

MINUTES OF REGULAR TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS
3191 Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, California

July 9, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular meeting of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 9, 2014, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, Chair Emerson presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS Biri, Emerson, Mejia, Patz, Vardeman,
Wilhelm

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER Schleuter

PRESENT: STAFF Dave Hunt, City Engineer
Pamela Brackman, Interim Department Secretary
Bruce McAlpine, Captain
Steven Mendoza, Community Development
Director/ Public Works Director

GUEST: Colin Drukker, Senior Planner from the Planning Center

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Wilhelm.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Activist Craig Durfey, CEO of Distracted Driving Awareness & Complete Streets, wished to express his public concerns on bicycle safety, and for the City to be aware of safety elements when planning and implementing new street designs.

Mr. Durfey is an advocate and is affiliated with many groups that are in support of Resolution GA-2014-2 from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). This resolution endorses a regional effort to promote a pedestrian and

bicycle initiative. Mr. Durfey shared the upcoming Open Streets Event being held this October in the City of Garden Grove. The open streets concept encourages public health, active transportation and community engagement by closing streets to all cars, and all other forms of non-motorized transportation, inviting the community and visitors to explore a unique, car-free downtown environment.

Chair Emerson thanked Mr. Durfey for expressing his concerns.

5. **MINUTES**

Approval of the Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2014

MOTION/SECOND: Biri/Patz

Motion to approve minutes as written was unanimously carried.

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

A. HISTORY ON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION CONCEPTUAL DESIGN, TRAFFIC STUDY, AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

City Engineer, Dave Hunt stated that it was apparent that many Commission members weren't around back in July 19, 2010 when the City Council was presented with the results of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Compass Demonstration Project. The project included detailed street options and improvements along Los Alamitos Boulevard. Staff then presented the project to Council divided into 5 phases and was granted permission by Council to begin the first couple of phases with a budget of \$90,000. Less than 2/3 of the monies were spent on a conceptual design of downtown Los Alamitos and a Traffic Study. The project went back to the City Council in 2011 to approve the Public Outreach Consultant. The vote was 2-2 and the project was stopped. This year, City Council has approved \$40,000 for the public outreach on the project.

Two wall size maps were presented by Hunt pointing out furniture and fixtures that could be added to revitalize Los Alamitos Boulevard. Hunt stated that the downtown project directly related to the issues in the Mobility and Circulation Element for the General Plan (GP).

Commissioner Biri questioned if City Council received any of the meeting minutes from the Traffic Commission, and wanted it noted of her personal gratitude for the Revitalization Presentation and the lengths that Steven and Dave go to engage the Commission by bringing in a consultant for expertise.

Hunt confirmed that the City Council did receive the Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes included within Staff Reports.

MOTION/SECOND: Biri/Patz

Motion to receive and file was unanimously carried.

B. THE GENERAL PLAN MOBILITY ELEMENT

Community Development Director Mendoza introduced the topic and introduced Colin Drukker, Senior Planner from the Planning Center, to explain the ground work that the GP sets.

Colin stated that one of the main themes in the current GP is that residents ask for some kind of downtown area. The GP provides framework for goal and policy foundations in the City. The Mobility and Circulation Element identifies the many ways residents get around town besides the use of motorized vehicles. This element includes bikes, pedestrian paths and parking for businesses and residents. Colin continued that this element should be viewed as a person's experience as a consumer and how we connect people from places like the San Gabriel River or Coyote Creek Trail to the local Bagel Shop. The bottom line is to make sure all the elements, Open Space, Recreation and Conservation, Land Use and the Mobility and Circulation, in the GP support each other.

Mendoza requested this be the last input from all the Traffic Commissioners towards polishing off the Mobility Element, so it can be sent to City Council for final approval. Mendoza continued that at the Joint Session Meeting held last May, not a lot of feedback was received from that meeting. Some of the suggestions that would be implemented into the GP is a glossary of definitions and acronyms used throughout the GP. Another suggestion was to have some of the implementation elements be separate from the GP to allow more flexibility if having to amend the GP.

Chairman Emerson directed the Commissioners to express their opinions and concerns.

Commissioner Wilhelm was concerned about the bike path on Cerritos Avenue as a class 3 bike path. He did not find any mention in the document along Cerritos Avenue being a class 3 bike path, nor had he observed any painted lines of the street for a bike path. Hunt clarified that a class 3 bike path only has to have signs posted, whereas, a class 2 has painted lines on the asphalt. Hunt continued that there were at least 3 signs posted along Cerritos Avenue between the High School and Coyote Creek. Mendoza added that Drukker would check for consistency throughout the document on the bike path classifications.

Commissioner Patz had no comments at this time.

Commissioner Biri was extremely pleased with the Goals and Policies in sections one thru five, and thought they were very thorough and well thought out. She particularly favored the pedestrian bridges in the areas specified. Commissioner Biri continued that our City is not a good fit for to go hog wild with the bikes, and is leaning more in a direction of segregation of bikes from cars. She would not like to see Los Alamitos Blvd. become another Belmont Shore whereas; the bikes are integrated within the traffic lanes.

Commissioner Vardeman asked if there was a way to access Coyote Creek to Los Alamitos High School by bicycle. Hunt stated that Coyote Creek does run all the way to Cerritos Avenue that connects to the High School, and a project is in the works to upgrade the sidewalk on the bridge going east bound on Cerritos for a safer access.

Commissioner Mejia stated he would like the City to encourage proper bicycle racks for parking purposes, and would like to see business owners take responsibility for providing proper parking for bicycles, instead of it becoming a City issue. This would prevent locals from locking bicycles to trees or a bench, and the bikes would not get damaged or create trip hazards for pedestrians.

Chairman Emerson added that a possible solution would be to dedicate an entire parking space for bicycles without any penalties.

Commissioner Mejia continued that he did not notice any verbiage in the document that addressed docking stations for electric cars or designated spots for motorcycle parking. It was frustrating for him to see a motorcycle take up an entire vehicle space. Mendoza instructed Drukker to change Action 5.8 to include, "Bicycles and Motorcycles Parking."

Commissioner Emerson stated that he was concerned about the portion of the City south of Katella and was in favor of converting alleys to a one-way direction, and to make them a pedestrian walkway. This would establish a pedestrian and bike zones similar to what is proposed for Los Al Blvd, by converting alleys to support the traffic. It's noisy and loud to walk along Katella. Add some aesthetic touches such as potted plants and benches. Create a nice, quiet space for walking and riding for the City's residents.

After some discussion, Mendoza suggested that on page 47, Policy 4.1 under Walkable Business Districts to include Katella Avenue along with Los Alamitos Blvd.

MOTION/SECOND: Biri/Patz

Motion to support and approve the Mobility and Circulation Element as amended with Staff to work out the details as discussed was unanimously passed.

7. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- Hunt gave an update on the school Traffic Study being and should be concluded by the end of September. Hunt added that OCTA is planning on making a presentation at the August meeting to discuss the I605 Project.

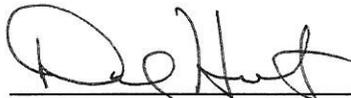
8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

- Commissioner Emerson brought up that for the August meeting both himself and Commissioner Vardeman would be out of town, so the Commission might be without a quorum. It was decided that the Commission would cancel the August 13th meeting and would reconvene on September 10.
- Commissioner Patz spoke about the residential parking signs along Humboldt St. and San Joaquin Ave. that are facing east are all sun faded. Hunt requested that a Traffic Order be written to replace the sun damaged signs.
- Commissioner Wilhelm noticed that at the four way stop intersections it would be helpful if the signs stated "4-way" stop. Hunt requested that another Traffic Order be requested to add the "4-way" stop tag to all four way intersections throughout the City.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION/SECOND: PATZ/VARDEMAN

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m.



Dave Hunt, City Engineer