

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – August 10, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular meeting of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 7:01 PM on August 10, 2016, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Patz presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Daniel Patz
Vice Chair Gina Biri
Commissioner Dave Emerson (LATE: 7:03)
Commissioner Javier Mejia
Commissioner Jason Seaman
Commissioner James Wilhelm

Absent: None

Present: Staff: Development Services Director Steven Mendoza
Farhad Iranitalab, Traffic Engineer
Captain Rick Moore, Police Department
Dawn Sallade, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Patz.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Patz opened the meeting for Oral Communications. There being no speakers, the Chair closed Oral Communications.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 13, 2016.

Commissioner Wilhelm pointed out a correction on:

- Page 3, second line, “Since then, *one more sign* has been added...”
- Page 3, last line in the paragraph, “...so now *the “No Left Turn” signs now have their own sign post which is precisely across from the alley.*”

Commissioner Emerson pointed out with regard to Item 6A, the Consideration of a Signal Modification at Los Alamitos Boulevard at Rossmoor Way and Bradbury Road, he had been the one to ask that this

item be agendized in the first place and wasn't aware that this would have been placed on the agenda while he was on vacation. He asks that in the future this be placed back on the agenda once again so that he can expand on his thoughts regarding this subject.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Wilhelm

Carried 4/0/2 (Biri and Emerson abstained): The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of July 13, 2016, with corrections.

INTRODUCTION

Chair Patz welcomed and introduced Farhad Iranitalab as the new Traffic Engineer.

Mr. Iranitalab indicated he'll be handling the duties of the Traffic Commission meetings in the future. He then expanded upon his experience.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Consideration of a School Sign Removal on Bloomfield Avenue to the North of Laurel High School

The Traffic Commission had previously requested the removal of school signs on Bloomfield Avenue at Laurel High School since the school is closed.

Development Services Director Steven Mendoza explained that in his telephone conversation between him and the Los Alamitos School District Superintendent Sherry Kropp, the signs should remain to provide safety for students as the site still offers Adult Transition Courses as well as having a school bus stop. He also explained that he spoke to John Eclevia from the school district who indicated that the high school children also are using the school field as well.

Chair Patz indicated that he has no problem with leaving the signs in place as they are also a traffic calming device as well.

Motion/Second: Biri/Wilhelm

Unanimously Carried 6/0/0: The Traffic Commission accepted Staff's recommendation and will receive and file this report.

B. Consideration of a Installing a "KEEP CLEAR" Pavement Marking at 10961 Bloomfield Avenue

A request was made to install "Keep Clear" pavement signage in front of the driveway at 10961 Bloomfield Avenue to prevent drivers on Bloomfield Avenue from blocking the single access point into the property.

Development Services Director Mendoza summarized the Staff report, referring to the information contained therein, gave a brief history of the prior request, and indicated he's prepared to answer questions from the Traffic Commission. He explained that the City Manager, the Mayor and he meet with various businesses in the City and when they met with the owner of Semi-Dice, he explained he had ingress/egress issues.

Discussion ensued and some of the following points/issues which should be studied were:

- Since the Semi-Dice representatives aren't present at tonight's meeting to back up their request, perhaps Staff should request more information from the property owner as to the times of the day, days of the week and time of the year that they experience most of the conflict.
- Locate other keep clear signs and take a look at commonality of other "Keep Clear" areas.
- How many situations around the City where there is a business of that kind in close proximity to an important intersection and this request could be setting a precedent;

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab indicated that most of the "Keep Clear" signs are being done for public access (Fire houses, etc.) and not private access situations.

Captain Moore indicated that he met with one of the executives at the company on two separate occasions to discuss this same issue of egress and ingress. He said he suggested the Area Command Program but apparently they had already reached out to Mr. Mendoza.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that more information from the business is needed before making a determination.

Motion/Second: Biri/Wilhelm

Unanimously Carried 6/0/0: The Traffic Commission directed Staff to gain and gather more information from the business owner as to where the issue is (ingress and egress) and when (meaning times of day and days of the week and time of year) and to take a look around the City to see if there are other "Keep Clear" signs set up specifically for a business or is it only for public service and would this be precedent setting and bring this back to the Commission at a later date for discussion.

7. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Emerson

- Felt the signs advising of construction on north bound Los Alamitos Blvd., north of Katella Ave. are too general and wondered if signs that are more

specific to the work area could be erected. He said people will periodically ask him about upcoming projects in the City and it would be helpful if the Commission could know about these projects.

Following Mr. Mendoza's explanation as to the future infrastructure projects for the next 6 or so years from various utility companies, a long discussion ensued and it was determined that it would be useful for the Traffic Commission to see a construction plan of upcoming and future major construction projects. Also, a link will be added to the City web page that lists upcoming projects.

Commissioner Mejia

- Requested agendaizing looking at several ingresses and egresses of intersections/alleys such as: The signal controlled intersection of Katella Ave. and Cherry Street; Reagan Street and Kaylor Street; and the alley at Chase Bank. He said in his opinion there just isn't enough room for traffic in and out of these areas.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Biri

Unanimously Carried 6/0/0: The Traffic Commission directed Staff to agendaize for next month's meeting the signal controlled intersection of Katella Ave. and Cherry Street to see if there is something that can be done to make it a safer driveway.

Commissioner Wilhelm

- Regarding the alley behind the old Rite Aid store and parallel to Los Alamitos Blvd. where the "No Left Turn" from Farquhar Avenue is. He said he had the idea after traveling south bound in the alley, he discovered that those signs had been rotated and that they now discourage left turns from people exiting from the alley, that if the City doesn't want people making left turns on Farquhar Avenue from the alley, why not just erect some type of barrier along the lane line that separates east and west traffic? He envisions the white barrier posts that have just been placed on the on ramp to the 605 freeway. He said he felt that that would be the ultimate solution to the alley problem as then a person couldn't physically make those left turns.

Following a discussion among the Commission, it was determined that Commissioner Seaman had already requested agendaizing this item for a future meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:21 PM.