

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022
MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Abelson called the Regular Meeting of the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission to order on March 15, 2022, at 6:32 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Chair Abelson

Present: Chair Abelson, Vice Chair Fisher, Commissioner Dunlap, and Commissioner Hughes

Council Liaison: Councilmember Jon Primuth

Absent:

Staff Present: Ted Gerber, Director of Public Works (“PWD”), and Leaonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant (“PA”)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Fisher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Public Comment – General

a. Joanne Nuckols – She commented on an article in the LA Times, “Santa Barbara fights fast food traffic”, which stated the city of Santa Barbara is declaring the food chain a public nuisance. She stated that the same type of congestion clogs her neighborhood on Oak Street and Ramona Avenue due to the drop-off and pick-up of students at Holy Family School. Ms. Nuckols is hoping the Commission can make a recommendation to start the dialogue to discontinue the use of the drive-thru until Holy Family School applies for a permit and that there are public hearings about the situation. Ms. Nuckols mentioned that there is an auxiliary parking lot that can be used for student drop-off and pick-up.

INFORMATION REPORTS

2. Status of Projects

PWD Gerber presented an update regarding the back-up issue connected with Holy Family School. He shared that there had been a meeting with the school, and they discussed how the current situation is not working. Ideas were exchanged, but more discussions are planned.

Fair Oaks Signal Synchronization

PWD Gerber shared how cable was being installed thru a conduit, but the project has hit some “road blocks,” as there is an issue as to where the control center will be situated. The team is working on solutions. With the funding coming from the Rogan funds for the entire Fair Oaks area and interchange, there is time for modifications.

In regards to the Fremont Avenue, Huntington Dr. and Measure M and R efforts, there will be minor adjustments to the schedules. Staff is seeing if there can be an adjustment to the focus.

Loop Ramp

Meeting with Metro, CalTrans and Pasadena took place. There needs to be additional discussions with CalTrans regarding the reduced use of Pasadena property.

Street Improvement Projects

We are looking at funding, such as SB1. The Purchase Order for the planned contractor has expired, but plan is to go back to the City Council for an extension. Public Works is also going to review the water lines connected to the planned streets to verify costs, etc.

Meridian Avenue

Utilizing block grant funding to improve sidewalks and curb ramps. This project is planned for a City Council agenda for approval to utilize the funds. There is an issue with the intersections, but staff will review once there is approval of funds.

Vice Chair Fisher asked if the Commission could be provided traffic accident data for Meridian, as well as any information about any property damage related to accidents.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission on February 15, 2022
Minutes approved as amended. Motion made by Commissioner Hughes and seconded by Dunlap (4-0, motion passes).

4. Measure M Projects

PWD Gerber gave a brief overview on the item.

Discussion ensued regarding the various projects. The Commission reviewed the history of the projects that go back to 2017 and how the intention behind these projects was to assist in easing traffic in key “pinch points” in the City.

There was discussion about bike lanes. The group discussed how bike lanes will be integrated into the upcoming General Plan and Strategic Plan.

A motion was made by Chair Abelson and seconded by Commissioner Hughes, that the City proceed with the original list of Measure M projects recommended by the Commission and that staff submit to the City Council the additional information provided during the discussion to support the Commission’s recommendations. (3-1, Dunlap; motion passes)

5. Selection of Officers

A motion was made by Chair Abelson and seconded by Commissioner Hughes to nominate Commissioner Fisher as Chair and Commissioner Dunlap as Vice Chair. (4-0, motion passes)

A motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap and seconded by Commissioner Abelson to reappoint Commissioner Hughes as Secretary. (4-0, motion passes)

COMMISSION LED DISCUSSION

6. COVID-19/Slow Streets Ad Hoc Committee

PWD Gerber gave a brief update on this item. Funding has been approved. Next steps include design development and community outreach.

7. SR710 Mobility Improvement Projects Ad Hoc Committee

PWD Gerber announced that Metro has expanded the purposes for which Measure R funds may be used and the City is taking advantage of that and exploring options for how those funds can be used on the Fremont Avenue and Huntington Drive project. It was reported that the City of Pasadena is working on developing their “stub” property.

COMMUNICATIONS

8. City Council Liaison Communications

No comments.

9. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Dunlap thanked PWD Gerber for the update on the Council's decision to retain the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission. He suggested at a future meeting or when discussing the Work Plan having an opportunity to streamline Commission meetings. Secondly, he recalled the City's hiring a consultant to prepare a systemic safety analysis report and asked: 1) what were the findings of the report and 2) how were those funds were programmed.

Chair Fisher agreed with Commissioner Dunlap and requested a meeting with PWD Gerber to discuss the format of the meetings, making them more efficient and limiting a meeting to two hours. He thanked Chair Abelson on his ability to handle these complex proposals and for getting a consensus on those items.

Commissioner Hughes thanked Chair Abelson for his service. She thanked PWD Gerber on the cleanup of the City rock sign and expressed how fortunate the City is to have him. Commissioner Hughes inquired about meetings hosted by CalTrans on the Arroyo Seco Parkway on adopting changes and reconfigurations with adding lanes.

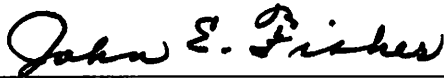
Commissioner Abelson commented on the reduction of speed limits on several roadways by the City of Los Angeles following the California Legislature's passage of AB43, which went into effect at the beginning of the year, regarding speed limits and the cities' ability to change speed limits on certain streets. He suggested adding Commission meeting dates on the City Hall Scoop to increase public awareness and participation

10. Staff Communications

PWA DeWitt announced the upcoming Annual Dumpster Day on April 16, 2022 from 8a.m. to 2p.m. The event will be held on Arroyo Drive, south of Mission Street.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:24 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 19, 2022.



John Fisher, Chair