



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
City Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue
September 23, 2010**

1. Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Anderson.

2. Roll call. Members present: Lubov Mazur, Ray Anderson, Marsha Atkinson, John Miki. Ken McCroskey Staff present: Chaney, Chavez, Leptien, and Officer O'Connor.

3. Approval of Minutes. Approval of Minutes for July 23, 2010. Minutes were approved with one minor correction.

4. Public Comment

Alan Riffer, 630 Jackson Street. Asked the Commission to analyze the green and white curb parking at 720 Jackson St. for Children Center. Issue recommended for October or November agenda.

Michael Wallace, 715 Hillside, Chairman of the Charter Review Committee, encouraged Commissioners to vote yes on Measure M regarding the election versus appointment of a City Attorney.

Ken McCroskey commented on the following: Stop sign with no pavement markings at Kains Avenue near El Cerrito Plaza; lack of stop sign or marked crosswalks at Dartmouth and Pomona intersection, because this intersection is a route to school. The issue will be put on a future agenda.

5. Presentation

5-1 Police Reports

Officer O'Connor presented report for July and August. A total of 15 collisions were reported, 4 non-injury, 11 injury collisions, 2 involved hit/run, 6 collisions on Marin Avenue, none at the schools. There was one collision involving a bicycle, and none involving pedestrians. During this period, the APD issued 110 moving citations. The Commission acted to place Red Signal Indicator Lights at the next meeting.

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

6-1 Change the date for the November and December Traffic and Safety Commission meeting—Dates proposed: November 18 and December 16, 2010.

The Commission discussed their availability on the proposed dates. Allan Griffin, Albany resident said that November 18 is showing this date as a rescheduled meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission decided to reconsider this item at the October meeting.

The Commission decided to move item 6-4 up as Reverend Charles Blue was not present

6-4 Marin-Santa Fe Intersection Improvements—65% plans attached

Discussion: Chavez introduced Geoff Rubendall of AECOM to present this item. After the presentation, the following people spoke: Sally Heinz, Sherry Reineman, Swarna Matz, Nick Pilch, Peggy Lee, Lorna Winn, Dennis Myers, Frank Szults, Frank Gonzalez.

The following were the comments received:

- Marin Avenue speeds have to slow down.
- The design presents a conflict between the northwest corner of Santa Fe and Marin and cyclists traveling westbound.
- Implement the NRTOR during school times only.
- Extend the bulb out onto Santa Fe to prevent two cars beside each other.
- Support for the pedestrian lead time.
- Pull the bulb outs in, so they do not encroach into bike lanes.
- Use reflective edge on the bulb outs so they can be easily seen at night.
- Do not support implementation of NRTOR for limited hours. There is no precedent in limiting the hours of the NRTOR in other cities.
- Investigate if speed detection could be implemented on the proposed signal.
- Implement the right turn after a full stop.
- Problems occur in the morning along the school loading/unloading area. Parents double park, make illegal u-turns, etc.
- Do not eliminate on street parking on Marin. Parking in the area is limited and if spaces are eliminated through this project, it would be more difficult to find parking.
- On average, about 60 people cross the street at that intersection every morning.
- Support for the speed humps.
- Residents have a difficult time getting out of their driveways because there is a long queue along Santa Fe every morning due to the NRTOR restriction.
- Alignment of the intersection is a little bit skewed in the last design. Move the bulb outs to align the intersection.
- Extend the centerline through the intersection because it does not seem aligned. We need to see the centerline before we can approve these plans
- The gutters along the bulb out seem to be encroaching into the bike lane. This needs to be re-examined at the four sides of the intersection to make sure conditions are safe for cyclists.
- Although parking is important, the safety of the children should be first.
- There are a lot of violations of the existing NRTOR restriction.
- Show a plan of the existing sidewalk compared to the proposed sidewalk.
- NRTOR encourages speeding through the intersection approach to avoid the red.
- Is the project for the safety of the children or for the whole neighborhood? At what time does speeding happen on Santa Fe Avenue?
- Make the proposed southernmost speed hump a raised crosswalk that is aligned to the south entrance of the school to provide for a mid block crossing.
- Include an existing alignment plan to compare with the proposed plans.

The Commission was in support of the NRTOR during limited time only. Concern that pavement treatment and ramp width may not accommodate the number of pedestrians and children on scooters. McCroskey suggested implementation of an unprotected left turn from northbound Santa Fe Avenue onto westbound Marin Avenue. Chavez said that in conversation with the consultant, it was determined that inclusion of the left turn lane would not add to pedestrian safety because it would not be a “protected” left turn. Protected left turns could not be added because it would break the equilibrium of the Marin Avenue roadway system. However, inclusion of the pedestrian lead phase feature would improve safety at this intersection.

Action: The Commission moved to refine the design based on the comments received and come back next month to the Commission for discussion.

6-2 Request by Reverend Charles Blue of Church on the Corner to implement an in-pavement “Yield to Pedestrians” sign at the intersection of Solano and Pomona Avenues.

Discussion: Reverend Blue did not respond to two voice messages left by staff on this issue.

Action: The Commission postponed this issue until Rev. Blue communicated with City staff on this issue again.

6-3 Feedback on the analysis of the roles of the city Commissions, Committees and Boards— Report excerpt and related information attached

Discussion: Chavez went through the highlights of the recommendations and emphasized what was pertinent to T&S. For instance, they wanted to know what type of feedback was requested under item 2. They recommended the addition of the phrase “every two years” in parenthesis next to “bi-annual.” There was also concern about how responsible a Commission member would be in writing the minutes and recommended adding the evaluation of a project impacts on cyclist and pedestrians in numeral 8.

Action: The Commission asked staff to write and submit a report to the City Manager about their comments to the Staff Recommended Changes to Advisory Bodies as a Whole.

7. Reports

Chavez asked the Commission if they could start with Item 7-2.

7-2 Pierce Street Pavement Rehabilitation and Multi Use Path

Chavez introduced Randy Leptien, City Engineer on Contract for this item. Leptien said that the project was currently in design stage for construction plans. The project cost is estimated at \$1.5 million. He said that the call for bids will be held in December, construction award in January or February and construction to start in March or April.

7-1 Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Right of Way Agreements

ROW agreements are being processed. The School District is the first agency that is moving along, with USDA and UC Berkeley still reviewing their documents.

7-3 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans. Update on Existing Conditions Workshop.

Chavez said that the workshop held on September 14 was a success. About 47 people in attendance and that the floor map was a great addition to the discussion. She invited the Commission member to the next event for these plans, a design study session scheduled for October 23, 2010 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Council Chambers.

7-4 Double Yellow Line on Jackson, south of Buchanan Street

Anderson asked the Commission to put this item on the agenda for October. He suggested implementation of a double-double yellow line to deter vehicles from crossing to the other side to park. The Commission decided to research the facts in preparation for the discussion in October.

8. Announcements and Communications

8-1 Email from Ken McCroskey regarding the City of El Cerrito Traffic Management Plan
McCroskey said that he was interested in the “pace car” program and that he would keep an eye on what they are doing to see if this program would be feasible in Albany.

9. Future agenda items

The Subway 20-minute parking follow up was moved to November. It was recommended to discuss the police lights in October and Chavez asked to add the speed hump policy discussion in October.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 pm –Next meeting is September 23, 2010 at the City Council Chambers.