

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021
MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
REGULAR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission was called to order by Commissioner Abelson on March 16, 2021, at 6:33 p.m. The meeting was held in a virtual setting, via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Leonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant

PRESENT: Commissioner Abelson, Commissioner Dunlap, Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Liu and Mayor Mahmud.

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councilmember Jon Primuth

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Shahid Abbas, Public Works Director, Garrett Crawford, Acting Deputy Public Works Director and Leonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dunlap led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Public Comment

1. Ann Rector expressed concern with the traffic on Orange Grove Avenue between Columbia St. and the 110 Freeway. She mentioned illegal trucks and requested a traffic study be completed.
2. Sarah Aguilar expressed concern with the traffic on Orange Grove Avenue between Columbia St. and the 110 Freeway. She referenced two accidents and requested a traffic study be completed.
3. Caroline Howell expressed concern about speeding and traffic on Orange Grove Avenue between Columbia St. and the 110 Freeway. She has requested a traffic study be completed.
4. Victoria Eaton expressed concern with traffic on Orange Grove Avenue between Columbia St. and the 110 Freeway. She requested a traffic study be completed.
5. Julian Cardenas expressed concern regarding speeding and dangerous activity on Orange Grove Avenue and believes improved traffic safety measures will decrease the conditions on Orange Grove Avenue.
6. Frank Cardenas expressed concern regarding dangerous traffic on Orange Grove Avenue and requested a comprehensive speed-reduction measures and redesign of Orange Grove Avenue.

PRESENTATION

2. Re-appropriation of Metro Open Streets Grant

Wes Reutimann, Active San Gabriel Valley, gave a brief presentation on this item. Because of the pandemic, the plan for the “Mission to Mission” and ArroyoFest like events for 2020 were cancelled. There had been funding allocated to the City to support the event, which would be retained and re-purposed for open and slow streets projects at the City’s request.

A defined scope of work will need to be completed before the proposal goes to the City Council for review.

Discussion ensued regarding the funding, as well as partnering with other cities, and community programs.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission on February 16, 2021 -
Minutes approved as amended. (Hughes, Fisher; 5-0)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Preferential Parking Policy

Acting Deputy Director Crawford gave a brief overview of this item. Commissioner Liu summarized the City of Pasadena's preferential parking program.

PWD Shahid Abass requested that the Commission discuss this item and staff would bring back a more comprehensive policy for review.

Discussion ensued regarding the existing parking districts in limited areas of the City. There was discussion about whether the areas should be expanded and that it was key to maintain a balance.

The Commissioners agreed to move forward with the development of some criteria for a parking district. Staff will do some additional research in regards to if there is an existing or past policy and work with Commissioners' suggestions/recommendations. After the research is completed, the staff the issue will be placed on a future commission agendas, as an action item-preferential parking policy.

COMMISSION LED DISCUSSIONS

5. SR 710 Mobility Improvement Projects Ad Hoc Committee

No update. Staff is developing a draft RFP and scope of work for a study of the SR-110 and Fair Oaks interchange which will be shared with the Committee. The planned study would be used to support the initial environmental study.

6. COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Liu reported that there had been meetings with the former commissioners that were on the COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee. He also spoke with the CEO Laurie Wheeler about the business community. There is interest in weight lining signage and moving forward this will be a safer configuration for bicyclists and pedestrians. The plan is to engage the business community and city outreach to local businesses. Areas of focus will include: 1) Collect their experience working with the city. 2) Experience with outdoor dining aspect and explore long term configurations. 3) Explore installation of parklets. 4) Identify public parking that could become a parklet. 5) Restaurants that are dining in their parking lots – small reduction or reallocation of parking can help local businesses and economy. Suggestion: Staff engage with Arroyo Fest Fund.

7. Ramona Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan

Chair Abelson and Vice Chair Fisher took a tour of the location including the high school and Holy Family Church. It was reported that passenger loading is occurring on the north side of Rollin Street, despite No Parking signs and narrow width of the street. A suitable alternative might be to allow passenger loading on the west side of Fremont Avenue south of Bank Street. However, there is red curb between Bank Street and Rollin Street.

One morning Fisher looked at the impact of parents driving students to the school at Holy Family Church. The flow is northbound on Ramona Avenue, eastbound on Oak Street, left turn into the driveway, travel north through the church lot and exit on Rollin Street. Student drop offs tend to occur between 7:30 and 8:10 AM. At times traffic queues on Ramona Avenue southerly of Pine Street This pattern minimizes impacts to Ramona Avenue between Oak Street and Rollin Street. When the high school begins classes on campus the situation can be further evaluated for ways to mitigate the traffic impacts.

Public Comment

1. Craig Erickson expressed concern regarding the traffic and safety issues on Ramona Avenue. He suggested to stagger the start times and take away the Holy Family drop off.

8. Discussion of Local Return Measure M Projects for FY 2022

Commissioner Abelson gave a background information on this item. Discussion ensued regarding projects. was a

Councilmember Primuth reported that funds have not yet been identified to match the existing Rogan Funds. The Commission agreed that the Measure M funds of \$1.7 million allocated to the City should not be used as a match to the Rogan funds.

The Commission agreed to go back to the original project list for consideration of use of the Measure M funds.

COMMUNICATIONS

9. City Council Liaison Communications

Council Liaison Primuth commented that the FY 20-21 Budget will be presented at tomorrow night's City Council meeting.

10. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Dunlap commented that the drive through food distribution set-up at Holy Family partnership with Supervisor Barger's office is very well organized.

Commissioner Hughes thanked everyone for voting on the UUT and Measure A, which passed. The funding really helped the City weather the pandemic.

Commissioner Abelson commented that it would be helpful if the commission could receive accident data, as it would help to identify possible troubled traffic locations. He also commented that he was traveling on Oak St. and it was very heartwarming to see the kids walking to Marengo Elementary. It might be helpful if when the City Council takes action on projects or decide to present an issue to the MTIC, that the Commission can be made aware when this happens. It could then generate an agenda item.

11. Staff Liaison Communications

Acting Deputy Director Crawford advertised the Dedication Tree Program.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on April 20, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

Larry Abelson

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Lawrence Abelson, Chair



PUBLIC COMMENT
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMISSION MEETING

March 16, 2021

Item No.	Name	Document	Date Received
GC	Ann Rector	E-mail Public Comment	3/06/2021
GC	Sarah Aguilar	E-mail Public Comment	3/07/2021
GC	Caroline Howell	E-mail Public Comment	3/08/2021
GC	Victoria Eaton	E-mail Public Comment	3/09/2021
GC	Julian Cardenas	E-mail Public Comment	3/16/2021
GC	Frank Cardenas	E-mail Public Comment	3/16/2021
Item 7	Craig Erickson	E-mail Public Comment	3/16/2021

From: Ann Rector <annrector80@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 4:17 PM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: March 16, 2021 MTIC - PUBLIC COMMENT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Ann Rector. This email is for General Public Comment. I wish for my email public comment to be read out loud during the meeting.

I own a home at 217 Orange Grove Ave. in South Pasadena. My family has lived on this property since 1960 or over 60 years. I am commenting this evening because of the dangerous traffic on Orange Grove Ave. between Columbia St. and the 110 Freeway. This approximate one-quarter mile of Orange Grove Ave. has a long history of accidents, reckless driving, property damage (both City and Private), and illegal freight trucking. (North and Southbound)

Due to the ongoing, chronic safety hazards, including two recent horrible traffic accidents on Orange Grove Ave, I am requesting that a Traffic Study be completed. Following the Traffic Study, mitigation strategies can be implemented immediately. Something must be done to slow down the speed of the traffic.

Thank you - Ann Rector
Owner 217 Orange Grove Ave. South Pasadena CA 91030
562-858-0950

From: Sarah Aguilar <aguilar.sarahrector@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 1:31 PM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: Sarah Rector Aguilar aguilar.sarahrector@gmail.com

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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My name is Sarah Rector Aguilar. This email is for General Public Comment. I wish for my email public comment to be read out loud during the meeting.

I own a home at 301 Orange Grove Avenue in South Pasadena. My family has lived on this property since 1960 or over the 60 years, I am commenting this evening because of the dangerous traffic on Orange Grove Avenue between Columbia Street and the 110 Freeway. This approximate one-quarter mile of Orange Grove Avenue has a long documented history of car accidents. In fact, not only have two street lights, directly in front of my house, been taken out by car accidents, but my irrigation system next to those street lights received major damage.

Due to the ongoing chronic safety hazards, I am requesting that a Traffic Study be completed. Following the Traffic Study, mitigation strategies can be implemented immediately. Something must be done to slow down the speed of traffic.

Thank you - Sarah Rector Aguilar
owner 301 Orange Grove Avenue, South Pasadena CA. 91030
626 864 0010

From: Caroline Howell
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 7:30 AM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Cc: Nick Howell
Subject: Public comment for MTIC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I am Caroline Howell and would like this General Public Comment read aloud at your upcoming meeting:

We own a home at 300 Orange Grove Avenue (corner of Oliver Street) where we have lived for 4 years. We are very concerned about the speeding, reckless driving and dangerous traffic on Orange Grove Avenue between Columbia and the 110 Freeway. We have witnessed numerous accidents and an untold amount of speeding in this corridor next to our home. Last month, our 17-year-old son heard a horrific accident in the middle of the night and ran out to call 9-1-1, and witnessed a car totaled with 4 passengers. Please consider a traffic study to evaluate what can be done to make this a safer area.

Thank you,
Caroline & Nick Howell

From: Victoria Eaton
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 4:06 PM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: Drive like your kids live here

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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My name is **Victoria Eaton**. This email is for General Public Comment. I wish for my email public comment to be read out loud during the meeting.

I own a home at 411 Prospect Circle in **South Pasadena**. My family has lived here for **8 years**. I am commenting this evening because of the dangerous traffic on Orange Grove Ave. between Columbia St. and the 110 Freeway and on Meridian Ave . **This one-quarter mile of Orange Grove Ave. has a long documented history of accidents, reckless driving, property damage (both City and Private) as well as the high speeds on Meridian Avenue.**

Due to the ongoing, chronic safety hazards, including two recent horrible traffic accidents on Orange Grove Ave, I am requesting that a Traffic Study be completed. Following the Traffic Study, mitigation strategies can be implemented immediately. Something must be done to slow down the speed of the traffic.

Thank you,

Victoria Eaton

From: Julian Cardenas
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:29 AM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: 3/16 MTIC Meeting - Resident Public Comment

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Follow up to Frank Cardenas's statement - I would like my general public comment to be read into the record during the meeting:

The majority of the time that I walk or drive by Orange Grove Avenue, I see speeding, dangerous merging, street racing, or near-collisions. Most recently, I heard and responded to a serious traffic collision on southbound Orange Grove near Oliver Street, not 200 yards from our home. When I arrived on scene (before PD and Fire), I found a young woman bleeding from a large gaping hole in her skull and who had traumatic deformities to her legs. She was partially ejected from the vehicle, disoriented, crying, and begging to see her mother. Another young woman was lying inside of nearby bushes with other injuries. The car they were riding in had crashed into a rock wall, demolished a light pole, and injured a tree before coming to a rest after careening off the Avenue. As an emergency medicine student, I firmly believe that improved traffic safety measures, diligent supervision by our Police Department, and attention by City Administration will decrease the amount of human pain and suffering caused by the dangerous conditions on Orange Grove Avenue that have been allowed to persist for decades on end.

**With appreciation for your service,
Julian Cardenas
451 Prospect Circle**

"Each of us defines all of us"

From: Frank Cardenas
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:58 AM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: General Public Comment - Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Members of the Mobile and Transportation Infrastructure Commission:

My name is Frank Cardenas. My family has lived at the corner of Prospect Drive and Prospect Circle for over 20 years. It's the only home our three children have ever known. We love our neighborhood and we love our town. To live in our neighborhood, however, is to live with the reality that at any moment the regular, dangerous driving behaviors on Orange Grove Avenue - particularly of southbound motorists - can result in tragedy. Of the many crashes on Orange Grove between Mission and Columbia, perhaps the most gruesome occurred about four weeks ago when our nineteen-year old son, a trained Emergency Medical Technician, found himself racing from our home to respond to a car crash on Orange Grove just south of Columbia, quite apparently caused by speeding.

Our son is submitting as Public Comment to your commission his description of the horrific human tragedy that he encountered as he assisted two women who had been thrown from the vehicle. This latest tragedy is but the most recent indication that the traffic calming measure of a redesigned median about 18 years ago, and the installation of two new stop signs in the Prospect-Meridian Neighborhood about ten years ago, are no longer adequate. The situation on and around Orange Grove has gotten worse and new measures are needed. The time has come to investigate, with the City of Pasadena, new, comprehensive speed-reduction measures, including a possible redesign of Orange Grove. Thank you.

Frank Cardenas

Frank C. Cardenas

Frank Cardenas and Associates

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From: Craig Erickson ·
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:19 AM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: Ramona Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan Ad Hoc Committee-Public Comment
Attachments: [HF Traffic 1.jpg](#); [HF Traffic 4.jpg](#); [HF Traffic 3.jpg](#); [HF Traffic 2.jpg](#)

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Craig Erickson
Ramona Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan Ad Hoc Committee
Please read the comment during the meeting.

I live at 1545 Ramona Ave, on the corner of Ramona and Oak. I watch every morning as the cars for Holy Family line up down Ramona and cause traffic and safety issues in the neighborhood. I have reviewed the November 2019 Traffic Management Plan. While it does suggest some reasonable solutions. It does nothing to address the root of the problem. None of these solutions will reduce the traffic flow. The root of the problem is all the traffic from the Holy Family drop off. There also needs to be better enforcement of drop off at the High School.

I believe that the simplest and most cost effective solution is to stagger the start times and take away the Holy Family drop off, especially since 90% of the students are from outside South Pas. They should utilize the 75 spots in their other lot. Their reason for not doing this is the students having to cross Fremont. Students at every other school in the district cross busy streets everyday. Not only is there a traffic light, they can move the nice lady who watches the driveway to the Fremont/Oak intersection to act as a crossing guard.

While they are very concerned with the safety of their students they don't seem to have the same concern for the other students and residents of the neighborhood. The parents have a total disregard for the neighborhood and traffic laws. They are constantly making u turns and stopping in the crosswalks both on Ramona and Oak. The traffic back up also causes other drivers to lose patience and not make the safest driving choices.

Thank you.

Craig Erickson