

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

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

October 11, 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; Robert Berkstresser, Commissioner; and Bill Durney, Commissioner.

Commissioners absent: Ray Leone, Commissioner; and Sherri Sarro, Commissioner.

Staff present: Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer; Eric Skaja, Traffic Sergeant; Homi Namdari, Assistant City Engineer; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Dayani, seconded by Commissioner Durney, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2012, meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Berkstresser was absent from the vote.

1. Traffic Signal Priority List – Review and Discuss the 2012 Traffic Signal Priority List and Traffic Signal Modification List – a short list of intersections for new traffic signal or traffic signal modifications.

Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer, referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended the Commission approve 2012-2013 Traffic Signal Priority Lists for unsignalized and signalized intersections, authorize a two-year funding approach, and support installing or modifying traffic signals.

Commissioner Dayani asked how the top three traffic signal priority intersections were selected. Mr. Shahzad noted that the top three intersections had the highest warrants.

Chairman Blackstock noted that traffic light phasing might help some intersections versus changing out the traffic signals.

Chairman Blackstock and staff discussed the parameters and costs for traffic signal modifications.

Carol Rea, Escondido, President of the Old Escondido Historic District, thanked the City for the traffic calming measures in the old historic district. She then requested a four-way stop at the intersection of Ninth Avenue and Juniper. She stated that numerous accidents occurred at this intersection, noting they would be forwarding pictures of the accidents to staff.

Commissioner Dayani concurred with prioritizing El Norte Parkway at Fig Street. He suggested tabling any action on the traffic signal modification list until the consultant's report was available. He suggested having the top five on the next recommendation list with a scope and cost analysis. He also suggested the City look into safety grants and other grants for funding sources. Mr. Namdari noted that the City was actively pursuing grants.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Dayani, seconded by Commissioner Durney, to approve the Traffic Signal Priority List with the intersection of El Norte Parkway at Fig Street. The motion included tabling action on the Traffic Signal Modification list. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Traffic Calming Juniper Street – Traffic Calming Concept for Old Escondido neighborhood Phase 2 – Traffic calming concepts for slowing neighborhood traffic.

Mr. Shahzad referenced the staff report and noted that staff recommended the Commission approve the traffic calming methods that included upgrading intersections and installing bike lanes and pavement markings on Juniper Street.

Mr. Namdari noted that one of the challenges was that Juniper had varying widths.

Mr. Shahzad noted that installing a stop sign on Juniper at 9th Avenue might create issues with traffic backups.

Commissioner Dayani asked if the main issue was speeding on Juniper. Mr. Shahzad replied in the affirmative. Commissioner Dayani and staff discussed the 85th percentile figures for Juniper and 9th Avenue.

Commissioner Dayani asked if Juniper had parking along the entire street. Mr. Shahzad replied in the affirmative.

Discussion ensued regarding a clarification of the areas where parking would be restricted.

Commissioner Dayani noted that allowing parking along the street could act as a traffic calming measure. He suggested installing a two-way left turn lane. He stated that he was opposed to installing temporary stop signs. He also felt stop signs should not be used for calming measures. He suggested that staff develop a traffic calming toolbox, which would include an all-way stop.

Mr. Namdari referenced the various traffic calming concepts for the intersection of 9th Avenue and Juniper. He then noted that staff would develop a traffic calming toolbox, which would be brought back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Dayani felt the proposed striping needed to be reworked.

ConnieSue Dickenson, Escondido, thanked the City for the installation of stop signs at Fig and 5th Avenue, noting vehicles were slowing down. She stated that she was in favor of installing an all-way stop at 9th Avenue and Juniper.

Celeste Coleman, Escondido, noted that in July of 2011 she was involved in a major accident at Juniper and 7th Avenue, feeling that a stop sign at Juniper and 9th Avenue would have helped. She was in favor of installing an all-way stop at 9th Avenue and Juniper.

Carol Rea, Escondido, was in favor of installing an all-way stop at 9th Avenue and Juniper. She stated that the area had walking tours, home tours, and other events that were pedestrian oriented. She asked that the City install all-way stop signs at Juniper and 9th Avenue, noting that numerous crashes occurred along this street. She also stated that she had a petition with over 900 signatures in favor of the subject all-way stop.

Chairman Blackstock questioned whether the agenda included considering an all-way stop at Juniper and 9th Avenue. Mr. Namdari noted that the Commission could discuss this.

Commissioner Durney felt a stop sign with flashing lights was warranted for the intersection of 9th and Juniper. Mr. Shahzad noted that in lieu of the flashing lights, "Stop Ahead" signs could be installed.

Commissioner Durney was in favor of the proposed striping plan. Mr. Namdari and Mr. Shahzad noted that City Council would have to approve the installation of an all-way stop at Juniper and 9th Avenue.

Commissioner Durney asked if the striping would occur along with the installation of the all-way stop. Mr. Namdari replied in the affirmative.

Chairman Blackstock was in favor of an all-way stop at Juniper and Ninth Avenue. He also suggested increasing the width of the striping. He did not feel Juniper

should look commercial.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Durney seconded by Chairman Blackstock, to approve the traffic calming concepts as presented by Staff. The motion also included and recommending approval for an all-way stop at the intersection of 9th Avenue at Juniper. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Request for a new All-Way Stop at Felicita Avenue and Redwood Street – Stopping Felicita a major through street.

Mr. Shahzad referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended denying the request for the all-way stop at Felicita Avenue and Redwood Street.

Commissioner Berkstresser did not feel the amount of traffic warranted an all-way stop.

Commissioner Dayani suggested reducing the size of the through-right turn.

ACTION:

Moved by Chairman Blackstock, seconded by Commissioner Berkstresser, 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 State 3 ITS Strategy
 - b. Escondido Transit Center Modifications
 - c. Radar Speed Signs on Bear Valley Parkway
 - 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 the school radar signs had been installed. He also stated that the striping along Juniper would be completed near the end of the month.

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 staff had received a request for the area of Claudan and East Valley Parkway, noting staff felt this should be considered when the Citracado connection was completed.

COUNCIL ACTION: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Maes noted that the volunteer traffic guards at the schools need vests and requested that this be put on the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Blackstock adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission would be held on January 10, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido.

Ali Shahzad, Associate Engineer

Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk