
**CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission of the City of Laguna Hills, California, was called to order by Chair Rick Frazier at 7:02 p.m. in the Laguna Hills City Council Chamber, 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Pamela Dow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Present: Rick Frazier, Chair
Pamela Dow, Commissioner
Donald Froelich, Commissioner
Ed Rowe, Commissioner

Absent: Tim Hillis, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Humza Javed, Associate Civil Engineer; Tom Behrens, Chief of Police Services; Cindy Sands, Administrative Assistant

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ED ROWE, SECONDED BY CHAIR FRAZIER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2011, TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Dow, Froelich, Rowe, and Chair Frazier
NOES:
ABSENT: Vice Chair Tim Hillis

3. PRESENTATIONS

None

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 PROPOSED NO PARKING ANYTIME ZONES ON PLAZA POINTE DRIVE

Staff stated that this item was continued from the meeting of November 16, 2011, per request of the Traffic Commission, in order to give staff the opportunity to meet with Comfort Inn staff to address concerns regarding the likely loss of on-street parking. Staff has since met with Comfort Inn staff and performed multiple field evaluations and has identified three locations where No Parking Anytime Zones are advised in order to reduce conflicts with sight distance and traffic movements in accordance with the Highway Design Manual's Stopping Sight Distance Standard on Horizontal Curves. Staff is recommending that No Parking Zones be established on Plaza Pointe Drive at the following locations: (1) east side of Plaza Pointe Drive starting 200' south of Avenida de la Carlota to 145' southerly to the driveway; (2) east side of Plaza Pointe Drive from 180' north of South Pointe Drive for a length of 120' northerly to the driveway; and (3) west side of Plaza Pointe Drive from 160' north of South Pointe Drive for a length of 145' northerly to the driveway. Staff stated that 56% of Plaza Pointe Drive will still be available for parking between Avenida de la Carlota and South Pointe Drive.

Dr. Alex Naghibi, a member of the business community, stated that it is his opinion that a parking restriction for the entire area of Plaza Pointe Drive is necessary, particularly for semi-trucks, to ensure motorist safety.

Mr. Kevin Akash, a member of the business community (Comfort Inn representative), thanked the Traffic Commission and Mr. Javed for meeting with him last month to address his concerns and explain the issues and stated that he is in support of the current recommendation.

Mr. Mark Shafer, a member of the business community, stated his concerns regarding trucks obstructing the view and stated that it is his opinion that the recommendation needs to be expanded.

Mr. Nicholas Grossman, a member of the business community, stated that in his opinion the roadway is not wide enough to allow big rig truck parking and requested that the Commission ban the parking of trucks on Plaza Pointe Drive.

Mr. Kevin Olson, a member of the business community, stated that his business has been located on South Pointe Drive since 2004, and

reported that in his opinion the big rig trucks parked along Plaza Pointe Drive create a traffic safety hazard by causing cars to cross over the centerline to get past them. Mr. Olson stated that he would be in favor of a No Parking during Business Hours restriction on Plaza Pointe Drive.

The Commission engaged in a discussion with staff and business members regarding the various issues and options available to address the situation.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ROWE, SECONDED BY CHAIR FRAZIER, TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NO PARKING ZONES ON PORTIONS OF PLAZA POINTE DRIVE BETWEEN SOUTH POINTE DRIVE AND AVENIDA DE LA CARLOTA AND HAVE STAFF CONDUCT A FUTURE SURVEY OF THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AND REPORT BACK TO TRAFFIC COMMISSION AS APPROPRIATE.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Dow, Froelich, Rowe, Chair Frazier
NOES:
ABSENT: Vice Chair Hillis

4.2 PARKING CONTROLS SURVEY ANALYSIS IN THE MANDEVILLE DRIVE AREA NEIGHBORHOOD

Staff stated that this item is an evolving issue that was continued from the Traffic Commission meeting of November 16, 2011, per request of the Traffic Commission, to allow staff the opportunity to perform a final review of the parking control resident survey conducted on October 12, 2011. The Traffic Commission requested that staff analyze support for parking controls on a short segment of Mandeville Drive, from Moulton Parkway to approximately 500 feet easterly, and a portion of Santa Rosa Avenue, from Mandeville Drive to Alta Loma Court. The survey results revealed that 58% of the residents on that portion of Mandeville Drive are in support of permit parking and 11% of the residents on Santa Rosa are in support of a no overnight parking program or permit parking. It is staff's opinion that establishing a permit parking program on a short segment of Mandeville Drive could create a parking issue further east on Mandeville Drive or on Santa Rosa Avenue as vehicles will be forced to park elsewhere on the street to avoid the permit parking zone. Staff is working with the Crestline HOA to re-educate their residents about the permit parking program available to them on Gordon Road in an effort to create a

permanent solution to this parking issue. Staff is recommending that the Traffic Commission receive and file this report.

Ms. Karishma Tejawani, a resident of Mandeville Drive, stated that she is an advocate for permit parking on Mandeville Drive and requested that the Traffic Commission take into consideration the results of the survey which indicate 58% support for a permit parking program.

Ms. Cynthia Orel, a resident of Mandeville Drive, discussed her concerns and experiences with undesired on-street parking occurring on Mandeville Drive and stated that she is in support of a permit parking program.

The Commission engaged in a discussion with staff and residents regarding the various issues, concerns, and options available to address the situation.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FROELICH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOW, TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM ON MANDEVILLE DRIVE, FROM MOULTON PARKWAY TO 500 FEET EASTERLY, AND REQUESTED THAT STAFF MONITOR THE SITUATION.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Dow, Froelich, Rowe, Chair Frazier
NOES:
ABSENT: Vice Chair Hillis

4.3 SIGHT DISTANCE ANALYSIS AT SANTA VITTORIA DRIVE AND CAMINITO CRUZ

Staff stated that a resident had expressed concerns regarding sight distance constraints at the intersection of Santa Vittoria Drive and Caminito Cruz. As a result of this concern, staff requested that the City's Consulting Traffic Engineers of Hartzog & Crabill, Inc. perform a sight distance analysis at this intersection. Results determined that there is adequate sight distance only if on-street parking near the intersection is prohibited. In order to maintain proper sight distance, staff is recommending the establishment of a No Parking Anytime Zone on the west side of Santa Vittoria Drive, from 40 feet south of Caminto Cruz to 40 feet north of Caminito Cruz.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FROELICH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOW, TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NO PARKING ANYTIME ZONE ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF SANTA VITTORIA DRIVE FROM 40 FEET SOUTH OF CAMINITO CRUZ TO 40 FEET NORTH OF CAMINITO CRUZ.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Dow, Froelich, Rowe, Chair Frazier
NOES:
ABSENT: Vice Chair Hillis

4.4 MULTI-WAY STOP SIGN ANALYSIS AT SANTA VITTORIA DRIVE AT SAN REMO DRIVE

Staff stated that a request had been received from a resident to evaluate the need for a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Santa Vittoria Drive at San Remo Drive. As a result of this request, the City's Consulting Traffic Engineers of Hartzog & Crabill, Inc. performed an analysis of this intersection in accordance with the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Multi-Way Stop Applications. Results determined that this intersection does not meet the State standards for a multi-way stop sign control. Staff's recommendation is to receive and file this report.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ROWE, SECONDED BY CHAIR FRAZIER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THIS REPORT.

AYES: Commissioners Dow, Froelich, Rowe, Chair Frazier
NOES:
ABSENT: Vice Chair Hillis

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 RIDGE ROUTE DRIVE SPEED LIMIT

Staff stated that a letter had been received from residents of Laguna Woods Village with a request to reduce the speed limit on Ridge Route Drive from 45 mph to 35 mph in an effort to reduce traffic noise. Staff responded with a letter to the residents explaining that speed limit setting on California public streets is based upon State and Federal requirements,

and in the case of Ridge Route Drive, the speed limit was set at 45 mph based upon those specific factors and could not be lowered.

5.2 RESULTS OF THE MULTI-WAY STOP INSTALLATION ANALYSIS AT THE INTERSECTION OF SANTA MARIA AVENUE AT SAN REMO DRIVE- CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS

Staff stated that this report was prepared for the City of Laguna Woods and forwarded to the City as an informational item as San Remo Drive is the City boundary. Hartzog & Crabill, Inc. performed a multi-way stop warrant analysis at the intersection of Santa Maria Avenue at San Remo Drive per the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and determined that the installation of a multi-way stop was not warranted at this intersection.

5.3 TRAFFIC CONTROLS

Staff stated that this report is an informational item for use by the Traffic Commission which discusses the various “tools” available in the Traffic Control “toolbox” which the City uses when following the incremental approach to addressing traffic issues. Staff briefly reviewed the report and discussed the various traffic controls. Also included is an article prepared by Robert Kahn, a City consultant, discussing Roadway Striping as a Traffic Calming Option, and staff reported that this method was used on Mustang Drive with the centerline striping that was recently installed.

The Commission and staff engaged in a discussion regarding this item.

5.4 RADAR TRAILER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH

Staff submitted the planned schedule for deployment of the radar trailer and stated the Commission is welcome to make suggestions for other locations.

5.5 SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT VERBAL REPORT

Chief Behrens introduced himself to the Commission and discussed his background.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioner comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Traffic Commission at this session, Chair Frazier declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m. to the meeting of March 21, 2012.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Humza Javed, P.E.
Associate Civil Engineer

Rick Frazier
Chair