

MINUTES

GARDEN GROVE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER
11300 STANFORD AVENUE
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY
MAY 2, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: The regular session of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center.

PRESENT: CHAIR MARCARIO, VICE CHAIR ETTLIN,
COMMISSIONERS ALEJANDRO, FEATHER, AND
KIRKHAM

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: George Allen, Traffic Engineer; Officer Chris Wassinger, and Teresa Pomeroy, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE: Led by Commissioner Ettlín

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Kirkham moved, seconded by Commissioner Alejandro, to approve the minutes of March 7, 2006. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	COMMISSIONERS:	ALEJANDRO, ETTLIN, FEATHER, KIRKHAM, MARCARIO
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rescind the closure of Westlake Street at Acacia Parkway:

The staff report dated May 2, 2006 asking the Commission to rescind the action taken at the August 22, 2002 meeting to close Westlake Street at Acacia Parkway was introduced.

The original recommendation for the street closure in 2002 was acted on; however, the closure never took place. The City has recently conveyed three parcels at the intersection of Westlake Street and Acacia Parkway to the Garden Grove Agency for Community

Development. The Agency is working with a private developer on a proposed project for this site.

Staff recommended to the Traffic Commission to rescind the closure of Westlake Street at Acacia Parkway, and transmit their recommendation to the City Council for approval.

Commissioners Kirkham and Feather expressed support, as well as Chair Marcario.

Chair Marcario opened the public hearing to receive testimony in favor of or in opposition to the request.

There being no further comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Kirkham moved, seconded by Chair Marcario, to accept staff recommendation and rescind the Traffic Commission action taken at the August 22, 2002 meeting to close Westlake Street at Acacia Parkway, and to forward the recommendation to the City Council for approval. The motion received the following vote:

AYES:	COMMISSIONERS:	ALEJANDRO, ETTLIN, FEATHER, KIRKHAM, MARCARIO
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE

Parking Options on
Westminster Avenue
at 10531 Westminster:

The staff report dated May 2, 2006 to consider options to provide parking for 16 employees of the Child Town preschool located at 10531 Westminster Avenue was introduced.

At the January 25, 2006 City Council meeting, removal of street parking and the addition of a third lane on Westminster Avenue was approved. As this section of Westminster Avenue is shared by the City of Westminster, staff was directed to delay installation of the third lane until the City of Westminster constructs a raised median between Bushard Avenue and Magnolia Street. The staff recommended that the Traffic Commission approve option number one to provide parking on Ranney Avenue for the preschool staff.

Chair Marcario opened the public hearing to receive testimony in favor of or in opposition to the request.

Ms. Jean Mellen of 13921 Ward Street approached the commission. She noted that the preschool was built in 1983, and at that time the access gate was established for emergencies only for police or fire. She wrote a letter to the City Council in 1985 complaining about the people from the school using the back access gate and taking children through the gate. She noted that the intersection of Westminster and

Brookhurst is one of the more dangerous, and if Westminster Avenue is widened there will be more traffic and more accidents. She noted that she did not receive a notice about this meeting. She stated that the school has more than 100 children and 15 teachers, commenting that the state law only allows 100 children and 11 teachers. She commented that she appreciates the school, but the parking is not adequate for the number of teachers.

Ms. Bonnie Robba, Director of Child Town Preschool, approached the commission. She noted that she did take the teachers through the access gate to show them where they would be parking, and was confronted by a resident who told her that she could not use the access gate. She also noted that the school is licensed for 118 students, but they average 100 on a daily basis. She stated that she measured Westminster and tried to get an idea of how the street would be widened. She provided a compact disc that illustrates the traffic impacts throughout the day, noting that traffic runs fairly smooth on Westminster, and that the street does not need to be widened.

Mr. George Allen clarified that the plan is to widen Westminster Avenue by creating an additional lane, not adding to the overall measurement of the street. Chair Marcario noted that this project is a regional master plan coordinated with other cities; and Mr. Allen further noted that City Council did ask that this be deferred for a year before it be implemented.

Mr. Richard Robba of 13892 Cardillo Drive in the City of Westminster approached the commission. He stated that he uses Westminster Avenue regularly, and has not experienced traffic issues. He commented that utilizing Ranney Avenue for parking for the preschool teachers is the right choice, and the neighbors will adjust.

Mr. Gerry Gritters, President of Child Town preschool, approached the commission. He stated that there are no issues with Westminster Avenue, and does not see the necessity of an additional lane. He commented that disrupting the school would be very upsetting to the parents. The neighbors behind the school have always complained, and it is impractical for the parents to drop off kids using the access gate. He added that the school is very important to the community, and the actual full time enrollment is about 89 to 92 with the remainder attending half day.

Ms. Jackie Koob of 8151 Pickens Lane in the City Stanton approached the commission. She stated that she is responsible for accounts receivables and human resources at the school. She never has a challenge entering or exiting the school, and questioned the need for an additional lane on Westminster Avenue. She asked about having parking stickers in order to assure parking for the teachers.

There being no further comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Kirkham expressed support for option one, commenting on the importance of ensuring the safety of the children. He also noted that the third lane is mandated.

Commissioner Feather asked how the parking issues for the teachers would be addressed. Mr. Allen responded that he has spoken with the street sweeping supervisor in order to address the schedule, and there are several alternatives to decide on.

Commissioner Alejandro commented that option one appears to be the least hazardous, and asked when the additional lane would be installed. Mr. Allen stated that City Council has asked that this wait until the City of Westminster has built the median, and estimated that it may take up to a year. Commissioner Alejandro suggested tabling the item for further study. Mr. Allen noted that they have worked through every conceivable plan, and option one is the most viable with the least impact to the neighbors.

Chair Marcario noted that she visited the preschool and took a tour, and thought option one would be the best alternative.

Mr. Allen noted that when he prepares the staff report for council, he would include a condition that requires the preschool use Ranney Avenue for staff parking only. Chair Marcario agreed, and also suggested making arrangements with street sweeping.

Commissioner Ettliln moved to accept staff recommendation for option one with an adjustment to the motion from Chair Marcario to include that the Ranney Street parking and the emergency access gate be used by the preschool for staff only, seconded by Commissioner Kirkham. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	COMMISSIONERS:	ALEJANDRO, ETTLIN, FEATHER, KIRKHAM, MARCARIO
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE

Adult Crossing Guard
at Lampson at Pine:

The staff report dated May 2, 2006 to consider a request for an adult crossing guard at the intersection of Lampson Avenue and Pine Street was introduced.

Staff recommended a denial for an additional crossing guard, as the study performed by the Traffic Engineering Department did not pass the criteria to justify a crossing guard at this intersection. Mr. Allen noted that signage would be installed, and the budget may allow for an actuated crossing signal.

Chair Marcario opened the public hearing to receive testimony in favor of or in opposition to the request.

Ms. Sonya Grabow of 12592 Pine Street approached the commission. She stated that at this intersection she witnessed a child hit by a car two years ago. She questioned the validity of the student body count in the traffic study, and proposed that many more students would use this crosswalk if there were a crossing guard assigned. She noted that there are many apartments in the area housing school age children who walk on Pine Street to avoid Euclid Street.

Ms. Melissa Estrada, PTA President of Stanley Elementary School, approached the commission. She commented that when she has been in her car and stopped at the crosswalk on Pine Street to allow pedestrians to cross, cars have gone around her instead of stopping. She commented that it only takes one car to hit a child.

Ms. Katrina Smorich of 12291 Pine Street approached the commission. She stated that she sees a lot of children walking down Lampson Avenue to go to Stanley School in the mornings. She stated that people are driving faster down Pine Street, and can only imagine what it is like for the children walking to school. She asked for a crossing guard, and a stop sign at Jerry and Pine.

Ms. Victoria Shaffer of 11412 Ora Drive approached the commission. As a PTA member, she has contacted the City to find out about using parent volunteers; however, it is not allowed due to liability. She expressed her deep concern for the safety of the children.

Ms. Cherise Cotter of 12662 Pine Street approached the commission. She questioned the validity of the study, and thought that the crosswalk would be used more if there were a crossing guard. She suggested putting more distance between the crosswalks at Elmwood and at Pine Street as they are too close to each other; she also commented that the number of cars parking on Lampson Avenue blocks the visibility of children at the crosswalk. She pointed out that there are two crossing guards on Lampson and Buaro and a signal, and there is also another crossing guard in front of Violette School.

Brian Hopkins of 12531 Walnut Street approached the commission. He stated that he has two children that go to Stanley school, but because of the traffic in the mornings, he drives his children to school to ensure their safety. He would like to be able to have them walk to school, but he does not feel comfortable without a crossing guard.

Sparlin Sypherd of 11111 Lampson Avenue approached the commission. He stated that the crosswalk at Pine Street is very near his driveway. He has two children who attended Stanley, and noted that kids don't use the crosswalk in the morning. Because of the speeding traffic on Lampson, he would like to see more safety equipment installed. He related that there have been occasions when he has been in his car, stopped for students to cross the street, and motorists have gone around his car.

Verla Lambert approached the commission, and commented that it seems odd that there are two crossing guards and a signal at Buaro and Lampson.

There being no further comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Kirkham questioned why there are the two crossing guards at Buaro and Lampson. Mr. Allen stated that when the criteria have been met for crossing guards, the school administration determines where crossing guards are needed.

Commissioner Kirkham asked if there are work orders for signage. Mr. Allen stated yes.

Chair Marcario stated that she did go to the site from 2:15 to 3:15 on a Friday, and counted both Pine and Elmwood Streets. She stated that she counted 18 children who crossed at Elmwood, and 41 who crossed on Pine. She commented that the study done for the request for a crossing guard on Lewis at Downey was a two day average, and that additional counts should be done at the Pine Street crosswalk. She suggested moving the Pine Street crosswalk slightly east and eliminating the crosswalk at Elmwood, and she requested additional counts. She asked to have a two or three day count to be brought back at the next meeting.

Mr. Allen stated that they would do a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday count. He stated that they will also look at eliminating a crosswalk at Elmwood, and will also look into installing a flashing beacon.

Commissioner Alejandro concurred with the suggestion to do further study on the count.

Commissioner Kirkham moved to direct staff to conduct additional counts for the crosswalks on Elmwood and Pine Streets, and to study the feasibility of eliminating a crosswalk at either Elmwood or Pine Street, seconded by Chair Marcario. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	COMMISSIONERS:	ALEJANDRO, ETTLIN, FEATHER, KIRKHAM, MARCARIO
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE

Left turn phasing
West Street at
Orangewood Avenue:

The staff report dated May 2, 2006 to consider a request to install left-turn phasing on West Street at Orangewood Avenue was introduced.

Staff recommended approval as it has been determined that the intersection met the Volume and Speed/Volume warrants to install left-turn phasing on West Street at Orangewood Avenue.

Chair Marcario expressed appreciation for the accident report, and also expressed support for the recommendation.

Chair Marcario opened the public hearing to receive testimony in favor of or in opposition to the request.

There being no further comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Chair Marcario moved to accept the staff recommendation to install left-turn phasing on West Street at Orangewood Avenue, seconded by Commissioner Alejandro. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	COMMISSIONERS:	ALEJANDRO, ETTLIN, FEATHER, KIRKHAM, MARCARIO
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE

Support State
Legislation SB 246:

Staff report and hearing item for the request for support of State Legislation Senate Bill 246 was pulled.

MATTERS
FROM
COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Kirkham asked for the draft minutes to be provided to the Commission in advance of the scheduled meetings, particularly the items that go to the City Council. Mr. Allen responded that minute excerpts for items going to council would be provided, as well as a copy of the council agenda.

Commissioner Alejandro noted a comment from a resident speaking on the parking options for the Child Town preschool about not receiving a notice for the public hearing. He asked to be informed of how many people are noticed. Mr. Allen stated that because this was a continued item from the previous meeting, the residents were not re-noticed.

Commissioner Kirkham asked about whether a neighborhood meeting has been scheduled for the Blackmer Street neighbors. Mr. Allen stated that he has not set a date yet for that, and would forward an agenda when the date is determined.

Chair Marcario asked whether painting a white line on Lampson Avenue between Gilbert and Brookhurst in order to give the perception of narrowing the road in order to slow traffic could be considered. Mr. Allen responded that it could be considered.

Chair Marcario asked whether the stop sign on Dale at Stanford is necessary, noting that the City of Stanton has installed blockades to keep traffic from coming through. Mr. Allen stated that he would look into that and bring back a report.

MATTERS
FROM
STAFF:

Signal Modification at Various Locations

The City will be installing protective permissive left turns at two locations, and will be upgrading the signal on Bowen and Westminster. A new traffic cabinet will be installed on Magnolia. The City received an additional \$800,000.00 grant, and has \$1.2 million for the construction of fiber optics. The amber alert sign project is ready to go to bid, and the locations are planned for Harbor Boulevard south of Garden Grove Boulevard, and Valley View Street south of Tiffany Street. The fiber optic design is 80 to 85 percent complete and will be about five miles of fiber optic cable. The Chief of Police asked for additional 12 video cameras in areas of concern; however, only ten can be installed.

OCTA Presentation on SR22 Project

The OCTA presentation will be done at the Traffic Commission meeting in July, as the presenter is out of town.

The median project will go out to bid in late July or early August with improvements to medians on Magnolia to Fern, 500 feet west of Haster Street, Belfast, and Chapman and Euclid.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

TERESA POMEROY
Recording Secretary