

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2012**

The Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting was held in Conference Room A at the Department of Public Works (DPW) Headquarters.

1) Call to Order

The meeting of March 7, 2012, was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

10) Unfinished Business (taken out of order)

Update on Salais Street:

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that the Board of Supervisors passed the resolution requesting the change in classification of Salais Street and Winton Avenue as required by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), on January 31, 2012. She stated that DPW compiled the package of necessary documents and a cover letter to start the reclassification process. Once that package has been finalized and submitted to Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration will review it.

Update on 74th Street at Alameda Street:

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that DPW looked into the concern Mr. Cardenas mentioned at the October 5, 2001, HSC meeting regarding the possible installation of "KEEP CLEAR" pavement markings on Alameda Street at its intersection with 74th Street. DPW investigated this and determined that "KEEP CLEAR" pavement markings would not be appropriate at this time and are not recommended. DPW stated that DPW would continue to monitor this intersection in the future.

Update on Sexual Discrimination Refresher Course, Ethics Refresher Course and Traffic Commissioner's Workshop for Commissioners:

Ms. Guilmette stated she is working with DPW's Administrative Staff to determine whether the HSC can take their Sexual Discrimination and Ethics Refresher courses in a classroom situation as opposed to the online Learning Network Training available.

Assistant Deputy Dean Lehman informed the HSC that he and Deputy Director Pat DeChellis would be attending the Traffic Commissioner Workshop on March 17, 2012, and would like to invite all commissioners of the HSC to take the workshop if they were interested.

6) Crossing Guard Update (taken out of order)

Ms. Guilmette informed the HSC that during the 5-month period since the October 5, 2011, HSC meeting, DPW had received one new request for the crossing guard program. The total number of locations with crossing guard service is 209. She stated to please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 209 locations is 214, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

The HSC received and filed this information.

5) Citizen Appeal of denied request by DPW

a) Denial of multiway stop control on McDonnell Avenue and Strang Street

Appellant: Mr. Agustin Estrada

Mr. Leo Gallegos provided a power point presentation to the HSC in regards to a request for a multi-way stop control on McDonnell Avenue at Strang Street. During this presentation, Mr. Guillermo Gonzales translated everything Mr. Gallegos presented into Spanish so that he could understand the presentation. Mr. Gallegos informed the HSC that DPW did the following:

- ◆ Counted the number of vehicles and pedestrians at this intersection.
- ◆ Measured the speed of vehicles.
- ◆ Reviewed the reported collision data.
- ◆ Observed pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Mr. Gallegos presented the following existing conditions on McDonnell Avenue and Strang Street:

- ◆ North/south local roadway
- ◆ 40 feet in width
- ◆ Two way street with no centerline striping, parking is permitted on both sides of the street

- ◆ Posted Speed Limit–**25 mph**
- ◆ 85TH Percentile Speed (Measured using Radar) - **33 mph**
- ◆ Average Daily Traffic – **1,787 Veh/Day**

Mr. Gallegos stated the following conditions exist on Strang Street:

- ◆ East/west local roadway
- ◆ 40 feet in width
- ◆ 2 way street with no centerline striping, parking is permitted on both sides of the street
- ◆ Speed Limit – **posted speed limit of 25 mph**
- ◆ Average Daily Traffic – **1,146 Veh/Day**
- ◆ Strang Street is stop-controlled at McDonnell Avenue

Mr. Gallegos stated there are 4 warrants that are used to consider a multi-way stop control for residential neighborhood streets and they are:

1. Minimum Volume Warrant
2. Accident Experience Warrant
3. Visibility Warrant
4. Speed Warrant

Mr. Gallegos summarized the Minimum Warrant in the following table:

| | Minimum | Measured | % Satisfied |
|---|---------|----------|-------------|
| Average Vehicles Per Hour + pedestrians per hour entering the intersection during 7th highest hours <u>A</u> | 270 | 199 | 74% |
| Average Vehicles Per Minor street + pedestrians per hour crossing major street during same 7th highest hours <u>B</u> | 90 | 57 | 63% |

Mr. Gallegos summarized the Accident Experience Warrant as follows:

| 12-month Period From 09/01/2009 Thru 09/30/2011 | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|---|---------------|---|----------|
| | | | | | | Required |
| Right Angle: | 0 | + Left Turn: | 0 | + Pedestrian: | 0 | = 0 |
| | | | | | | 3 |

| 24-month Period From 09/01/2008 Thru 09/30/2011 | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|---|---------------|---|----------|
| | | | | | | Required |
| Right Angle: | 0 | + Left Turn: | 0 | + Pedestrian: | 1 | = 0 |
| | | | | | | 4 |

Mr. Gallegos stated that regarding the visibility, the sight distance from all approaches was observed to be adequate for the prevailing traffic conditions, with an 85th percentile speed of 33 mph. Mr. Gallegos stated none of the multiway stop controls were warranted as summarized in the following table:

| Warrant | Satisfied | Not Satisfied |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Minimum Volume | | X |
| Accident Experience | | X |
| Visibility Warrant | | X |
| Speed Warrant | | X |

Mr. Gallegos stated that since none of the warrants were met, DPW denied the request for multiway stop controls.

Mr. Gallegos stated that DPW also conducted a speed hump study on McDonnell Avenue between 3rd Street and Eagle Street. Mr. Gallegos informed the HSC that in accordance with the guidelines set by the County of Los Angeles, the installation of speed humps requires that all of the following conditions be met:

- ◆ The roadway be classified as "local" roadway
- ◆ Have between 500-2000 vehicles/day
- ◆ Not a public transit route
- ◆ Cannot have a grade greater than 8%
- ◆ Cannot be greater than 40 feet in width
- ◆ The 85th Percentile speed must be greater than 35mph

Mr. Gallegos informed the HSC that the 85th percentile speed on McDonnell Avenue is 33 mph, which is less than the required 85th percentile speed of 35 mph. The average daily traffic was 1787 veh/day. Mr. Gallegos stated that since the 85th percentile speed was lower than what is required, the installation of speed humps is not recommended.

Mr. Gallegos stated the following improvements were done as a result of this study:

- ◆ Installed 25 mph speed limit signs and pavement markings on McDonnell Avenue south of 4th Street and north of Eagle Street.
- ◆ Requested California Highway Patrol (CHP) enforcement and placement of speed trailer on McDonnell Avenue.
- ◆ Moved the “pedestrian crossing” sign closer to the existing crosswalk at McDonnell and Strang Street.
- ◆ Installed red curb on the east side McDonnell Avenue just south of Strang Street to increase the visibility of pedestrians using the crosswalk.

3) Roll Call (out of order)

Chair Ringler took a brief moment to officially take roll call for a vote in a motion.

Present: Chair Robert A. Ringler
Vice-Chair Thurston Reese
Commissioner Greg Knapp
Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos

Absent: Commissioner Rhett Price (excused)
Commissioner Marvin Estey (excused)
Commissioner John Watkins (excused)

Also in attendance were the following:

Dean Lehman, Assistant Deputy Director; Scott Schales, Assistant Division Engineer; James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer; Guillermo Gonzalez, Associate Civil Engineer; Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant; and Leo Gallegos, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant.

5) Citizen Appeal of denied request by DPW (resumed)

- a) Denial of multiway stop control on McDonnell Avenue and Strang Street

Appellant: Mr. Agustin Estrada

After hearing the testimony from DPW, Mr. Juan Estrada, the appellant's son, spoke on behalf of his father Mr. Agustin Estrada. Mr. Estrada asked Mr. Gallegos what time his observations were conducted. Mr. Gallegos informed him between 9:00 am and 11:00 am and between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Mr. Estrada mentioned that McDonnell Avenue is a long stretch of roadway with no stop signs in between and that people speed in the evening. At this point, Assistant Deputy Director Lehman informed Mr. Estrada that stop signs are not a traffic calming device and that if stop signs were installed where they are not warranted, they could increase rear end collisions. Mr. Lehman reminded Mr. Estrada that 25 mph speed limit signs and pavement markings have been installed on McDonnell Avenue to remind motorists of the speed limit. He also mentioned that a speed trailer will be deployed to deter people from speeding.

Mr. Estrada stated he has lived in this neighborhood for 33 years and he is happy to hear that the speed trailers will be deployed. Commissioner Knapp mentioned that the numbers presented in the presentation are evidence that the stop sign warrants are not met. He said that regarding speed humps, the fire department does not like them. Mr. Estrada stated he agreed with the study and believed that the radar trailer should help.

Commissioner Villalobos thanked Mr. Gallegos for his presentation and Mr. Estrada for attending the meeting. He also stated that the study indicated stop signs aren't warranted and that stop signs are not installed to control speeding. Commissioner Villalobos also mentioned that there is a school nearby and that due to the METRO's installation, traffic patterns in the area have changed and that many people are using McDonnell Avenue as a by-pass route to avoid traffic in other areas. Commissioner Villalobos asked DPW to monitor the location after the radar trailer has been deployed. Commissioner Knapp asked DPW to make future pedestrian observations during school hours when children are on their way to school.

Commissioner Villalobos asked if red curb could be installed north of the intersection.

Mr. Gallegos stated that if a person were to pull out slightly in front of the stop bar, they could see and that installation of red curb was not necessary. Mr. Estrada stated that Mr. Gallegos was correct and the neighbors would be upset if they lost more parking. Mr. Lehman asked Mr. Estrada if there was a large need for parking in the area and Mr. Estrada stated it was packed with vehicles at night.

Mr. Estrada stated they just needed more law enforcement of the speeding. Mr. Lehman suggested that all community members report collisions and Mr. Estrada stated that they won't because they are afraid they will be asked of their legal status. Mr. Estrada gave a multi-way stop petition signed by members of the community to Ms. Guilmette to be filed with the HSC. Chair Ringler asked if there was a motion. Commissioner Knapp made the following motion:

- 1) Approve DPW's recommendation to deny request for multiway stop controls at the intersection of McDonnell Avenue and Strang Street, and to have DPW recommend CHP deploy radar speed trailer on McDonnell Avenue in the vicinity of Strang Street.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Villalobos asked if the community had been informed of the meeting through a mailing list. Ms. Guilmette informed Commissioner Villalobos that per the Brown Act, a copy of the Agenda for the meeting had been posted, that a notice of the meeting is posted on the internet and that the appellant had received a letter informing him of the meeting. The HSC discussed whether or not mailers should be sent out in the future to members of the community about the meeting. It was determined that this should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- 4) Approval of October 5, 2011, Meeting Minutes (out of order)

The Minutes of the October 5, 2011, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

- 7) Public comments on any matter not on the agenda (back to regular order)

There were no comments on matters not on the agenda.

- 8) Reports from special committees

There were no special committee announcements.

9) Special orders

There were no special orders.

11) New Business

Ms. Guilmette stated there was no new business.

12) Date for next meeting announced and adjournment (Item 11)

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 4, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE
Executive Officer
Highway Safety Commission

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