

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

The meeting was held in Conference Room D at the Department of Public Works Headquarters.

1. Call to order

At 9:12 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Thurston T. Reese
 Commissioner Marvin Estey
 Commissioner Rhett Price
 Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos
 Commissioner Vincent Rosario

Absent but Excused: Commissioner Robert A. Ringler

Also, in attendance were the following:

Bahman Hajialiakbar, Principal Engineer
James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer
Lee Miller, Civil Engineer
Leonel Gallegos, Associate Civil Engineer
Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant
Andrew Kim, Civil Engineering Assistant

4. Approval of September 5, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 5, 2018, Highway Safety Commission meeting were approved.

5. Citizen Appeal of Denied Request by Public Works

There were no citizen appeals.

6. Report on Business other than Appeals

Crossing Guard Update

Ms. Irena Guilmette stated that during the 5-month period since our September 5, 2018, Highway Safety Commission meeting, Public Works completed a total of 3 studies for crossing guard service and those were denied. Additionally, there are 10 pending crossing guard studies.

The total number of locations with crossing guard service is 226. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 226 locations is 232, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard.

7. Public Comments on Any Matter Not on the Agenda

None.

8. Special Orders

There were no special orders.

9. Unfinished Business and General Notes

There was no unfinished business or general notes.

10. New Business

Vision Zero Presentation:

Mr. Leonel Gallegos introduced himself and proceeded to give a Power Point Presentation on the Angeles Vista Boulevard Traffic Safety Improvements (see attached Power Point Presentation).

After hearing the presentation, Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos asked if there was a bike lane on Angeles Vista Boulevard. Mr. Gallegos responded the community did not want a bike lane. Mr. Gallegos stated there was a community meeting with approximately 100 people in attendance and that a survey was sent out to the community asking for community input and what the best course of action would be to enhance traffic safety along Angeles Vista Boulevard.

Commissioner Villalobos asked if we have completed the actual roadway striping yet. Mr. Gallegos responded that we have installed the striping. Commissioner Villalobos asked if this was a residential zone. Mr. Gallegos stated that there are single-family homes fronting Angeles Vista Boulevard.

Chair Thurston Reese asked what prompted this restriping in the first place. Mr. Gallegos stated that Public Works determined there was a concentration of collisions and that is how the location was pinpointed. Mr. Gallegos stated that the roadway striping that was eventually installed was based on a combination of community input and actual data. Commissioner Rhett Price asked why the bike lane is now forced into the through lane. He asked if the roadway wasn't wide enough to accommodate a bike lane because he believes that might be more efficient. Mr. Gallegos stated that although the roadway was wide enough, the community opposed that idea. Mr. James Chon stated that the community didn't want to attract bicyclists from outside of the area.

Chair Reese stated that Google Maps directs people to use Angeles Vista Boulevard. Commissioner Price stated that Angeles Vista Boulevard has been a commuter route for many years.

Commissioner Villalobos asked why Angeles Vista Boulevard couldn't be posted at 25 miles per hour due to the fronting residential homes. Mr. Gallegos stated that the California Road System Functional Classification Maps identify the roadway as an "Arterial" roadway. Therefore, to use radar speed enforcement, the posted speed limit for this type of roadway must be determined by an Engineering and Traffic Survey.

Commissioner Price mentioned that it appears they have widened the curbside parking area to 9 feet in width. Chair Reese stated that he thought the roadway striping on Angeles Vista Boulevard looked good.

Chair Reese asked who is the current Traffic Investigation Section's Liaison for the 2nd District. He remembered in the past it was Mr. Jeff Thierry. Ms. Guilmette informed Chair Reese that Mr. Thierry had retired from the County and that Traffic Safety and Mobility Division management now deals directly with the Board Deputies.

Commissioner Rosario asked whether the new striping had made an impact on the collision rate along Angeles Vista Boulevard. Mr. Gallegos stated it was too early to tell. Mr. Hajialiakbar stated that they will need 3 years of data to do a proper analysis.

Chair Reese asked if anything could be done to not allow buses to hold up traffic on the roadway. Commissioner Price said there are no existing laws prohibiting buses from slowing traffic down. Chair Reese stated that Angeles Vista Boulevard is used as a route to the Staples Center.

Mr. Chon stated that Class IV bike lanes have a complete separation used as a buffer area. Commissioner Price stated that vehicles disregard bicyclists most of the time. Commissioner Villalobos stated that bike rentals and Type IV bike lanes are typically located in busier areas with night life. Mr. Chon stated that Class IV bike lanes are typically used in urban areas with heavy traffic volumes.

Commissioner Rosario asked when the roadway modifications were made on Mines Boulevard in the Whittier Area. Mr. Chon stated the County installed bulb-outs and a mini-roundabout at the intersection of Mines Boulevard at Gretna Avenue about a year ago. Mr. Chon stated the public initially made some comments, but there had not been any complaints regarding those installations lately. Mr. Hajialiakbar stated that we have issues with trucks and they don't work in some areas. Commissioner Estey stated that two roundabouts had been installed on Sierra Madre Boulevard and that traffic in the area had improved greatly. Commissioner Price asked if Fire Department approval is needed to install roundabouts. Mr. Hajialiakbar stated the County tries to consult with the Fire Department when considering roundabouts. Commissioner Estey asked if roundabouts were being used nationwide. Mr. Chon stated that they have been used more and more within the last 2 to 3 years.

11. Next Meeting Date to be determined

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 3, 2019.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Villalobos took a moment to ask for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Antonio Gonzalez. He stated that Mr. Gonzalez passed away on Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018, after a battle with cancer. He stated that Mr. Gonzales was the president of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. He stated Mr. Gonzales would take the time to walk door to door and translate for people regarding voter registration. He stated that Mr. Gonzalez is survived by his wife, Alma Martinez and his two daughters, Sara and Isabel Gonzalez.

The meeting was adjourned in Mr. Gonzalez' honor at 10:26 a.m.

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Attach.