CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

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:

Chair Rick Frazier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS:

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

Absent:

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER TIM HILLIS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PAMELA DOW, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2011, TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Dow, Froelich, and Vice Chair Hillis
NOES:
ABSTAIN: Chair Frazier, Commissioner Rowe

3. PRESENTATIONS

None

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 ANALYSIS OF LEFT TURN DEMAND AND PEDESTRIAN CONFLICT AT THE INTERSECTION OF PASEO DE VALENCIA AT CALLE DE LA PLATA

Staff stated that this item was continued from the two previous Traffic Commission meetings and reported that two "Turning Traffic Must Yield to Pedestrians" signs have been installed per request of the Traffic Commission at its meeting of May 18, 2011. One sign is located in the median of Calle de la Plata westbound and the second is located on the traffic signal mast arm at Calle de la Plata at Paseo de Valencia. Staff reviewed the results of the traffic survey performed by Hartzog & Crabill, Inc. which determined that this location does not meet State standards for the implementation of left-turn traffic signal phasing. Staff is recommending that the Traffic Commission receive and file this report.

Ms. Jean Schulte, a concerned community member, stated that while she appreciates the additional signage, she still believes that left-turn phasing is needed at this intersection. Ms. Schulte expressed her opinion that driver's will not read the signage and commented that she feels the sign located on the traffic signal mast arm would be more visible placed on the smaller traffic signal pole.

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FROELICH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOW, TO RECOMMEND THE CONTINUANCE OF THIS ITEM TO THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2011, IN ORDER TO GIVE THE COMMISSIONERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE CROSSWALK AND SIGNAGE AND GIVE STAFF THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE INCREMENTAL PROCESS AND COME BACK WITH AN ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Dow, Froelich, and Row, Chair Frazier
NOES: Vice Chair Hills
ABSENT:

4.2 TRAFFIC CONTROL ON MUSTANG DRIVE

This item is an evolving issue addressed at the three previous Traffic Commission meetings and staff briefly reviewed the background information and history of the City's actions including the installation of additional signage. Per request of the Traffic Commission, staff conducted a survey of 38 residents along Mustang Drive, from Nellie Gail Road to Appaloosa Place, to seek their input on the proposed installation of yellow "skip" centerline striping. Of those surveys, 22 were returned with 18 residents in agreement that there is a traffic speeding problem on Mustang Drive and 13 indicating support of the installation of centerline striping. Staff reported that radar trailer was placed on Mustang Drive on September 7, 2011, and the results indicated an average speed of 25.34 miles per hour, an 85th percentile of 30 miles per hour, one vehicle at 41 miles per hour, one vehicle at 39 miles per hour, and two vehicles at 38 miles per hour. Staff is recommending installation of yellow "skip" centerline striping along Mustang Drive from Nellie Gail Road to Appaloosa Place.

Mr. Norm Dangelo, a resident of Mustang Drive, stated that although he has some reservations regarding the yellow "skip" centerline striping he does believe there is some merit to "narrowing" the roadway in terms of perception and agrees that additional enforcement should be continued.

Mr. Michael Klister, a resident of Mustang Drive, stated that he opposes the use of radar speed enforcement on Mustang Drive and also presented a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Wilner, residents of Mustang Drive, also stating their opposition to the use of this enforcement on Mustang Drive.

Dr. Cynthia McMullin, a resident of Bootstrap Place, stated that she is opposed to the installation of centerline striping as she believes it will take away from the ranch style community and requested that other options be reviewed. Dr. McMullin also read a letter from Ms. Mary King, a resident of Red Corral Road, which expressed opposition to traffic enforcement.

Ms. Pam Klister, a resident of Mustang Drive, stated that she opposes the use of traffic enforcement on Mustang Drive.

The Commission engaged in discussions with staff and residents regarding the various issues and options available to address the situation.

MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR HILLIS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOW, TO: (1) RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE INSTALLATION OF YELLOW "SKIP" CENTERLINE STRIPING ALONG MUSTANG DRIVE FROM NELLIE GAIL ROAD TO APPALOOSA PLACE; (2) CONTINUED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT; AND (3) CONTINUED USE OF THE RADAR TRAILER.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4.3 PARKING CONTROLS SURVEY WITH THE MANDEVILLE DRIVE AREA NEIGHBORHOOD

Staff stated that this is an evolving issue which was presented to the Traffic Commission on July 20, 2011, due to concerns voiced by residents of the Mandeville Drive neighborhood regarding undesired on-street parking along Mandeville Drive and the adjacent streets coming from the Crestline Homeowners Association development. Staff reported that City Council approved a No Parking Anytime red curb zone on the north side of Mandeville Drive from Moulton Parkway to the drive approach of 24441 Mandeville Drive and parking control surveys were conducted in the two neighborhoods adjacent to the Crestline development. Staff reviewed the results of the two surveys and reported that the overall survey response was fifty-three percent. Staff is recommending that this item be continued to the meeting of November 16, 2011, in order to allow staff the opportunity to advise all residents of the outcome of the first survey and request a final "vote" indicating their parking control preferences.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAIR FRAZIER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FROELICH, TO RECOMMEND THE CONTINUANCE OF THIS MATTER TO THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2011.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4.4 EVALUATION OF TRAFFIC SPEEDS ON LAGUNA HILLS DRIVE

Staff stated that a resident had expressed concerns about traffic speeds on Laguna Hills Drive. As a result of this concern, staff requested that the City's Consulting Traffic Engineers of Hartzog & Crabill, Inc. perform a traffic analysis along Laguna Hills Drive between Moulton Parkway and Paseo de Valencia. Results determined that the 85th percentile speed was approximately 48.8 miles per hour in the morning and 51.6 miles per hour in the afternoon. These results are not considered to be excessive on an arterial highway with a 45 mile per hour posted speed limit. Staff is recommending increased traffic enforcement as resources allow especially during the peak evening hours.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DOW, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR FRAZIER, TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL INCREASED POLICE ENFORCEMENT FOR SPEED ISSUES ON LAGUNA HILLS DRIVE FROM PASEO DE VALENCIA TO MOULTON PARKWAY.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 RADAR TRAILER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

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

5.2 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VERBAL REPORT

Chief Doan stated there are two new motor officers currently in training and should be on the streets in a couple of weeks.

5.3 PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT VERBAL UPDATE

Staff gave a brief report on Public Services Department projects including the I-5/La Paz Road Widening, Avenida de la Carlota Widening, and reported that the Taj Mahal is making major improvements and Ashley Furniture has submitted plans for major redevelopment of the Circuit City site.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Frazier stated that he was impressed by the I-5/La Paz Road Widening Update information mailed to residents.

Commissioner Froelich requested that additional information regarding new traffic calming/control devices be presented at the next meeting.

Commissioner Rowe stated that he is impressed with the level of responsiveness the City provides when addressing traffic complaints.

Commissioner Hillis commented about the new striping on Oso Parkway between the I-5 and Cabot Road in regards to the three through lanes, the added left turn lane for south on Cabot, and the dedicated right turn only lane for Cabot Road coming off of the freeway. Staff stated that the City has received other comments and Caltrans has been informed. Commissioner Rowe suggested the possibility of a problem with the advance signing as ineffective signage when exiting the freeway.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Traffic Commission at this session, Chair Frazier declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. to the meeting of November 16, 2011.

Prepared by:

Humza Javed, P.E.
Associate Civil Engineer

Approved by:

Rick Frazier
Chair