

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

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

August 8, 2013

The regular meeting of the Escondido Transportation Commission was called to order at 3:05 p.m., Thursday, by Vice-chairman Durney, in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Commissioners present: Martha Maes, Commissioner Sarro, Commissioner Berkstresser, Commissioner Dayani, and Durney, Vice-chairman Durney.

Commissioners absent: Ray Leone, Commissioner, and Doug Blackstock, Chairman.

Staff present: Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer; Julie Procopio, Assistant Director of Engineering; Sergeant Woodward, Escondido Police Department; Lieutenant Alberto, Escondido Police Department; Homi Namdari, Assistant City Engineer; Beth Kassebaum, Associate Engineer; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Mya Rosas, Escondido, Representing Walk San Diego, noted that Walk San Diego and the San Diego Bicycle Coalition had created a Bike/Walk Committee in Escondido. She stated that the mission of the committee was to provide a forum for education and advocacy on issues with biking and walking safety in Escondido. She then provided their meeting schedule and noted anyone was welcome to come to their meeting.

Monica Hofstetter, Escondido, expressed her concern with the excessive speeds occurring on San Pasqual Road near San Pasqual High School during school hours. She felt the speed limit signage was confusing, noting that there were 25 MPH and 50 MPH signs in the school area. She requested that the 50 MPH speed limit traveling eastbound be removed in front of school and install mobile radar units on the westbound side of San Pasqual Road approaching San Pasqual High School.

Richard Conwell, Escondido, expressed his concern with the excessive speeds of vehicles on Eucalyptus Avenue and asked that something be done to reduce speeds in the area.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Sarro, seconded by Commissioner Berkstresser, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2013, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Stop Sign Policy – Review and approve a new policy on the installation of Flashing Stop Signs.

Ms. Kassebaum referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended approval of the new City policy for the installation of flashing embedded LED STOP signs.

ACTION:

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

2. **Palomar Hospital – Way finding Signage along Valley Parkway to guide them to Citracado Parkway**

Mr. Shahzad referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended installing two (2) additional hospital signs along West Valley Parkway to compliment the existing hospital signage: One just south of Citracado Parkway for northbound traffic on West Valley Parkway and one just north of Avenida Del Diablo for northbound traffic on West Valley Parkway. He also stated that staff had received a citizen request to add signage on the eastern part of the City coming from Valley Center.

Vice-chairman Durney suggested adding language to the signage indicating the distance to the hospital. Mr. Namdari noted that staff was working with the hospital regarding coordinating signage between the two hospitals.

Discussion ensued regarding adding directional hospital signage on Valley Parkway.

Commissioner Sarro questioned whether eastern signage was needed based on one complaint.

Chairman Durney did not feel eastern signage was needed, noting both hospitals provided emergency services.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Sarro, seconded by Commissioner Dayani, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Speed Surveys – Approve new batch of speed surveys, including changes to posted limits.

Ms. Kassebaum referenced the staff report and requested input from the Commission.

Commissioner Dayani suggested reshooting the speed surveys for Sections 6, 7, and 9 as outlined in the staff report.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Dayani, seconded by Commissioner Maes, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion included reshooting speed surveys on Segments 6-9, Grand Avenue from Ash Street to Rose Street, Grand Avenue from Rose Street to Midway, Grand Avenue from Midway to Bear Valley Parkway, and Mission Avenue from Andreasen to Broadway with the emphasis being to retain the speed limit at 35 MPH. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Truck Routes – Ordinance establishing truck routes

Mr. Shahzad referenced the staff report recommended the Commission approve the modified conceptual truck routes per Chapter III Mobility and Infrastructure of 2012 adopted Escondido General Plan and amend Section 28-128 of the Traffic Municipal Code increasing maximum gross weight limit of any vehicle from three (3) tons to seven (7) or ten (10) tons, whichever the Commissioners deemed appropriate.

Discussion ensued regarding a clarification of the current truck routes and proposed signage for the subject area. Additional discussion ensued regarding the various classification of trucks in relationship to weight.

ACTION:

Moved by Vice-chairman Durney, seconded by Commissioner Dayani, to approve staff's recommendation to approve the modified conceptual truck routes per Chapter III Mobility and Infrastructure of 2012 adopted Escondido General Plan and amend Section 28-128 of the Traffic Municipal Code increasing maximum gross weight limit of any vehicle from three (3) tons to ten (10) tons. Motion carried unanimously.

5. RedFlex Red-light Camera Enforcement – Discussion for Commissioners Feedback

Mr. Shahzad and Lieutenant Tom Ablerto provided the staff reports that included statistics for using Red-light camera enforcement for accidents and tickets. Lieutenant Alberto noted that the data did not take into account any increase in rear

end collisions. He stated that the revenue generated in 2011 and 2012 was \$429,000 with the program costing the City \$625,00. The net cost to the City was approximately \$196,000. Mr. Shahzad noted that the effectiveness of other counter measures for accident reduction helped mitigate accidents such as left-turn protected phasing, retro reflective back plates, improving traffic signal coordination, and automated enforcement. Staff requested the Commission provide input on the following items: 1) RLPE program effectiveness/value, 2) continuation of the program at some or all intersections; and 3) other suggested techniques that could achieve the same safety benefits.

Commissioner Sarro asked if data was available regarding the severity of the accidents. She also asked if accidents were reported where there was no police response. Lieutenant Alberto stated that reports were not taken on non-injury accidents. Mr. Shahzad noted that the current data was inconclusive because of the reporting techniques for collision reporting.

Vice-chairman Durney questioned whether the increase in rear end accidents was due to the individuals stopping abruptly due to the red-light camera enforcement units. He stated that the units cost the City almost \$200,000 a year for inconclusive data. He then asked what would happen to the staff assigned to the subject program. Lieutenant Alberto noted they would be reassigned.

Commissioner Sarro felt that the counter measures should have been installed before the red-light photo enforcement equipment was installed. She also expressed concern with removing the equipment without having conclusive data on the severity of accidents.

Commissioner Dayani expressed his view that the counter measures would be beneficial. He was in favor of removing the red-light camera enforcement units. He felt intersection design was the key to creating safety.

Commissioner Sarro felt RLPE reduced the severity of accidents. She stated that she had conducted a study in a city whereby it showed a reduction of the severity of injuries.

Commissioner Dayani felt the RLPE units added anxiety to drivers, thus creating accidents.

Commissioner Berkstresser felt the suggested counter measures would be beneficial to help reduce accidents at intersections. He was in favor of removing the RLPE units.

6. Crosswalk on 511 East Grand Avenue near Palomar Hospital. If Solar LED lights could be installed on the crosswalk at yield signs. Policy for October TCSC meetings.

Mr. Shahzad referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended the Commission review, discuss and provide feedback on if LED or RRFB passive devices should be considered to assist in alerting drivers of a Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing. If the Commission desired to consider these devices, a policy would be developed for consideration during a future Commission meeting to determine their potential application based on Posted Speeds, number of Pedestrian-Vehicle Collisions, and Average Daily Traffic Volumes.

Commissioner Dayani felt the City Attorney needed to provide input on this issue. He was not in favor of mid-block crossing, especially on streets with multiple lanes. He felt passive devices created a false sense of security.

Commissioner Durney noted that he liked the concept of a pedestrian activated crosswalk.

Commissioner Berkstresser noted that the City did not install marked crosswalks because they created a false sense of security. He was not in favor of passive crosswalk devices.

Commissioner Dayani was in favor of using pedestrian traffic signals for mid-block crossings.

ACTION:

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

7. Salvaged two (2) Speed Radar Signs to be repaired and used at various locations for a three-month trial period with enforcement for slowing traffic – Discussion for Commissioner Feedback

Mr. Shahzad provided the staff report and noted that a speed radar unit would be placed on Eucalyptus Avenue.

Commissioner Shahzad noted that Eucalyptus Avenue had issues with speeding, feeling staff needed to look at any measures that would help reduce speeds.

8. Chestnut Traffic Calming – Discussion for Commissioner Feedback

Mr. Shahzad noted that the City had received complaints about speeding on Chestnut Street. He noted that edge-line striping had already been installed. He noted that a speed survey would be conducted on the Chestnut in order to consider reducing the speed from 35 MPH to 30 MPH. Staff would report back at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Project Status Update - An overview of various projects involving the City.
 - a. Traffic Signal System/ICM Stage 3 ITS Strategy – Consultant's Work-In-Progress, test roll-out expected this spring, DLC construction, 233 Chip upgrades July-August 2013
 - b. Traffic Signal Priority List – Council Adopted. RFP for consultants in August.
 - c. Escondido Transit Center Modifications – SANDAG on hold.
 - d. Traffic Calming Improvements on Juniper Street
 - e. Roadway improvements on County Club Lane between Broadway and Centre City Parkway – Radar Speed Signs installed.
 - f. HSIP Application Cycle.

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

SCHOOL AREA SAFETY

1. Discussion of pedestrian and vehicular issues.

No Discussion.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

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

COUNCIL ACTION: None.

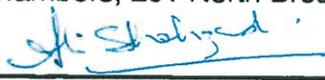
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS:

Vice-chairman Durney requested staff look into considering extending the parking time on Grand Avenue to 3 hours.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-chairman Durney adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission would be held on October 10, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido.



Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer



Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk