MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS  

REGULAR MEETING – April 10, 2019  

1. CALL TO ORDER  
The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on April 10, 2019 in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Vice Chair Patz presiding.  

2. ROLL CALL  
Present: Commissioners:  
Vice Chair Patz  
Coxhill, Rodman, Singer and West  

Absent:  
Chair Hill  
Commissioner Mejia  

Present: Staff:  
Chris Karrer, Captain  
Dave Hunt, City Engineer  
Farhad Iranitalab, Traffic Engineer  
Michelle Müller, Management Analyst  
Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary  

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Rodman.  

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION  
Vice Chair Patz opened the meeting for Oral Communications.  
The following condominium residents spoke in regards to agenda item 6B concerning a request for permit parking on Maple Street. The concerns expressed were the following:  

- Resident Debbie Orkin expressed concern over the inconvenience of having employees parking outside of their residence, in addition to the lack of parking enforcement.  
- Resident Mark Giraud expressed concern over people from the Medical Center parking outside of their residence. Mr. Giraud added that they have garage parking in the condominium complex but they are too small.  
- Resident Sammie expressed concern over the medical building employees utilizing street parking out of convenience, instead of using
the parking structure. Furthermore, she expressed concern over the
danger this poses for kids in the neighborhood.
- Resident Jocelyn expressed concern over the inconvenience of having
to park a distance away from her residence, as a result of there being
no available parking.
- Resident Julie expressed concern over the employees and visitors of
the senior facility utilizing parking outside of their residence, therefore
making no parking available to them.

Commissioner Singer inquired as to whether the situation has gotten worse or if
they have been this way for a long time; City Engineer Hunt advised that this item
will be discussed further under agenda item 6B.

There being no further speakers, Vice Chair Patz closed Oral Communications.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2019.**

Commissioner Rodman noted the following changes:
- Page 1, under Oral Communications – replace the word “whom” with
  “who”.
- Page 3, paragraph 4 – remove the verbiage at the end of the sentence
  reading, “are common anymore”.

Commissioner Rodman asked and received clarification from Management
Analyst Müller as to the item discussed on page 2, paragraph 3 regarding the
Traffic Commission’s discussion of the permit parking program in the Greenbrook
neighborhood.

Commissioner Singer asked and received clarification from Management Analyst
Müller regarding the April 10, 2019 Traffic Commission agenda item 6C concerning
The street sweeping signage around the Los Alamitos Medical Center.
Management Analyst Müller stated that several complaints were received from
more than one individual

Management Analyst Müller noted the following change:
- Page 2, Item 6A – remove and replace the staff report description to
  reference the correct staff report.

Motion/Second – Singer/Coxhill
Carried 5/0 (Hill and Mejia absent): The Traffic Commission approved the minutes
of the Regular meeting of March 13, 2019 with the noted corrections.
6. **STAFF REPORTS**  
A. **Traffic Signal Modification to Install Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) for Visually Impaired Pedestrian**  
A resident in Old Town West neighborhood requested installation of device for the visually impaired pedestrian to cross the intersection of Los Alamitos Boulevard and Florista Street.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab summarized the staff report.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab recommended the installation of the devices at all four corners despite it not being a requirement per the (MUTCD) standards.

Commissioner Coxhill asked and received clarification from Traffic Engineer Iranitalab regarding the cost encompassing the installation of the devices at all four corner for $12,000.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the following:
- The type of sound the devices will make.
- Whether the installation would be sufficient at just two corners instead of four.
- The absence of legal requirements to install this equipment.
- Whether it would be a nuisance to residents nearby.
- The approval of this request would place it on next year's budget to solicit bids.
- Bids cannot be solicited until funding becomes available.

Motion/Second: Singer/Coxhill  
Carried 5/0 (Hill and Mejia absent): The Traffic Commission voted to approve the installation of the visually impaired equipment on all four corners of Los Alamitos Boulevard and Florista Street.

B. **Request to add permit parking on Maple Street in the Apartment Row neighborhood**  
This is a request to consider permit parking area for a 6-unit condominium on Maple Street between Green Avenue and Katella Avenue.

City Engineer Hunt summarized the staff report.

Commissioner West asked and received confirmation from City Engineer Hunt, noting that the residents are only requesting permit parking in front of the condominiums, for those six residents.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the following:
• The length of Maple Street eligible for permit parking.
• The current process for permit parking program
• Whether other permit parking program permit holders would be able to utilize their permit to park in other permit parking neighborhoods. Any proposal to change to a different permit color, will require a change by way of a City Council approved resolution.
• The City's zoning in the area and what the parking requirements standards are. City Engineer Hunt advised that the Planning Division would have more information on this matter.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the City's attempts over the years to ensure the medical facilities' employees are parking on-site and not in the residential areas. Furthermore, City Engineer Hunt advised that the City cannot force facility employees to park on-site.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the existing programs in adjacent neighborhoods, and the potential consequence of approving this request and imposing a domino effect of other condominium complexes requesting permit parking.

Commissioner Singer asked and received clarification from resident, Ms. Orkin that the parking problem is worse during work hours since the parking structure was built [for the Los Alamitos Medical Center]. Additionally, Ms. Orkin advised that the problem extends into the alleyways and curbs, all while having an absence of parking enforcement.

Captain Karrer advised that the following efforts will be implemented as a way to help alleviate current parking impacts:
• Schedule a meeting with the Board of Directors [for the Los Alamitos Medical Center] to address employees not parking in their designated parking area.
• Increase parking enforcement in the area
• On-going enforcement of delivery trucks parking in the alley, by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Ms. Orkin stated that if permit parking is not granted to the condominiums residents, perhaps establishing a 2-hour parking restriction could be considered.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the possibility of establishing a 2-hour parking restriction during business hours. City Engineer Hunt advised that restricted parking requests have to go before the City Council for their review and consideration.
The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the following:

- The potential impact this approval would have to the surrounding streets, should this request be approved.
- Whether timed parking would be a favored proposal by City Council.
- Identified other areas in the City that have timed parking, and the absence of any of those being in front of residences.
- Whether the nursing home and other medical offices have regulations limiting the amount of employees [that can be employed]. City Engineer Hunt advised that parking regulations are set at the time that the business first initiates opening the establishment.

Motion/Second: Rodman/
Not Carried: Motion to direct staff to follow up on the permit parking request on Maple Street with consideration of other alternatives.

Motion/Second: Patz/Coxhill
Carried 5/0 (Hill and Mejia absent): Motion to deny the permit parking request on Maple Street; in addition, direct staff to work with the businesses in the area to have employees park in their designated areas; and, direct the Police Department to include additional enforcement on Maple Street to ensure vehicles are not parking in radius areas and blocking driveway entrances/exits.

A resident from the condominiums asked about the possibility of putting a “residential parking only” sign, only to serve the purpose of deterring parking; Vice Chair Patz advised that a sign cannot be installed if it cannot be enforced.

C. Street Sweeping Signage around the Los Alamitos Medical Center
Residents and visitors concerns over the lack of cleanliness of the streets surrounding the Los Alamitos Medical Center, initiated discussion to consider modifying the existing signage around the Medical Center.

Traffic Engineer Irantialab summarized the staff report.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the following:

- The proposed changes will make the situation less hectic.
- Whether the proposed changes will have the desired effect; Traffic Engineer Irantialab advised that the reduction of signs will lessen the confusion for drivers.
- The initiation of this process.
- Discussion of the existing location of signage on Reagan Street.
- Multiple signs will be combined on one pole.
- Whether street sweeping on Cherry Street is maintained by the City
- The reduction in the amount of poles and signs on the area.
Motion/Second: West/Coxhill
Carried 5/0 (Hill and Mejia absent): The Traffic Commission made a motion to approve to implement the recommended plan in the area bounded by: Los Alamitos Boulevard to Cherry Avenue and Catalina Street to Katella Avenue.

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

Commissioner Singer noted the following:

- Item A5 - requested a status on consideration of the request. Discussed changing the wording status on this item to read, "submitted request to the district and was denied. No further action at this time."
- Item F1 - revise the wording to say, "no further action required".

Commissioner Rodman noted the following:

- Item A26 - requested to have the item re-checked.
- Item D1- Revise to say pending or in progress.
- Item F6 - currently in progress.

7. ITEMS FROM THE CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Hunt informed the Traffic Commission of Department Secretary Michelle Müller promoting to Management Analyst; furthermore, introduced the new Department Secretary Maria Enciso.

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Vice Chair Patz shared that he and Chair Hill met with Development Services Director Johnson about the parking permit program with the City Council. He and Chair Hill will be leading a presentation at the next City Council Meeting and he requested Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Coxhill asked and received clarification from staff as to the "no right turn" sign on Hedwig, west of Los Alamitos Boulevard stating that it is within the jurisdiction of the County of Orange.

Commissioner Singer requested consideration to extend the "merge left sign" on Los Alamitos Boulevard (northbound) to be moved closer to Katella Avenue. Traffic Engineer Iranitalab advised that a work order will be submitted for this change.
Vice Chair Patz requested additional parking enforcement on Bloomfield Street and San Bonito Avenue on Mondays through Fridays to enforce “No Right Turn” during the hours of 7am to 9am.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
Motion/Second: Coxhill/Singer
Carried 5/0 (Hill/Mejia absent): The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until May 8, 2019.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Daniel Patz, Vice Chair

Attest:

Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary