

**CITY OF SAN MARINO
TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

October 16, 2017

7:00 p.m.

City Hall

2200 Huntington Drive

San Marino, CA 91108

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Chang called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Chair Chang

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Chair Chang, Commissioner's Doo, Lo, Suetsugu, and Alternate Braxton

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Crowley

City Officials Present: Chief John N. Incontro, Ruth Smith, Michael Throne

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mike Placido –Expressed Traffic Concern on Garfield and Monterey Road - Spoke in regards to North Bound traffic traveling on Garfield at Monterey Road. Mr. Placido regularly runs through that intersection and complained that cars traveling northbound do not see him and he has had several close calls where vehicles nearly collided into him. He had gone to South Pasadena and they indicated it was an issue for the City of San Marino. Discussion ensued and Commissioner Suetsugu stated he knew of the intersection and suggested that San Marino and South Pasadena conduct a joint meeting. Mentioned that in 2013 this item was discussed where bulb outs were considered. Suggested having Mr. Placido setting up a meeting since this was a South Pasadena item. Chair Chang indicated this particular intersection falls in both San Marino's and South Pasadena's jurisdiction and we should work in conjunction with South Pasadena to find a resolution. Chief Incontro stated it would be easy to contact South Pasadena and would provide enforcement at the location as well.

Alternate Braxton asked for clarification on the direction of vehicles traveling at this intersection. Mr. Placido stated the hazard occurs when vehicles are traveling to the Southeast corner crossing over to the West. The problem begins from San Marino to South Pasadena. Commissioner Doo inquired as to what there was on that particular corner. Mr. Placido stated there are four residential properties. As the discussion concluded, Chair Chang indicated this item would be taken into consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 2017:** Commissioner Lo stated the there are two items that need to be corrected. 1- Related to the Commissioner Reports traffic on St. Albans Northbound and left turn on Huntington /Huntington Drive going Southbound. 2- New business for today's Agenda traffic concern at St. Albans North side of Huntington going Southbound. Commissioner Suetsugu stated the Public Comments should be corrected to indicate Pam Eamranond of Cross Fit Pasadena. Chair Chang stated we need to correct page five, fifth paragraph down to exclude sentence which was not supposed to be there. Commissioner Suetsugu made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Doo. Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **TRAFFIC CONCERN AT ST ALBANS NORTH SIDE OF HUNTINGTON DRIVE GOING SOUTH BOUND:** Ruth Smith reported that she went out today during peak hours and noticed traffic is backed up about a block on St Albans north of Huntington Drive She further indicated that the phase signaling may not be operating properly. Parks and Public Works Director, Michael Throne will look into the problem and determine if re-timing the signals will resolve the problem. A discussion amongst the Commissioners began with various questions concerning the right turn lane and if volume was an issue. Ruth Smith indicated she did not know the history of that particular area. Parks and Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated they can visit the area and determine the situation. Ruth Smith stated there are only two or three cars coming through the intersection. It is more noticeable during the afternoon hours when more vehicles are turning left from St Albans onto Huntington Drive. Commissioner Suetsugu inquired if it is possible to do peak extensions and non-peak cycles reviews along with determining if the County can change the timing of the signals. Ruth Smith stated it depends on what equipment is inside the signal pole. Chair Chang requested a follow up from Staff.

OLD BUSINESS

3. **UPDATE OF WINSTON AVENUE AND CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD SAFETY ANALYSIS:** Chief Incontro stated this item was discussed with our Parks & Public Works Director, Michael Throne. The intersection experienced another traffic collision last week and that the collisions have a pattern for cause and that they have been consistent at the location It was determined that signs will be installed warning about cross traffic and Park and Public Works Director, Michael Throne will change the position of the signal lens for eastbound California East of Winston. Park & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated he observed that people are not looking at the intersection and instead looking at the signal. The change of lens position or programmed visibility will be used to cause traffic to slow since traffic will not be able to see the signal until they are closer to the intersection, this is a common traffic engineering method. An estimate for the signs and the use of programmed visibility will be determined by Staff and provided to the TAC. Chief Incontro stated between the three Staff personnel we have spent a tremendous amount of time at that intersection. We have two residents here from that intersection. Placing a Stop Sign at the location is not feasible due to the short distance between Sierra Madre and Santa Anita. We are considering a variety of methods to correct the problem.

Park & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated that a resident at the Northeast corner of the intersection was asked and complied with the City's request to cut the hedge on his property at Winston and California. Commissioner Lo inquired as to what exactly a driver sees at night with programmed visibility. Are there any streets that have these types of traffic signals close to San Marino? Park & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated program visibility is to direct the signal light in a downward position reducing the distance for a driver to see the signal and causing them to be more aware of the driving conditions and possibly reduce their speed. This can contribute to reducing some of the more common rear end collisions at this intersection. The signal is visible during both the day time and night hours. Chief Incontro stated there are signals on Glenarm in Pasadena and Santa Monica Boulevard in Beverly Hills that are similar. Chair Chang asked if this needs to go to City Council or if we can do this. Park & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated if our Traffic Engineer states we can change out the signal, then we do not need to go to City Council. Chief Incontro stated we will move forward with signage and move forward with converting the traffic signal. However, we may need to bring it to City Council if the cost exceeds a certain amount requiring Council action.

Curtis Jung (California & Winston) – Thanked Staff for making progress and stated there were two accidents that had occurred since May 2017. He appreciated that we are putting in signs but stated this needs to be done sooner than later. Alternate Braxton stated that he had experience driving on California and was concerned about traveling northbound on Winston to West at California due to the pine trees making it difficult to see and obstructing traffic. Commissioner Suetsugu stated it is driver inattentiveness at these intersections. We can solve these issues by placing signage at the intersection. Chief Incontro stated we addressed this last year or even longer where the bushes were trimmed back. We will talk to Code Enforcement to see what the appropriate measure is for the South West Corner. One of the items that could help us are the Speed feedback signs. We will look into this during our 2018-2019 budget cycle and see if grants are available.

Henry Eng (California & Winston) – stated he met with Michael Throne regarding trimming the hedge along his property. He has done his part and has not seen any additional police presence. Half of the accidents involved traffic violations and wants additional enforcement in the area. Drivers are using California as a thoroughfare. Chief Incontro stated your intersection is important. We have limited staff and we are prioritizing our resources. He explained that the Department has calls for service, burglaries, Sierra Madre, Los Robles, Granada, St. Albans and we want to help you the best we can. Chair Chang stated the programmed visibility will help with clearing the intersection. Staff will place signage as well.

4. UPDATE ON SAN MARINO BOULEVARD AND SIERRA MADRE BOULEVARD INTERSECTION TRAFFIC CIRCULATION: Chief Incontro stated at a recent staff meeting we reviewed the recommendations from TAC. Because of the complexity and cost of projects, are rather significant, we will make a presentation at our City Council meeting, Study Session end of the month on October 27, 2017 where we will provide the options for this intersection. At the Community meeting, there was a small group that did not want the changes to Robles that we recommended. We wanted to include the comments from the Community and TAC for City Council to provide Staff with direction or approve the recommendations. Park & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated the Chief captured succinctly, we want to review the entire project with City Council to make sure they

understand the safety concerns as well as our financial obligations. Chair Chang inquired which City Council meeting this item will be heard? Park & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated this is the adjourned City Council meeting scheduled for October 27, 2017 on the last Friday of the month held at 8:00 a.m. We will be noticing the residents. Administrative Analyst was directed to notice the residents.

5. UPDATE ON DARBY ROAD CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC:

Katherine Tripodes spoke about Granada traveling south where she requested a sign to state “Watch for oncoming Traffic”. An additional concern Ms. Tripodes expressed was vehicles speeding on Darby and asked if a speed limit sign can be placed on the street. Ruth Smith stated this item will be discussed later since she has not had an opportunity to research the issue. The ability to add signage or change existing signage must follow and conform to both Federal and State guidelines. Katherine Tripodes asked how long it will take for Staff to resolve her concern and Ruth Smith indicated she has other projects and will prioritize this project accordingly. She is not able to provide a time for completion.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Monterey Road Traffic Concern – Ms. Donnelley expressed her dislike for the plan concerning Monterey Road that was passed by the TAC. Chair Chang stated we will phase items in or out based about positive changes along Monterey Road. Chief Incontro stated there were suggestions for raised intersections, bulb outs, etc. and all sorts of things which cost a lot of money. We think an overall gradual approach is fiscally sound. Chair Chang stated we will continue on.

Oak and Garfield – Traffic concern – Chief Incontro stated we will be installing the requested signs. Ruth Smith stated she has been out to the area and it is smart to do that. Chair Chang inquired if those signs will be on both directions on Oak stating “Traffic does not stop”.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Lo asked if we considered the No Parking signs on Rosalind and Oak Grove. Park & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated we did a sign inventory and replaced the signs for “No Parking”. Park & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated the construction on Rosalind is a good thing. We will paint the curbs red after the resurfacing. Commissioner Suetsugu inquired about 2400 Huntington Drive recommending to eliminate the 20 minute parking limitations. Chief Incontro stated Planning & Building needs to address this item since there are zoning issues. We will follow up and report back.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Incontro reported on the following items:

Winston & California – Chief stated there have been six reported traffic collisions to date. A result of these is speed. We pledge to be there as much as we can.

Robles & Sierra Madre – This intersection has people failing to stop. There have been six accidents.

St. Albans & Huntington Drive – People are rushing to get across St. Albans from the City limit to the south side. We have had an increase in injury traffic collisions with 56 this year compared to 49 last year. Overall traffic collisions have been reduced by 14.25%. Hit and Run collisions are down 3% as well. These statistics are from January – present. Chief Incontro asked the TAC if Staff could take on those public requests that are less involved and complete the reports for TAC approval. This should reduce the time needed to complete an item and get it to the TAC for appropriate action. He spoke about a need for a Citywide Traffic Management Plan. This will be discussed with our new City Manager. This item will be considered this item for 2018-2019 fiscal year. We will have a public meeting discussing the Monterey Road concerns on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. Commissioner Doo inquired about the accident on Sierra Madre and Robles. Did anyone look into the age group? There are a lot of young people taking this route. Chair Chang recommended having an informational event at San Marino High School. Chief Incontro stated he will be meeting with the High Schoolers on November 1st and will mention safety driving tips. Commissioner Lo inquired if we noticed any changes in traffic with the Pole Cameras. Commander Blonde’ stated the Pole Cameras have been relocated. The Department notified residents through social media.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Parks & Public Works Director, Michael Throne stated they fixed the crosswalk at Chelsea and Huntington. He indicated that he is now our permanent Parks & Public Works Director. Next week we will be going east on resurfacing of the streets.

PUBLIC WRITINGS DISTRIBUTED

There were no public writings this month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Chang adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m. to the regular meeting to be held at City Hall Council Chambers on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN N. INCONTRO