



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
City Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue
April 22, 2010**

1. Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair Anderson.

2. Roll call Members present: Lubov Mazur, Ray Anderson, Ken McCroskey. Absent: Marsha Atkinson (excused). Staff present: Chavez, Lt. Geissberger, Officer O'Connor, Ann Chaney.

3. Approval of Minutes. Minutes were not approved at this meeting as not all the commissioners received their packets. March minutes will be approved in May.

4. Public Comment

- o Ken McCroskey announced that Bike to Work Day was May 13 and that the Green Festival was on May second.
- o Ray Anderson announced that the Fire Department Earthquake Preparedness was on May first.
- o Ann Chaney announced the upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission study session on the Safeway project.

5. Presentation

5-1 Police Reports

Lt. Geissberger presented the report for the month of March 2010. There were 13 accidents; 9 were non-injury; 4 were injury collisions; 3 were hits and run; and 7 occurred on Marin Avenue and none occurred near a school. There were 2 bike/auto collisions. The APD issued 240 moving citations.

Officer O'Connor spoke about the California Law Enforcement Challenge competition, which focuses on seat belt, DUI, and speed limit enforcement, among other things. Albany submitted a report which showed that DUI arrests were up 14 percent and collisions dropped by 9 percent in 2009.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on matters related to the following items:

6-1 Evaluate possible change and limited time parking at the southwest side of the Solano and San Pablo intersection.

Chavez reported that she had conducted observations between 8:15 and 8:30 am for a period of two weeks at this intersection and that the north side of Solano was usually parked up in the mornings, but that on the south side there was often available parking.

Mr. Kamaljit Bhalrhu, owner of Subway made his own observations and presented them to the Commission. His observations were made between 7:00 and 9:30 am. He said that he needed that parking because not many people knew that Subway was now open for breakfast, but when word spread out, the parking would be needed due to increased demand.

McCroskey moved that staff collect additional data to see how offering breakfast was impacting the need for the parking space. Mazur seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6-2 Request by resident to remove chokers adjacent to property at 1039 Santa Fe Avenue

Chaney provided background about the implementation of the chokers through the Traffic Management Plan (TMP). Discussion was open to the Commission members.

McCroskey suggested considering this issue with the contract for the construction of the Marin Elementary project.

Mazur said that when the TMP was being developed, it was stated that when residents wished to remove traffic calming measures installed by the City, they would be financially responsible for the removal.

McNenny indicated that he was opposed to the installation of the chokers at that time. He also suggested the installation of a speed hump that directly connects to the island. In addition, he said that he still wanted to see the results of the traffic calming through the monitoring speed survey. He said the choker is esthetically unappealing, particularly the standing reflector. The choker has decreased the value of his property by more than \$6,000. He said he would like to see the island on an improved maintenance schedule.

Dana Helmrick, resident of the 900 block of Carmel said that if the choker is removed, a speed hump should replace it.

McCroskey said that from the cyclist perspective, the chokers were a hazard as cyclists have to swerve left to avoid the chokers and this created a potential conflict between vehicles and cyclists.

Anderson said that he remembered the post installation survey showed that the chokers had an effect on reducing vehicular speed. He was concerned about the cost of the removal.

McCroskey said that the vehicular speed reduction had been successful, but the street had changed and the bus line no longer operated on Santa Fe. He also said that the chokers stuck further out than parked vehicles.

Mazur moved that the stand up reflector be removed and that more reflective devices be added to the choker. She also moved that in the future staff should look into cutting a portion of the choker. A third motion was to conduct another survey after the installation of the speed humps on the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue, which were part of the Safe Routes to Schools grant in order to measure overall effectiveness of the traffic calming implementation.

7. Reports

7-1 Speed Survey on the 900 block of Carmel

Chavez presented a report summarizing the findings of the speed and volume survey on the 900 hundred block of Carmel. According to the survey, the block is eligible for a speed calming feature. Dana Helmbretch, Moemoe Mynt, and Sochana Klein, residents of the block were present to request the Commission placement of the issue on a future agenda. Mazur moved that a speed treatment at the 900 block of Carmel be placed on a future agenda.

7-2 City of Richmond parking enforcement on Pierce Street

Anderson met with the Richmond Police Department staff because they were giving parking tickets to large street sweepers parked by Ranch 99. Therefore, the trucks started parking in front of 555 Pierce.

7-3 Preliminary Study Report—I-80 Central Avenue Interchange Modifications

Chaney reported on the Open House held in El Cerrito about the work done in the past six months on

the planning of the Central Avenue interchange. The challenge was the many intersecting roadways in that segment. She said that one option was to eliminate the signal at Pierce and relocate it at San Mateo. With this configuration, westbound traffic on Central could not make a left turn onto Pierce. The plan proposed to add a left turn pocket on San Mateo and add a new road connecting to Pierce St.

Mazur moved to put this item on a future agenda and have staff from Richmond make a presentation to the Commission.

7-4 Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path grant application

Chavez reported that she had submitted a block grant to the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency for the construction of the Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path.

7-5 Washington Street Parking limit signage

Chaney explained that the issue was that it was not clear whether the signs were to be located. The APD started enforcing between Adams and Madison.

7-6 Curtis Street Closure at Marin School on Wednesday, May 19.

Chavez reported that the Council had approved the closure of Curtis Street from Marin to Sonoma Avenue for four hours on May 19 for the celebration of Bike to School Day at Marin Elementary.

8. Announcements and Communications

8-1 35% PS&E for the Marin/Santa Fe intersection improvements

Chavez announced that she planned to have a presentation on the 35% PS7E for this project in May, and that staff is aiming at building this and the Buchanan/Jackson signal at the same time the summer of the current year.

9. Future agenda items

The Commission moved the Permit Parking Program item for its meeting in July and added the Subway parking study five months later (October, 2010).

10. Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 pm –Next meeting is May 27, 2010 at the City Council Chambers.