
**CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Herman.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Present: Chair Len Herman, Vice Chair Chris Mackey, Commissioner Chris Bieber, Commissioner Larry Woodruff.

Absent: Commissioner Anna Lisa Lukes

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roy Waltze, a resident, spoke regarding speeding vehicle noise pollution along Alicia Parkway.

2. MINUTES

THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2019, REGULAR MEETING, BY M/COMMISSIONER WOODRUFF, S/COMMISSIONER BIEBER.

APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0, COMMISSIONER LUKES ABSENT.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 PRESENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE 5 WIDENING PROJECT FROM STATE ROUTE 73 TO EL TORO ROAD

Mr. Niall Barrett, Program Manager at Orange County Transportation Authority, presented an overview of the Interstate 5 Widening Project from SR-73 to El Toro Road. Spanning approximately 6.5 miles, this freeway improvement project will increase capacity and improve operations. The project will deliver a new general-purpose lane in each direction, enhance carpool lanes, improve ramps and reconstruct interchanges, including La Paz Road. The project is part of Measure M.

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4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 REVIEW OF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ON LINDA VISTA DRIVE

Associate Civil Engineer Amber Shah indicated Staff was contacted regarding concerns of vehicular speeding on Linda Vista between Largo Drive/Creek Drive and Sarita Drive. Staff initiated a review of vehicular speeds and the traffic collision history on Linda Vista Drive.

The Traffic Engineers of Hartzog and Crabill, Inc., performed the review. The results of the study determined the 85th percentile speeds on Linda Vista Drive were 27.9 mph west of Alisal Avenue and 29.3 mph east of Alisal Avenue, respectively. Staff's experience has found the typical prevailing speed range for such streets to be between 32 and 34 mph, without traffic safety concerns. The 85th percentile speeds were below this range. The traffic count data determined the 24-hr volumes were low for a typical residential street of this character, and the five-year traffic collision review found no traffic collisions had been reported during this time. Due to the results of the study, no action was recommended.

Jeffrey Erskine, a resident, spoke regarding the traffic study methodology, results, and vehicular speeds.

Patrick Pollock, a resident, spoke regarding vehicular speeds in the neighborhood.

Patrick Scott, a resident, spoke regarding vehicular speeds in the neighborhood.

**THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECEIVED AND FILED THE REPORT.
BY M/COMMISSIONER WOODRUFF, S/COMMISSIONER BIEBER.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0, COMMISSIONER LUKES ABSENT.**

**4.2 EVALUATION OF CITYWIDE SCHOOL ZONES AND SCHOOL CROSSING
SIGNAGE AND STRIPING**

Associate Civil Engineer Amber Shah, indicated Staff initiated a field evaluation of all (citywide) school zones and school crossing signage and striping to determine steps needed to meet current standards at Laguna Hills High School, Lomarena Elementary School, New Vista School (private school), San Joaquin Elementary School and Valencia Elementary School. Staff was also contacted by a resident with concerns regarding school aged pedestrian access to Lomarena Elementary School. Due to the resident's concern, Staff initiated a separate analysis of crossing guard needs in that area.

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The Traffic Engineers of Hartzog & Crabill, Inc., completed a field evaluation of the existing school zones and school crossing signage and striping at the five schools and their respective surrounding streets up to an approximate 2800' radius from each school for upgrades, replacements and other recommendations to meet current standards in accordance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (CA MUTCD).

Based upon the field review, a total of eleven crosswalk intersection striping upgrades, twenty-eight sign replacements and nine new signs were recommended for installation on the streets adjacent to Laguna Hills High School, Lomarena Elementary School, San Joaquin Elementary School and Valencia Elementary School. The signage at New Vista School was determined to be appropriate for this location.

**THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECEIVED AND FILED THE REPORT.
BY M/COMMISSIONER WOODRUFF, S/VICE CHAIR MACKEY.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0, COMMISSIONER LUKES ABSENT.**

4.3 EVALUATION OF LOMARENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADULT CROSSING GUARD LOCATIONS

Associate Civil Engineer Amber Shah, indicated Staff was contacted by a resident with concerns regarding students walking to Lomarena Elementary school and crossing residential streets southerly of the school without adult crossing guards. Staff initiated a review of school walking patterns during the morning and afternoon peak-hour school times to collect data required by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) on adult crossing guard criteria and to determine if the standards are met for the deployment of additional adult crossing guards.

The Traffic Engineers of Hartzog and Crabill, Inc., (HCI) completed the review of the streets southerly of Lomarena Elementary School on 1) Grissom Road, between Wilkes Place and Los Bolsas, 2) Mawson Drive, between Wilkes Place and Las Bolsas, and 3) Velasquez Road, between Mawson Drive and Earhart Road.

The school pedestrian counts determined there were 12 pedestrians crossing during the morning peak-hour and 24 pedestrians crossing during the afternoon peak-hour at the intersection of Velasquez Road and Mawson Drive. The pedestrian counts did not satisfy the criteria of 40 school pedestrians for each of the two hours. The traffic volumes during these hours also fell below the criteria of 350 vehicles for each of the two hours at an uncontrolled crossing.

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The pedestrian counts at the intersection of Velasquez Road at Earhart Road, a four-way stop sign controlled intersection, did exceed the criteria of 40 pedestrians per each of the two hours with 114 pedestrians during the morning peak-hour and 116 pedestrians during the afternoon peak-hour. However, the traffic volumes, at 115 vehicles and 231 vehicles, respectively, did not satisfy the criteria of 500 vehicles for each of the two hours at a stop sign controlled crossing.

There were no school pedestrian crossings observed at or near the intersections of Mawson Drive at Wilkes Place or Mawson Drive at Las Bolsas.

Ms. Shah indicated none of the intersections reviewed satisfied the criteria for an adult crossing guard. No action was recommended in response to this data.

Ms. Shah indicated, independently, the Sheriff's Department was working with the Principal of Lomarena Elementary school regarding traffic control concerns in front of the school, along Earhart Road.

Nathan Gibbs, a resident, spoke in favor of additional traffic controls at the intersections reviewed in the report.

Melissa Benes, a resident, spoke in favor of additional traffic controls.

Patrick Scott, a resident, spoke in favor of additional traffic controls.

Calista Gibbs, a student of Lomarena Elementary school, spoke in favor of additional traffic controls.

Felisa Gibbs, a resident, spoke in favor of additional traffic controls.

**THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECEIVED AND FILED THE REPORT.
BY M/VICE CHAIR MACKEY, S/COMMISSIONER BIEBER.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0, COMMISSIONER LUKES ABSENT.**

4.4 2019 TRAFFIC FLOW MAP

Ms. Shah indicated the City performs a 24-hour two-way traffic volume survey every two years in order to measure traffic flow and patterns throughout the City. The City's Traffic Engineering Consultants, Hartzog and Crabill, Inc., recently completed the 2019 Traffic Flow Map based upon the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) count for the arterials and collector streets in the City.

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**THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECEIVED AND FILED THE REPORT.
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APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0, COMMISSIONER LUKES ABSENT.**

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VERBAL REPORT

Sergeant McFatridge indicated the Sheriff's Department was aware of the issues at Lomarena Elementary School, the increased traffic volumes on Santa Vittoria Drive, and the issues on Linda Vista Drive. Sergeant McFatridge said the Sheriff's Department had adjusted their traffic enforcement, and were actively enforcing those areas, along with the areas mentioned on the agenda.

5.2 RADAR SPEED TRAILER

Staff submitted the schedule for the radar trailer.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner Comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Traffic Commission at this session, Chair Herman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Prepared By:

Amber Shah, P.E.
Associate Civil Engineer

Approved By:

Chair Len Herman