

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

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

March 29, 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; Omar Dayani, Commissioner; Doug Blackstock, Chairman; Bill Durney, Commissioner; and Ray Leone, Commissioner.

Commissioners absent: Robert Berkstresser, Commissioner; and Nick Ponce, Commissioner.

Staff present: Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer; Beth Kassebaum, Associate Engineer; Jay Paul, Associate Planner; Ed Domingue, Director of Engineering Services; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Durney, seconded by Commissioner Dayani, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2012, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bicycle Master Plan – Request to approve City's update to the Bicycle Master plan as presented to Community Safety Commission (TCSC)

Jay Paul, Associate Planner, referenced the staff report and asked that the Commission approve the draft update to the City of Escondido Bicycle Facilities Master Plan.

Chairman Blackstock and staff discussed the proposed asphalt color enhancements and the implementation colors for driveways and intersections.

Commissioner Dayani asked if consideration had been given to providing wider crosswalks and modified pedestrian ramps for bicycles. Mr. Shahzad noted that this would be reviewed in the next phase.

Commissioner Leone and staff discussed the future plans for Citracado Parkway.

Commissioner Dayani asked if the subject plans were developed in house or by a consultant. Mr. Paul noted that if they were developed by both a consultant and in house.

Commissioner Dayani asked what the anticipated completion date was. Mr. Paul noted staff anticipated City Council adoption in June of 2012.

ACTION:

Moved by Chairman Blackstock, seconded by Commissioner Durney, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Pedestrian Crossing – Request for pedestrian crossing by ARS on Maple Street and 2nd Avenue.

Janette Piankoff, San Diego, ARS National, noted that their employees used approximately 78 parking spaces in the surrounding public parking lots. She noted that some of their employees were a little slower walking along with some being on crutches, which made it difficult for them to walk further distances. She stated that the nature of their employees was to cross at Maple and 2nd Avenue. She indicated that the branch manager of Bank of America was in favor of the request. Ms. Piankoff noted that she liked the crosswalk with the warning lights, which she felt added an extra safety feature.

Beth Kassebaum, Associate Engineer, referenced the staff report and noted based on the analysis by City Staff, the recommendation was for the Commission to deny the request for installation of a delineated pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Maple Street and 2nd Avenue.

Mr. Shahzad noted that the subject intersection was looked at for installing a traffic signal in connection with the hotel.

Commissioner Dayani asked if the City had a traffic signal priority list. Mr. Shahzad replied in the positive.

Commissioner Dayani asked if the subject intersection was looked at for pedestrian accidents. Ms. Kassebaum replied in the negative. Commissioner Dayani suggested that the accident history for the subject intersection be reviewed.

Chairman Blackstock suggested to Ms. Piankoff that varying employee times to coincide with the lower peak times might help. Mr. Shahzad noted that staff could provide the peak hour traffic times.

Commissioner Dayani felt anything short of a traffic signal would create safety issues.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Dayani, seconded by Chairman Blackstock, to approve staff's recommendation to deny the request for pedestrian crossing by ARS on Maple Street and 2nd Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Curb use requests "Green Curb Policy" – Establish a new policy

Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer, referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended no new green curb zone restrictions be installed in front of 2426 Auto Parkway. Staff would pursue modifying the section to the Municipal Code and Policy and return to the Commission at a later date for comments and recommendations.

ACTION:

Moved by Chairman Blackstock, seconded by Commissioner Maes, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Speed Surveys – Certification of new speed zones. Speed Surveys recommendations presented to the Community Safety Commission (TCSC).

Beth Kassebaum, Associate Engineer, referenced the staff report and recommended approval of the updated Engineering and Traffic Surveys (E&TS) for posted speeds on Auto Park Way, Bear Valley Parkway, El Norte Parkway, Hidden Trails Road, and Las Villas Way.

Commissioner Dayani and staff discussed the conditions surrounding the El Norte Parkway speed designation. Commissioner Durney noted that the posted speed limit was currently 40 MPH, feeling this was appropriate. Commissioner Dayani expressed concern with the 85th percentile being 45 MPH. Mr. Shahzad noted that the 50th percentile for El Norte Parkway was 41 MPH.

Chairman Blackstock expressed his view that 40 MPH for El Norte Parkway seemed normal given the existing conditions.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Durney, seconded by Chairman Blackstock, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Project Status Update - An overview of various projects involving the City.
 - a. Traffic Signal System/ICM Stage 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 noted that design for the Juniper Street striping for the northbound left turn pocket at Felicita would be out to bid in the next month. He noted that all of the school zone projects would be done during the summer. Commissioner Maes noted that schools were out on June 8th with summer school starting on July 2nd.

Mr. Shahzad noted that staff was looking at left turn phasing at Mary Lane and Bear Valley Parkway.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

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

Mr. Shahzad noted that the Commission would be looking at speed surveys and the signal priority and left turn phasing recommendations.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Ms. Kassebaum noted that traffic engineering provided a workshop to City Council in February on the City's traffic signal system, which was well received.

Mr. Shahzad noted that City Council would be considering stop controls for the Old Escondido neighborhood.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Blackstock asked that the anyone taking vacation contact staff.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Blackstock adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission would be held on July 12, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido.

Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer

Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk