MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – June 14, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular meeting of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on June 14, 2017, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Patz presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners:
Chair Daniel Patz
Vice Chair Javier Mejia
Commissioner Dave Emerson
Commissioner Randall Hill
Commissioner Sallie Rodman
Commissioner Jason Seaman
Commissioner Elliot Singer

Absent: None

Present: Staff:
Development Services Director Steven Mendoza
Dave Hunt, Traffic Engineer
Captain Rick Moore, Police Department
Dawn Sallade, Temporary Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Singer.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

Chair Patz took a moment to congratulate Department Secretary Michelle Muller on the birth of her child and welcomed temporary Department Secretary Dawn Sallade back while Ms. Muller is on maternity leave as well as congratulated her on her retirement.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2017.

Commissioner Emerson pointed out that on page 3, paragraph 3 and 4, the word “Policies” should be replaced with the word “Actions.”

Motion/Second: Seaman/Singer
Carried 6/0/0 (Mejia abstained): The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of May 10, 2017, as amended.
6. STAFF REPORTS
   A. Continued Goal Setting Discussion of Actions 1.4, 4.1 and 5.8 from General Plan – Implementation Plan
      During the March meeting, the Traffic Commission requested an opportunity to have a goal setting session. The goal setting session was held during the May 10, 2017 meeting wherein the Commission selected Actions 1.4, 4.1 and 5.8 of the Mobility Element as their focus.

      Development Services Director Steven Mendoza summarized the Staff report, referring to the information contained therein and indicated he’s prepared to answer questions from the Commission.

      Action 1.4 – Signal Coordination. Improve signal coordination on arterials and, where feasible, in conjunction with neighboring jurisdictions.

      Chair Patz said one of the things the Commission has been trying to get the signals coordinated all the way down Los Alamitos Blvd. to Seal Beach Blvd. all the way from Cerritos to PCH. He said his understanding was that that was being worked on but is not sure where that is presently.

      City Engineer Dave Hunt explained that Seal Beach didn’t involve Los Alamitos but instead received funds from OCTA just for their city. He explained he told City Traffic Engineer Iranitalab to look at when the funding opportunities come up in September to try to receive funding for our City.

      Commissioner Emerson felt that having a Regional Traffic Commission to coordinate the signals between cities would carry more clout with the OCTA.

      Mr. Hunt reported that the OCTA engineers meet monthly or quarterly where all the Orange County City Traffic Engineers go to discuss traffic issues.

      Commissioner Emerson proposed having quarterly meetings with the four Traffic Engineers would be a good start. They would be from Los Alamitos, Cypress, Orange County/Rossmoor and Seal Beach.

      Responding to a question from the Commission, Mr. Hunt explained that the money that was in the 7-year CIP for grants, etc., was spent on the Blvd. Project. To apply for a grant for a traffic study would cost between $5,000 and $10,000.

      Commissioner Hill spoke about the synchronization of the lights on Florista and Cerritos and how can this be fixed.
Mr. Hunt explained that the Traffic Engineer is working on that but will have to find out what he has found out so far.

Commissioner Emerson proposed suggesting specifics for the Traffic Engineer to come back to the Commission with his staff report with suggestions of possibilities.

Chair Patz clarified that it has also been recommended to have the four Traffic Engineers from Los Alamitos, Cypress, Orange County and Seal Beach to meet quarterly.

Commissioner Singer asked if there is any relationship between traffic and the General Plan to develop a downtown. He further explained that developing a downtown is a big part of the General Plan and if there is a lot of money spent on signal light coordination or synchronization, how is that going to affect or not any plans for the downtown such as slowing down traffic.

Chair Patz explained that part of the General Plan discussion on the Blvd. was traffic calming and getting people to slow down so that they stop at the businesses and make use of the businesses so it's a little in conflict with the idea of insuring the traffic flow.

Vice Chair Mejia asked if it would make sense to do a traffic study for coordination soon or wait until the Blvd. project is done and the impact is shown at the point.

Mr. Mendoza answered that we should wait until after the project is done because any traffic count done now would be wrong.

It is the consensus of the Commission that the recommendations are as follows:

- City Traffic Engineers from Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Cypress and the County/Rossmoor should meet periodically to coordinate traffic flow and build a sense of working together.

- The Traffic Engineer will provide an inventory of what connectors exist.

Action 4.1 – Pedestrian and bicycle master plan. Create and implement a pedestrian and bicycle master plan to identify improvements, timing, and funding mechanisms. Coordinate with Rossmoor to determine how access to the Coyote Creek Bikeway could be improved.

Mr. Hunt indicated that a portion of the bike trail has just been paved and the asphalt removed.
Commissioner Hill asked what is it that we would hope to get by coordinating with Rossmoor to determine how to access the Coyote Creek bikeway.

Mr. Mendoza explained that the OC Loop is all around Orange County and includes Rossmoor. Orange County and OCTA have been doing a good job at marketing the Loop because it's a vision they have countywide to get these connectors going through. It’s hard to consider our bike trails and our access to Oak Street without Rossmoor.

Commissioner Singer brought up the fact that when talking about creating the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, we’re talking about much more than just the bike trail; it’s throughout the City.

In response to Chair Patz's question, Mr. Mendoza explained that last year the City applied for a grant to fund the Master Plan but wasn't approved in the first tier but moved to the second tier so SKAG has almost promised that in the next funding cycle, the City might get the money for that Plan. Mr. Mendoza explained the process for applying for the grant which is very involved. He indicated that he will share that application with the Commission so they understand what goes into a grant application. He also said he'll provide the Commission with a copy of the actual Bicycle Master Plan as well.

Vice Chair Mejia interjected that perhaps new businesses should be required to have a bicycle rack so bicycles won't be chained to trees, etc. so people that do ride their bicycles can have somewhat of a secure place where they can stop and walk the Blvd.

Commissioner Singer asked if it's legal for bicyclists to ride on the sidewalks in the City or are they relegated to the street at this time.

Police Captain Rick Moore indicated it is allowed.

Chair Patz proposed creating an Ad Hoc Committee of at least three volunteers from the Commission to look at possible bike lane paths in the City as it exists today and before grant money is awarded.

Commissioner Hill suggested the flood control channel on Farquhar to have one side used for walkers and one side for a bike path.

Vice Chair Mejia said he brought this up before but some cities have used those flood control access points as pedestrian and/or bike paths and he’s seen it done and they came out beautifully. He said he could come up with pictures if the Committee would like them. He suggested looking behind the high school as it wouldn’t take much to open that up to pedestrians.
and bikes. This will have to be coordinated with the County Flood Control District as well.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Rodman
Carried 7/0. Vice Chair Mejia made a motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee to take a look at the roadways within the City and the pathways within the City and come up with suggestions for possible bike paths for the future.

Chair Patz explained that the Ad Hoc Committee gets together and they decide when, how, where and often they want to meet. Mr. Mendoza will provide the materials and Mr. Hunt has volunteered to provide a colored copy of the maps as well.

Commissioners Singer, Emerson, Hill said they would volunteer to be on the Committee and Vice Chair Mejia said he would volunteer to be an alternate. It was agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee would meet and provide updates to the Commission each month.

Mr. Mendoza reiterated that he would provide a copy of a grant application as well as a copy of the actual bicycle master plan.

**Action 5.8 – Bicycle parking.** Identify opportunities for bicycle parking in the downtown, including the conversion of single parallel parking spaces along smaller side streets into on-street or curb-adjacent bicycle parking. Bike racks should serve as functional public art and can reflect the types of businesses or uses. Encourage employers to provide bike lockers for employees; consider amending the municipal code to count bicycle lockers (maximum number and quality threshold to be determined) toward the satisfaction of onsite and/or offsite employee parking requirements.

Commissioner Singer said he felt this Action goes hand in hand with Action 4.1 and should also be considered by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Chair Patz agreed and suggested the Ad Hoc Committee provide an update at each Commission meeting on how things are going.

**B. Traffic Commission Status Log**
This is a tracking tool used by the Commission to track assignments and accomplishments.

Mr. Mendoza reviewed the Status Log with the Commissioners, wrote down changes and will forward the changes to Traffic Engineer Farhad Iranitalab to update the log accordingly.
C. Four Month Review of Residential Parking Implemented in May 2016
Development Services Director Mendoza advised the Traffic Commission
that the Traffic data was taken right before Spring break, and he has
received it. He will provide it at next month's Commission meeting.

7. ITEMS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR
   A. Correspondence received
      Mr. Mendoza indicated there were two pieces of correspondence received
from residents and their suggestions will be added to the Traffic Status
Log.

   B. I-605 Flyer – Public Information Meeting on June 29, 2017.
      Mr. Hunt explained what the meeting will cover.

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS
   None.

9. ADJOURNMENT
   The Traffic Commission adjourned at 9:16 PM.

   Daniel Patz, Chair

   Attest:

   Dawn Sallade, Department Secretary