

**CITY OF ESCONDIDO
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSION**

October 27, 2011

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; and Robert Berkstresser, Commissioner.

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

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Durney, seconded by Commissioner Berkstresser, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2011, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. "All-Way Stop Sign" – request on Country Club at Village Drive and at N. Iris Lane. Traffic Study reviewing the Crash History, Speeds and Volumes and CA-MUTCD Warrant Analysis and recommendations presented to Community Safety Commission (TCSC).

Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer, referenced the staff report and noted that at this time, the installation of a multi-way stop at either Country Club Lane and Village Road or Country Club Lane at N. Iris Lane was not warranted or recommended.

Jack Shoemaker, Escondido, noted he was a retired police commander and director of traffic safety center who was responsible for working with the police department and traffic engineers. He stated that Country Club Lane to Village Drive was classified as a residential street with residences abutting both sides of the street. He stated that the State DMV specified that the residential speed was 25

MPH, noting the street was posted at 40 MPH, noting his concern for the students and pedestrians trying to cross the street. He elaborated that the speed of the vehicles involved in the two fatalities was over 70 MPH. Mr. Shoemaker questioned why a stop sign was posted at Country Club Lane and Gary. He noted that there was no crosswalk at Country Club Lane and Village. He stated that they recommended the City post speed limits in the subject area at 35 mph and install all-way stop signs at Country Club at Village Drive and at North Iris Lane. He also suggested installing lit signs indicating 35 mph on both sides of County Club and "No U-turn" signage posted at Village for vehicles traveling east on County Club.

Jan Weiler, Escondido, noted that her and her husband's management company managed Escondido View, Escondido Hills, and Escondido Townhouse which comprised 751 residences. She stated the boards from all three associations supported additional traffic restrictions in the subject area. She indicated that the associations had spent thousands of dollars repairing damage to vegetation, fences, and signs from vehicular accidents in the subject area. She elaborated that there were sight distance issues when pulling out of Village onto Country Club. She noted that there was no crosswalk at Village and Country Club Lane, noting concern for anyone crossing the road. She asked that if improvements could not be implemented, that the police monitor the area more often.

Commissioner Berkstresser asked whether a speed survey had been conducted in the subject area. Mr. Shahzad replied in the affirmative, noting that staff was recommending installing "Intersection Ahead" signage. He noted that staff did not support installing a crosswalk at Country Club and Village due to it creating a false sense of security and a liability for the City. He stated that the current speed limit was 40 MPH which was the 85th percentile in the area. He also noted that the City followed the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Commissioner Berkstresser noted that he was opposed to installing a crosswalk at the subject location and the proposed four-way stop controls. He asked whether anything would preclude the City from lowering the speed limits in the subject area. Mr. Shahzad noted that he could review the previous speed survey and geometric conditions and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Berkstresser asked if anything would preclude the City from reducing the speed limit to 30 MPH. Mr. Shahzad stated that this could create a speed trap which was a conflict with the California Vehicle Code.

Commissioner Berkstresser felt reducing the speed to 35 MPH might be worth looking at. He concurred with staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Durney was in favor of staff's recommendation but suggested considering re-evaluating the speed survey and reducing the speed limit to 35 MPH and installing radar detected signage.

Chairman Blackstock concurred with staff's recommendation but also suggested re-

evaluating the speed survey in an effort to reduce the speed limit to 35 MPH. He also concurred with having law enforcement monitor the subject area more often.

Mr. Shoemaker asked for someone to meet with him to show him the crosswalk, noting there was none. Mr. Shahzad noted that there was no crosswalk in the subject area, noting that the City would not install a crosswalk at Village due to creating an unsafe situation. He also stated that staff could put the subject intersections into the signal warrant analysis for the future. Mr. Shoemaker asked that Mr. Shahzad call him and meet at the subject intersection. Mr. Shahzad noted that he would contact him.

ACTION:

Moved by Chairman Blackstock, seconded by Commissioner Berkstresser, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion included directing staff to conduct a speed survey and consider signage in the area of Village and Country Club Lane and North Iris. Motion carried unanimously.

2. "No Parking Anytime" for vehicle height 7 feet or over, along Grape Day Park fronting North Broadway and along Woodward Avenue.

Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer, referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended supporting the request to post signage for "No Parking Anytime" to restrict street parking of recreational vehicles and vehicles 7 feet in height and above around Grape Day Park and surrounding streets.

Commissioner Blackstock suggested increasing the 2-hour parking.

Commissioner Durney asked where the individuals could park their recreational vehicles if they were visiting Grape Day Park.

Mr. Shahzad stated that the existing parking time is 3-hours fronting the park, and that individuals could perhaps park in the municipal parking lots. Commissioner Durney suggested adding signage that would indicate where recreational vehicles could park. Mr. Shahzad replied in the affirmative.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Durney, seconded by Commissioner Maes, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion included adding directional signage for additional parking for recreational vehicles. Motion carried unanimously.

3. School Zones – As needed improvements at school zones at various locations.

Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer, referenced the staff report and noted staff

recommended supporting the request to coordinate various improvements along the school zones along Via Rancho Parkway and Bear Valley Parkway with the County of San Diego.

Commissioner Durney concurred with moving the turn lane further back south of Sunset.

Commissioner Maes asked what other sections were being considered. Mr. Shahzad noted that the other areas being looked at were Las Palmas and Mary Lane.

Commissioner Maes requested that she be sent the information for any potential modifications involving school areas.

ACTION:

Moved by Chairman Blackstock, seconded by Commissioner Durney, 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 provided the update and noted that staff was looking at modifications for the schools in the area of Juniper and Felicita. He also stated that staff was looking at installing reduced speed ahead radar detected signage in the area of Bear Valley Parkway approaching San Pasqual High School and Orange Glen.

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 hearing a stop sign traffic

calming report for the Old Escondido Neighborhood in January.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Mr. Shahzad noted that City Council approved the recommendation to limit parking to a 2-hour time zone in various areas of the City to restrict parked "For Sale" vehicles.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Blackstock noted that the A-Frame sign was still near the curb on Hale Avenue. He also suggested the Commission begin thinking about a new chair and vice-chair for the commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Blackstock adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission would be held on January 12, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido.



Ali Shahzad, PE (Associate Engineer)



Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk