

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2018**

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

1. Call to order

At 9:13 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Roll Call

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

Also in attendance were the following:

Emiko Thompson, Principal Engineer
James Chon, Senior Civil Engineer
Jalaine Madrid, Civil Engineer
Alan Nino, Civil Engineer
Eric Dunlap, Associate Civil Engineer
Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant

Introduction of Mr. Vincent Rosario:

Mr. Vincent Rosario introduced himself to the Commission and stated he was nominated by Supervisor Janice Hahn's office to represent the 4th District. He stated he is a 16-year employee of the Downey Police Department where he is currently a sergeant. He stated he has a degree in Political Science from California State University Los Angeles. He stated he has a wife and 5 children and they currently reside in the Whittier Area of the County.

4. Approval of June 7, 2017, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the June 7, 2017, 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

During the 12-month period since our June 6, 2017, Highway Safety Commission meeting, Public Works completed a total of 113 studies for crossing guard service, 5 of which resulted in new crossing guard service being recommended and 8 of which was not recommended. Additionally, there were 4 school closures that resulted in termination of crossing guard service.

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 234, 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

Pearblossom Highway at 82nd Street East:

Ms. Guilmette informed the Commission that sidewalk and crosswalk improvements have been made at the intersection of Pearblossom Highway at 82nd Street East. She stated that a crossing guard is still deployed at this intersection.

Cesar E. Chavez Avenue at Ford Boulevard:

Ms. Guilmette informed the Commission that CALTRANS has not installed left turn phasing for eastbound or westbound Cesar E. Chavez Avenue at the intersection of Ford Boulevard.

10. New Business

Vision Zero Presentation:

Mr. Alan Nino introduced himself and proceeded to give a Power Point Presentation on Public Works' Vision Zero Program (see attached Power Point Presentation).

After hearing the presentation, Commissioner Robert Ringler asked Mr. Nino if the County collaborates with the City of Los Angeles regarding their experience with their Vision Zero Program. Mr. Nino stated that the County tries to learn from the City of Los Angeles' Vision Zero program. Mr. Nino stated that community outreach is very important when trying to modify existing roadway conditions. Mr. Nino stated in the case of the City of Los Angeles, the users of the roadways ended up being the commuters as opposed to the residents and business owners of the fronting roadways. As a result, the City of Los Angeles did not anticipate the backlash from commuters using the roadway. Mr. Nino stated the County has been working closely with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Ms. Emiko Thompson stated that one of the lessons learned from the City of Los Angeles' Playa Del Rey's Road Diet was that when considering a 4-lane reduction, there needs to be balance between motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. She stated that bicyclists have rights too. Commissioner Rhett Price stated that Section 22100 of the California Vehicle Code states that a bicyclist shall obey all rules and regulations of the roadway, and that bicyclists need to remember that also.

Commissioner Estey asked if Vision Zero Staff was tracking collision rates in school zones. Commissioner Ringler stated that he had chaired a committee on the West Los Angeles Traffic Bureau and that they received data from the insurance agencies. He stated there is an SR 71 Insurance report that could provide valuable information.

Commissioner Price asked whether the County had considered using Smart Car technology that could help implement drivers being forced to drive 25 miles per hour in school zones. He stated that when you changed speed zones, an autonomous vehicle could alert you that the speed limit had changed. Ms. Thompson replied that the County is monitoring autonomous vehicle research. Mr. Eric Dunlap stated that there are a couple of projects where they are using Bluetooth and GPS (Global Positioning System).

Commissioner Villalobos stated he was impressed with the “Speed Matters” slide presented in the Vision Zero Presentation. He indicated that this Vision Zero Presentation would be a great tool to bring to community meetings. Ms. Thompson informed the HSC that the Vision Zero Program would be presented to the public this Fall. She stated the Director of Public Works has already presented this presentation to the Board of Supervisors and they were in full support of Vision Zero.

Commissioner Price asked whether when conducting traffic studies if Public Works ever consults with other countries, particularly, countries in Europe. Mr. Nino responded that Los Angeles County has very diverse terrain that is not necessarily like Europe’s urban areas. He stated that Vision Zero is in its beginning stages and they are trying to tailor it to Los Angeles’ County’s diverse traffic environments that include urban, rural, mountain and desert terrain.

Chair Thurston Reese stated community meetings and outreach are important. Commissioner Rosario indicated he lives in the community where a traffic signal was recently installed at the intersection of 1st Avenue and Candlelight Street. He stated that after community involvement, a traffic signal was installed. He said at the community meetings, half of the community wanted a traffic signal and the other half didn’t want a traffic signal. He stated that now that it has been installed, the community seems to be happy. Ms. Thompson stated that Commissioner Rosario had a lot to do with the installation of the traffic signal at this intersection due to video footage he provided.

Commissioner Ringler brought up the issue of distracted pedestrians. Commissioner Price indicated that the pedestrian does not always have the right-of-way when crossing the roadway. He stated that the myth is that when a pedestrian steps onto the roadway, all vehicles on the roadway must stop. Commissioner Price emphasized that the pedestrian does not always have the right of way and should not enter the roadway until it is safe to do so.

Commissioner Price asked if there was an action plan set up for Vision Zero. Ms. Thompson said they plan to have an action plan for Vision Zero at the end of 2018.

Commissioner Reese asked whether Public Works plans to use continental crosswalks at uncontrolled crosswalks such as those used in the City of Los Angeles. He stated that he believes that those type of crosswalks grab the driver’s attention better. Commissioner Price stated that in the City of Pasadena, they use brick in their crosswalks that works to get the driver’s attention.

Ms. Thompson indicated that Public Works uses various types of crosswalks throughout the County.

Commissioner Price indicated that in Sweden, they are using 3-D (Three Dimensional) crosswalks to grab the driver's attention. Commissioner Price indicated that after a while, drivers don't even notice flashing beacons. Mr. James Chon stated that Public Works' is working towards standardizing crosswalks. He stated that the County currently uses continental crosswalks at some locations.

Mr. Chon stated that Public Works has been using other traffic calming devices in the County such as the recently installed roundabout at the intersection of Mines Boulevard at Gretna Avenue in the South Whittier Area. He stated that we have been using lane reductions and bulb-outs as well at other locations. Commissioner Villalobos indicated that there are bulb-outs along Woods Avenue in the East Los Angeles Area.

Commissioner Ringler stated that the research he had heard about indicated that 27 percent of collisions involve motorcycles. Commissioner Price indicated that from his experience, most of these motorcycle collisions were not the rider's fault. Commissioner Price indicated that the actual motorcycle test is much different than the automobile test.

Commissioner Ringler stated that recent legislation was introduced regarding the use of automated photo radar for speed and that the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) pulled out of endorsing this. He stated that not all of California is an urban area and that some people don't want these types of restrictions. He stated that people don't like the fact that the 85th percentile speed determines what the speed should be and that a speed limit may be increased based on an Engineering and Traffic Survey. Commissioner Price stated that radar enforcement would be impractical if we used the Maximum 65 miles per hour (mph) speed limit. He stated that people would have to prove that 65 mph was unsafe. Commissioner Ringler mentioned that in many of the residential areas in the City of Los Angeles, the Engineering and Traffic Surveys are out of date. Commissioner Ringler also stated that Red Light Enforcement cameras are beginning to become obsolete and that many cities use an all-red at their traffic signals.

Sunset Review and Operating Procedures:

Ms. Guilmette informed the Commission that she was recently notified by the Executive Office that the October 31, 2017, deadline for the Sunset Review has been extended until further notice because the County Auditor Controller will no longer be conducting the Sunset Review and that it will now be conducted by the County's Executive Office.

Commissioner Villalobos stated that Supervisor Solis recently reappointed him to the Commission and as a long time Commissioner, he would like to welcome Commissioner Rosario to the Commission. Commissioner Villalobos stated that 25 years ago, the Commissioners carried badges and had a little more authority. He stated that he is concerned that a Sunset Review may determine that the Commission is no longer needed since there was only one meeting conducted in 2017. He stated he believes the Commission should meet more often. Commissioner Price stated there is a history of this occurring in the past in the Commission. Commissioner Ringler stated there was a point in time where they didn't have quorums at the meetings either. Ms. Thompson stated we can start by meeting quarterly and begin to bring back items other than appeals such as pending legislation. She stated this would be a great opportunity to get the Commission more involved. Ms. Thompson stated we could have a signal synchronization presentation. Commissioner Ringler stated that it would also be beneficial if we brought in the California Highway Patrol and let them tell us about their enforcement endeavors.

Mr. Nino informed the Commission that Vision Zero was going to host a demonstration event in the Walnut Park Community. Mr. Nino stated this community resource fair will showcase diagonal crossings with multi-uses and will be temporarily installed for the event only with the intention of receiving feedback back from the public. They have invited the public to participate in this event and test out this type of crossing. Mr. Nino stated that Supervisor Solis will attend the June 16, 2018, event. Mr. Nino stated he would forward the information to Ms. Guilmette for distribution to the Commission.

11. Next Meeting Date to be determined

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 5, 2018.

12. Adjournment

Moment of silence in memory of Commissioner John F. Watkins

Commissioner Villalobos took a moment to ask for a moment of silence in memory of Commissioner John F. Watkins. He stated that he attended Commissioner Watkins funeral and that he had a Memorial pamphlet from the service that he would bring to the next meeting. Commissioner Villalobos stated there were many people in attendance and by the number of people he saw at the funeral, it was obvious Commissioner Watkins was a very well respected and well-liked individual. He stated that the family decided to bury him at San Gabriel Mission. Commissioner Price mentioned that he always liked talking to Commissioner Watkins and enjoyed their fun rivalry between Commissioner Watkins being a Texas Longhorn and him being a USC Trojan. Commissioners Reese and Estey both mentioned that he would be missed by the Commission and he always had a lot of great insight. Ms. Guilmette stated that one time she asked Commissioner Watkins if he had been a boss before he retired. She stated his response was that he never considered himself a boss, and that he tried to be more of a leader. He said a boss is somebody who tells somebody what to do and a leader is someone who convinces someone that the job at hand is something they want to do.

The meeting was adjourned in Commissioner John F. Watkins honor at 11:30 a.m.

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