

## CITY OF ESCONDIDO

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSION

**January 12, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Escondido Transportation Commission was called to order at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, by Chairman Blackstock, in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

**Commissioners present:** Martha Maes, Commissioner; Doug Blackstock, Chairman; Bill Durney, Commissioner; Omar Dayani, Commissioner; and Robert Berkstresser, Commissioner.

**Commissioners absent:** Ray Leone, Commissioner; and Nick Ponce, Commissioner.

**Staff present:** Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer; Beth Kassebaum, Associate Engineer; Homi Namdari, Assistant City Engineer; Paul Woodward, Traffic Sergeant; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

#### **MINUTES:**

Moved by Commissioner Berkstresser, seconded by Chairman Blackstock, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2011, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. “Speed Survey: request on Country Club between Village Drive and at N. Iris Lane. Speed Survey and recommendations presented to Community Safety Commission (TCSC)

Ms. Kassebaum referenced the staff report and noted that based on the guidelines of the MUTCD, the current posted speed limit of 40 MPH was both appropriate and justified for the roadway and driver conditions. Staff recommended that the new speed survey be approved as is, and that the speed limit not be changed.

Commissioner Dayani asked if staff had figures for the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Mr. Shahzad replied in the negative, but noted there was legislation that authorized

transportation departments to lower the speed limits by 5 mph. He noted that staff would include the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile figures into future speed surveys. Ms. Kassebaum indicated that the Average 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is indicated on the survey sheet at the bottom.

**Jack Shoemaker, Escondido**, thanked the Commission for considering his request and considering lowering the speed limit. He stated that most of the speeding occurred during the evening hours. He felt the subject street was residential and should be considered residential. He expressed his view that golf carts were given higher priority over the pedestrians and residents. He also felt it was petty of the City not to consider radar speed signage for the area.

Commissioner Durney felt the posted speed limit was appropriate for the area, noting his view that reducing the speed would not slow vehicle traffic.

Commissioner Berkstresser asked when the speed survey was conducted. Mr. Shahzad noted that the speed survey was conducted during off peak times.

Commissioner Dayani asked if the street met the residential requirements. Mr. Shahzad replied in the negative.

Mr. Namdari noted that the current traffic controls were established during the development of Country Club based on the golf carts mingling with traffic.

Commissioner Dayani noted this might be a good opportunity for the City to apply for Safe Route to School funding to install radar speed signage.

Ms. Kassebaum noted that they City would be installing "Intersection Ahead" signage with advisory speed plaques at Village and at Iris.

**ACTION:**

Moved by Chairman Blackstock, seconded by Commissioner Durney, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried. Ayes: Maes, Dayani, Blackstock, and Berkstresser. Noes: Durney. (4-1)

2. "Old Escondido Neighborhood" request for Stop Signs for traffic calming and additional signage evaluation.

Ms. Kassebaum referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended improving overall neighborhood safety through improving major entrances, upgrading intersections, and installing new signs and pavement markings.

Chairman Blackstock and Ms. Kassebaum discussed the material being used for the markings.

Commissioner Dayani and Ms. Kassebaum discussed the justification for reducing

the speeds at Fifth and Juniper and Fifth and Date.

Commissioner Dayani asked Sergeant Woodward if they had issues citing individuals along Juniper. Sergeant Woodward noted he was unaware of any issues. Commissioner Dayani suggested redoing the speed survey if it was old or expired.

Commissioner Durney noted that Ninth Avenue and Hickory could use all-way stop signs. He also felt an intersection might be warranted at Ninth Avenue and Juniper.

Commissioner Dayani felt stop signs should not be used for slowing traffic. He also asked if the stop signs being proposed in the staff report met all of the requirements. Mr. Namdari replied in the negative, noting that some were for calming traffic and residential concerns.

Commissioner Dayani felt stop signs created a false sense of security for pedestrians.

Chairman Blackstock asked if one-way streets or speed humps had been considered for traffic calming. Mr. Shahzad noted that the fire department was opposed to speed humps.

Chairman Blackstock questioned why the residents could not help pay for some of the stop signs. Mr. Namdari noted that staff did not feel the cost would be an issue.

Commissioner Dayani stated that he could not support unwarranted stop signs. He noted that there were grants available for walkable neighborhoods which might help the subject neighborhood. Mr. Namdari noted that the physical conditions would make it a very difficult and be very expensive to implement. He stated that if the Commission desired, a warrant analysis could be done on the new stop sign designations with just the maintenance being done. Commissioner Dayani concurred.

Mr. Shahzad noted that nine of the stop sign locations were warranted. He suggested that the Commission approve the ones that met the warrants for stop signs and then consider the others at a later date after more studies were done.

Commissioner Dayani suggested coming up with a plan for the neighborhood and also look at possible neighborhood grants.

**Carol Rea, Escondido**, noted that Old Escondido was the only historic district in North County. She stated that they had countless visitors to the area. She elaborated that the area had no sidewalks or lighting which it was in desperate need of. She asked that the Commissioner do whatever they could to help calm traffic in the area. Ms. Rea also noted that she had witnessed many accidents in the subject area.

Commissioner Durney was in favor of staff's recommendation. He also suggested installing stop signs at Ninth and Hickory.

Commissioner Berkstresser felt stop signs would deter traffic from using the area.

Chairman Blackstock felt creating one-way streets and traffic calming signage would help the area. Mr. Shahzad concurred.

**ACTION:**

Moved by Chairman Blackstock, seconded by Commissioner Dayani, to approve all of the warranted stop signs and that those without warrants be re-evaluated and brought back to the Commission.

3. School Zones – Angled Parking around Central School – Analysis and Recommendations

Mr. Shahzad referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended increasing the "Angled Parking" spaces around Central Elementary School along W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, S. Broadway, S. Maple Street and W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Chairman Blackstock and Mr. Shahzad discussed the need for additional parking.

Chairman Blackstock asked if there was anything on the school site that could be changed to accommodate additional parking. Mr. Shahzad replied in the negative.

Commissioner Maes suggested looking at adding handicapped spaces.

Commissioner Dayani noted that visibility was compromised with angle parking.

Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons for angle parking.

Commissioner Durney suggested using 30 degree angled parking.

Chairman Blackstock was in favor of staff's recommendation.

**ACTION:**

Moved by Chairman Blackstock, seconded by Commissioner Durney, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion included using 30 degree angled parking on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Speed Surveys – Certification of new speed surveys.

Mr. Shahzad noted that Speeds remained the same and did not need to be approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Project Status Update - An overview of various projects involving the City.
  - a. Traffic Signal System/ICM State 3 ITS Strategy
  - b. General Plan Update
  - c. Rapid Bus Route 350 "Escondido Breeze Rapid"
  - d. City Council/Transportation Commission Action Plan
  - e. Status of items previously brought before the commission

Mr. Shahzad provided the updates to the Commission and requested input.

**SCHOOL AREA SAFETY**

1. Discussion of pedestrian and vehicular issues

Mr. Shahzad provided the updates on school signage.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Future Agenda Items – A briefing of future agenda items proposed to be presented to the Transportation Commission.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

Mr. Shahzad noted that City Council would be hearing the item regarding RV parking at their next meeting. Mr. Namdari noted that staff had not found alternate locations for RV parking yet.

Commissioner Durney noted concern that part of the Commission's motion was to include directional signage to RV parking.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** - None.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS:** No Discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Blackstock adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission would be held on March 29, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido.

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Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer

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Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk