include re-striping Cerritos Avenue to provide eastbound dual left-turn lanes into the school. In conjunction, HCI recommends widening the entry driveway to provide an additional inbound lane.

And sharing the #1 priority spot,

- #1 Create a new drop-off/pick-up area within the existing teacher parking area off Los Alamitos Boulevard.
- #2 Upgrade the existing traffic signal controlled intersection of Los Alamitos Boulevard at Cerritos Avenue to provide protected dual left turns in all four directions of travel and to provide an exclusive northbound, single right-turn lane with a protected right-turn overlap (right-turn arrow) on Los Alamitos Boulevard at Cerritos Avenue.
- #3 Install a new traffic signal on Los Alamitos Boulevard at the most northerly school driveway.
- #4 If feasible, create an approximate 47 space parking lot on the empty property located at the northeast corner of Los Alamitos Boulevard at Cerritos Avenue.

Priority #2 - *McAuliffe Middle School:* Options for improving traffic flow in the vicinity of McAuliffe Middle School:

- #1 Extend the existing painted two-way left-turn lane on Cerritos Avenue fronting the school easterly to address driver concerns related to drivers making left-turns from out of the school property.
- #2 Convert the existing outside lane on northbound Bloomfield Avenue to an exclusive right-turn lane with a right-turn arrow at Cerritos Avenue.
- #3 Create a pedestrian drop-off/pick-up off Bloomfield Avenue within the existing school parking lot disabled parking area. The estimated cost is unknown at this time due to the unknown cost of the disabled parking relocation.

Priority #3 - *Oak Middle School:* Options for improving traffic flow in the vicinity of Oak Middle School:

- #1 Re-stripe the existing parallel parking on the west side of Oak Street to angled parking.

Priority #4 - Los Alamitos Elementary School: Options for improving traffic flow in the vicinity of Los Alamitos Elementary School:

- #1 Modify the existing painted two-way left turn lane on Bloomfield Street to prohibit southbound traffic on Bloomfield Avenue from turning left onto the school drop off area.

Motion/Second: Patz/Biri

Carried: 6/1: (Commissioner Lindsey cast the No vote): The Traffic Commission approved the Los Alamitos High School, McAuliffe Middle School, Oak Middle School and Los Alamitos Elementary School recommendations provided by HCI as stated above.

7. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, *CONTINUED*

A. Traffic Commission Status Log

None.

C. Memorandum from the City Clerk Regarding Minutes.

Department Secretary Sallade explained that a question was recently submitted to the City Clerk with regard to certain information that was to be included in the minutes of Commission meetings; the following information should provide clarification:

"If a member of the Commission is not present for Roll Call, the minutes should reflect what time the member arrived."

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Emerson

- Asked if the City could get funding for an arterial traffic study for Los Alamitos & Katella to coordinate with the General Plan.

Mr. Hunt said a whole corridor study was done for Los Alamitos and Katella.

Commissioner Emerson asked if they could get a copy of that study and Mr. Hunt said he would find out.

Commissioner Seaman

- Inquired if it had been a formal request from Trend regarding the forklift crossing.

Mr. Hunt responded that this request had been approved last year.

Vice-Chair Biri

- Reminded the Commission of the General Plan celebration on April 20th.

Commissioner Patz

- Florista on Los Alamitos Blvd. – Southbound heavy traffic, drivers are going over the bumps and using the right turn only lane as a straight lane and wondered if there was any way to enforce this so this doesn't happen. Felt this would be a great location to issue citations.

Captain McAlpine acknowledged the suggestion.

- Katella at Cypress – Noticed activity on the 33 acre lot and asked if there were any updates as to what is happening there.

Commissioner Emerson shared that they took the 5-story apartment building down and it's going to be a single family complex.

Mr. Hunt said he would ask Mr. Mendoza about this.

Commissioner Lindsey

- The crossing of Katella from Walnut to Wallingford is congested with cars backing up and asked if the light could be extended by a few seconds to let more cars pass through.

Mr. Hunt indicated he would get timing for each way and bring it back in a simple format to the Commission for discussion.

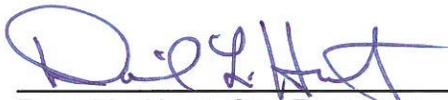
Chair Mejia

- Wanted to make sure that the arrows get repainted at the bus pad on Katella by the Casa Del Sol restaurant as they are very faded.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 9:31PM.

ATTEST:



David L. Hunt, City Engineer