
**CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission of the City of Laguna Hills, California, was called to order by Vice Chair Ed Rowe at 7:00 p.m. in the Laguna Hills City Council Chamber, 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chair Ed Rowe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Present: Ed Rowe, Vice Chair
 Steven Beeuwsaert, Commissioner
 Michael Caputo, Commissioner
 Rick Frazier, Commissioner
 Donald Froelich, Commissioner

Absent:

Staff Present: Humza Javed, Associate Civil Engineer; Luke South,
 Sergeant; Cindy Sands, Administrative Assistant

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Motion was made by Vice Chair Ed Rowe to open nominations to elect a new Chair. Commissioner Rick Frazier nominated Vice Chair Ed Rowe. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Donald Froelich. Nominations were closed. Vote was unanimous.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Motion was made by Chair Ed Rowe to open nominations to elect a new Vice Chair. Commissioner Rick Frazier nominated Commissioner Donald Froelich. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Michael Caputo. Nominations were closed. Vote was unanimous.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY VICE CHAIR DONALD FROELICH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RICK FRAZIER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2013, TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner Frazier, Vice Chair Froelich, and Chair Rowe
NOES:
ABSTAIN: Commissioners Beeuwsaert, Caputo

5. PRESENTATIONS

None

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

6.1 "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED" SIGN ON SOUTHERLY BOUND AVENIDA DE LA CARLOTA AT PASEO DE VALENCIA

Staff stated that a resident of Laguna Woods had contacted the City with concerns regarding traffic safety on southerly bound Avenida de la Carlota at Paseo de Valencia, and requested that the City install a "No Right Turn on Red" restriction. The resident's concern was that while making a right turn onto Paseo de Valencia from south bound Avenida de la Carlota there is inadequate sight distance to observe traffic exiting the I-5 southbound off-ramp. As a result of this concern, staff evaluated sight distance in accordance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the State Manual for Highway Design, and determined inadequate stopping sight distance does exist due to roadway curvature. A motorist along southbound Avenida de la Carlota turning right onto Paseo de Valencia needs to have a clear line of sight of a minimum of 250 feet towards the left prior to safely making the right turn. The existing condition only allows 180 feet; therefore, staff is recommending the installation of "No Right Turn on Red" signs on south bound Avenida de la Carlota at Paseo de Valencia.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER STEVEN BEEUWSAERT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MICHAEL CAPUTO, TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE

INSTALLATION OF TWO "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED" SIGNS ON
AVENIDA DE LA CARLOTA AT PASEO DE VALENCIA.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Beeuwsaert, Caputo, Frazier, Vice
Chair Froelich, and Chair Rowe

NOES:

ABSENT:

6.2 ANALYSIS OF VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN CONFLICT ALONG THE
SOUTHERLY CROSSWALK AT THE INTERSECTION OF PASEO DE
VALENCIA AT CALLE DE LA PLATA

Staff stated Ms. Ruth, a resident of the San Sebastian Apartments in Laguna Woods, had contacted the City with concerns regarding pedestrian safety along the southerly crosswalk at the intersection of Paseo de Valencia and Calle de la Plata. Staff reported that this concern was addressed at the Traffic Commission meeting of May 18, 2011. Staff also briefly reviewed the background information and history of the City's actions including the installation of "Turning Traffic Must Yield to Pedestrians" signs along westbound Calle de la Plata at Paseo de Valencia. Staff stated that additional concerns have been received in the past few months and as a result, a left-turn phasing analysis is underway. The analysis will review traffic and pedestrian activity and determine if a protected left-turn is warranted. Results of the analysis will be brought back to the Traffic Commission meeting of May 15, 2013. Staff is recommending that the Traffic Commission receive and file this report.

Ms. Laura Martinez, a resident of the San Sebastian Apartments, thanked the Traffic Commission for the opportunity and discussed her experiences and concerns regarding this intersection. Ms. Martinez is in favor of the installation of a "No Turn on Red" sign and left-turn phasing at this location.

Ms. Katrina Rasmussen, Community Director at San Sebastian Apartments, stated that she is familiar with the study performed in May 2011, and reported that at that time the complex was only 57% occupied with approximately 90 residents; however, they have now reached full capacity at 96.3% occupancy with approximately 194 residents. Ms. Rasmussen stated that she has received numerous complaints about pedestrian safety at this intersection and reported that a resident of the San Sebastian Apartments had been hit in the intersection last month.

Ms. Rasmussen strongly supports the initiative to have a protected left-turn and would support a “No Right Turn on Red” sign coming out of Wells Fargo.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FRAZIER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAPUTO, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THIS REPORT AND REVIEW THE ENGINEERING REPORT AT THE MEETING OF MAY 15, 2013.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Beeuwsaert, Caputo, Frazier, Vice Chair Froelich, and Chair Rowe

NOES:

ABSENT:

6.3 EQUESTRIAN TRAIL CROSSING EVALUATION UPDATE

Staff reported that this item is an evolving issue introduced to the Traffic Commission approximately one year ago. Staff also stated that the City Council, at its October 9, 2012 meeting, approved the formation of a staff organized Ad Hoc Committee. The General Manager of the Nellie Gail Ranch Owner's Association recommended five members of the community to serve on the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Crossing Ad Hoc Committee (Committee). The Committee has met with staff on five occasions and has selected eight priority trail crossing locations for review. Staff reported that one crossing location, Nellie Gail Road at Gallup Circle, has a traffic study scheduled for March 22nd and 30th. Staff will review pedestrian and traffic counts, sight distance, and accident history to determine the need for a multi-way stop sign, along with the option to shift the equestrian trail at this location. Staff will return to the Traffic Commission on May 15, 2013, with results of the analysis and additional recommendations. Staff is recommending that the Traffic Commission receive and file this report.

Commissioner Caputo inquired as to what the Committee is actually looking for in addition to the signs that are already posted. Staff reviewed the history of the City's actions dating back to 2007, at which time an Ad Hoc Committee performed a safety analysis and came up with a standard Equestrian Sign Package consisting of equestrian advanced signage, a sign at the actual crossing, horse crossing ahead striping, and yield lines at the actual crossing locations. The Equestrian Sign Package was installed at various locations based on comments from the Ad Hoc

Committee; however, some locations have been brought back to the City with concerns that the Equestrian Sign Package is inadequate at some locations. The Committee is now looking at each location individually to determine what improvements are needed to improve equestrian trail crossing safety.

Mr. Jim Anderson, a resident of the Nellie Gail Ranch community and member of the Ad Hoc Committee, addressed the Commission and stated that in his opinion traffic speed is also a concern that needs to be addressed.

Ms. Lulu Hallenbeck, a resident of the Nellie Gail Ranch community and member of the Ad Hoc Committee, addressed the Commission discussed and stated that the changes will not only be for equestrian safety but also for the safety of pedestrians. Ms. Hallenbeck also voiced her concerns regarding the speed of traffic in the community.

The Commission engaged in a discussion with staff regarding the various issues, options, and concerns regarding equestrian trail crossing safety.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FROELICH,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEEUWSAERT, TO RECEIVE
AND FILE THIS REPORT.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Beeuwsaert, Caputo, Frazier, Vice
Chair Froelich, and Chair Rowe

NOES:

ABSENT:

6.4 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2013-2015

Staff reported that the City is currently working on the Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2013-2015, and is updating its six-year Capital Improvement Project Budget. Staff requested that the Traffic Commission review the budget for street, signals, and lighting, and present any comments or suggestions to staff for presentation to City Council. Staff responded to Commissioner questions about the Capital Improvement Project Budget.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FRAZIER,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAPUTO, THAT TRAFFIC

COMMISSION REVIEW THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR STREET, SIGNALS, AND LIGHTING AND PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE 2013-2015 FISCAL YEARS.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Beeuwsaert, Caputo, Frazier, Vice Chair Froelich, and Chair Rowe

NOES:

ABSENT:

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 SPEEDING COMPLAINT ON TERRA BELLA AVENUE AT LA CUESTA AVENUE

Staff stated that a resident had expressed concerns about traffic speeds in the neighborhood of Terra Bella Avenue at La Cuesta Avenue. As a result of this concern, the City placed the radar trailer on Terra Bella Avenue on March 12, 2013, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Results determined that the 85th percentile speed was approximately 30 miles per hour which is typical for a residential neighborhood. The City informed the resident to contact the Sheriff's Department to report excessive speeding.

7.2 RADAR TRAILER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL/MAY

Staff briefly reviewed the use of the radar trailer and submitted the schedule for review by the Traffic Commission.

7.3 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VERBAL REPORT

Sergeant Luke South introduced himself to the Traffic Commission and reported he will be attending the Traffic Commission meetings on a regular basis.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Traffic Commission at this session, Chair Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. to the meeting of May 15, 2013.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Humza Javed, P.E.
Associate Civil Engineer

Donald Froelich
Vice Chair