

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022
MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fisher called the Regular Meeting of the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission to order on July 19, 2022, at 6:36 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Chair Fisher

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

Council Liaison: Mayor-Pro Tem John Primuth

Absent:

Staff Present: Ted Gerber, Director of Public Works, Tatevik Barakazyan, Civil Engineering Associate (CEA) and Leaonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant (“PA”)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dunlap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Public Comment – General

No Public Comment.

INFORMATION REPORTS

2. Project Status Update

PWD Gerber gave a brief overview of the on-going projects list. Discussion ensued regarding the various projects. One of the key issues that was discussed is the need to have on-call consultants to design projects and conduct traffic studies. An RFP had been developed that would provide the Public Works Department with professional services that would support project needs. The contract(s) will be going to the City Council for approval.

The Fair Oaks Avenue traffic signal synchronization project is moving forward and city personnel received some training on the program’s software. There will also be a meeting with Metro in integrating bus priority into the system plan.

The city has requested SB1 funds to assist with street improvements.

The city is planning to install a student drop off area to assist with the traffic issues with school traffic involving Holy Family and South Pasadena High School. PWD Gerber indicated that he will contact the school principal to get their concurrence.

3. Review of the Meridian Traffic Data and Analysis

PWD Gerber gave a presentation on this item.

The commission had discussion about the presentation, such as the traffic accidents data, which included 20 accidents, as well as the recommendations about visibility at intersections and such. The Commission reminded PWD Gerber that residents voiced concerns about speeding on Meridian Avenue and that having that data will assist in developing appropriate engineering or enforcement measures. PWD Gerber indicated that his staff would review the types of collisions, look for any patterns and recommend appropriate measures. The additional information is intended to be scheduled for the October meeting.

Public Comment

Chris Miller – Inquired about reducing the speed across Meridian or just specific intersections.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission on June 21, 2022

Minutes approved as amended. Motion made by Commissioner Hughes and seconded by Commissioner Abelson (4-0, motion passes).

COMMUNICATIONS

5. City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro-Tem informed the Commission of the items on the City Council agenda scheduled for July 20, 2022. Some of the items include the electrification of City Hall, vehicle leases and the ~~naming~~ designation of Hawthorne ~~St.~~ Street, the official name of the roadway that has Railroad Alley street name signs.

6. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Dunlap suggested the City look into a safety plan or a plan like "Vision Zero". He believes this will be a requirement for receiving federal funding or grants.

Commissioner Abelson commented that the high school might start class instruction as early as August 11, so keep the date in mind as we move forward with the project discussed earlier regarding school drop off loading zones along the frontage of South Pasadena High School on Fremont Avenue. In addition, he suggested that if staff is unable to get the Commission agenda by Thursdays that it might be best to reschedule the meeting, so that the Commission and public will have sufficient time for review.

Commissioner Hughes agreed with Commission Abelson to have more time to review the agenda. She requested if staff could speak with Caltrans to repair the large potholes on Arroyo Seco Parkway just south of Orange Grove exit.

Chair Fisher concurred with Commissioner Abelson with having the items in enough time to digest the information.

7. Staff Communications

PWD Gerber informed the Commission that staff looked into adding mulch to the South Pasadena sign, but the area is too steep. Staff is looking into other ground cover solutions that will help.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:30 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 August 16, 2022.

John Fisher, Chair



PUBLIC COMMENT
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMISSION MEETING

July 19, 2022

Item No.	Name	Document	Date Received
3	Michael Siegel	E-mail	7/19/2022
3	D. Shane	E-mail	7/19/2022

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MTIC Public Comments](#)
Subject: public comment - Item 3 Meridian Traffic Data and Analysis
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:41:56 AM

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Commission/Staff/Council,

I love our city, it is fantastic to walk, and I am often out and about walking... in certain parts of our city that is. Unfortunately, I still feel very unsafe from vehicles walking in a lot of our fair city.

Just a point as you make your way through the hourly and time-of-day statistics of traffic volume at various points on Meridian. You will notice not many counts for pedestrians and bicycles. Ask why it's so low - is it because people don't walk or bicycle? Or is it because they avoid that area if they can?

For myself, I can answer definitively it is the latter. That portion of Meridian is just too hostile for non-cars, and I avoid it at all costs. Like many other streets in South Pasadena, vehicles are allowed to flow freely and take advantage to speed unsafely there. Any and all mitigation for this particular area (and others that are similar) that can keep people safe would be much appreciated by the community.

Thanks for your consideration.

Michael Siegel

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MTIC Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Ted Gerber](#); [Tatevik Barakazyan](#); [Leonna Dewitt](#); [John E. Fisher](#); [Lawrence Abelson](#); [Jon Primuth](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#); [Tamara Binns](#)
Subject: MTIC July 19th Commission Meeting: Item No. 3: Meridian Avenue Traffic Issues
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:47:55 AM
Importance: High

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.

Dear MTIC Chair and Commissioners:

I am glad that you are now considering what next can be done to calm the traffic on Meridian. Just so you know, my neighbors and I have been thrilled with the three-way stop sign. Friends of ours have remarked how easy it is now to make a left turn while driving from Oak to Meridian without worrying who might be speeding around the corner. Those of us who walk across the street at Meridian/Oak are far more confident now of not being almost hit by cars.

I have reviewed Mr. Gerber's staff report and am pleased that new emphasis is being placed on sight lines. However, as well you know, SMART Families (over 130 residents) made it perfectly clear when the Zimmerman report first came out that it was deficient. Done at the height of the pandemic and not considering late starts for the students were some of the issues we had. There was also not enough consideration for traffic turning from Maple onto Meridian (in either direction) where there are constant near misses. Additionally, the accident reports involve only those with police presence. Many of our fender benders do not get recorded by the police, so the touted accident matrix is a significant undercount. We were told that Garrett Crawford (now gone) was going to prepare an accident form for the residents to report such accidents that they observed. But no form was ever finalized.

I am hopeful that the staff report is the restart in a true conversation between the city staff (i.e., Mr. Gerber and Ms. Tatevik Barakazyan), MTIC Commission, Council representation, consultants, and we the residents in the Meridian Avenue area to agree on and implement feasible solutions. We want to see concrete steps taken towards making Meridian safe again.

Mitigating measures mentioned in the staff report include:

- Edgeline striping
- Speed feedback signs corridor entrances
- Pedestrian crossing devices such as Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRBFs)

Edgeline striping was done as part of the improvements that Ms. Barakazyan did under Mr. Shahid Abbas. Some of the lines are wearing out now or are cracked/potted due to the condition of the street's pavement. The edgeline with bott dots around the curve of Meridian, south of the high school, are now routinely run over by speeding cars that don't slow on that curve.

Speed feedback signs would be helpful, and are needed around the school and south of Oak before Kendall.

RRBF devices may be of great help to the Bank Street crosswalk.

And something has to be done at Maple, Beech, and Pine where cars coming off of Huntington Drive rarely stop before turning onto Meridian.

While my neighbors and I are busy with our lives, we all want a better life experience when using Meridian as a pedestrian, bicyclist, or driver. We ask to be part of the solution by truly engaging conversations about Meridian. This particular format does not meet the opportunity to truly engage, but as I state previously, is a start.

My neighbors and I look for ways to solve these long standing issues. We also appreciate that staff is now seriously looking at the issues of the Maple/Meridian/Bonita public staircase and the Snake Trail. Just to add to the staff report, I live next door to that staircase. The first two steps are in very bad shape. Lots of young and old rely on those stairs, but the city has not maintained them. I can only go up the first landing from Meridian to remove weeds growing through the cracks and the leaves/trash on the stairs. I am scared that as a senior now, I could fall and hurt myself. There are no railings and the steps are sort of narrow. My Bonita neighbors above me need to use those stairs to access their downslope portions of their properties. I meet people who exercise on the stairs and kids who (at least pre pandemic) walked from Bonita and that higher area down to Maple/Meridian via those stairs. The city needs to take up the slack of maintaining those stairs, that the city built in the 1930s.

I don't believe I will be able to attend tonight's meeting, but please know that we residents are as concerned as ever and want to work with the city in a collaborative way.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Delaine W. Shane
2003 Meridian Avenue



PUBLIC COMMENT
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMISSION MEETING

August 16, 2022

Item No.	Name	Document	Date Received
1	Samuel Lin	E-mail	7/28/22
1	Alexis Altounian	E-mail	7/28/22
1	Jean Qiao	E-Mail	7/28/22
1	Paula Imoto	E-Mail	7/28/22
1	Felicia Yu	E-Mail	8/9/22
1	Susan Sulsky	E-Mail	8/12/22

From: samuel lin
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 10:22 AM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: Tragic Accident on Marengo

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.

Hi Everyone,

I live on Marengo Ave and Maple (1955 Marengo). Last night was extremely sad and preventable. Over the years our neighbors and I have been complaining about the speeding and we have been requesting for you guys to put in speed bumps, more signs, and even objects to stop the speeding to no avail. Our requests have been met with red tape, excuses and even disregard.

In 2019 a girl riding her bike was hit by a vehicle making a sharp turn from Huntington onto Marengo, luckily nothing happened. Last night, the man was not as lucky. Our street is supposed to be a 25 mph zone but you wouldn't even realize it by the way people drive or the lack of signs.

We really need you guys to step up on this and not lolligag anymore. Our neighbors are demanding speed bumps, street signs, road discs etc. I don't care if this is a street frequented by fire trucks, that's what Fremont Avenue is for.

Please take immediate action.

From: Alexis Altounian
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 11:53 AM
To: MTIC Public Comments; PWC Public Comments; Ted Gerber;
mticpubliccomments@southpasadenca.gov;
braunforcouncil2022@gmail.com; City Manager's Office;
puldewitt@southpasadenaca.gov
Subject: Tragic Accident on Marengo and Maple 7/27/22

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Hello City of South Pasadena Officials,

I am Alexis Altounian, a resident on Marengo Avenue. I am writing to express the sadness and call to action that many of our Marengo neighbors felt last night with the auto/pedestrian accident at Marengo and Maple.

It was only further heightened this morning with this tragic passing of one of the pedestrians involved. I have lived on Marengo Avenue my whole life and I know speeding and rolling stops have always been of concern. Just a few weeks ago, I submitted a public comment to support our La France neighbors in a request for a second crossing guard at Huntington Drive during busy school mornings. I have witnessed many accidents on Huntington off of Marengo, including a previous crossing guard being struck.

I'd like to request traffic mitigation efforts and more visible (light-up) pedestrian friendly crosswalks on Marengo. Please let me know what we can do to help mobilize these efforts to ensure such tragic future accidents can be reduced or avoided.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alexis Altounian

From: jean.qiao
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 6:02 PM
To: PWC Public Comments; Ted Gerber; MTIC Public Comments; braunforcouncil2022@gmail.com; City Manager's Office; puldewitt@southpasadenaca.gov; Michael Cacciotti; Jon Primuth
Subject: Marengo Fatal Pedestrian Accident last night

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Dear SPCC members,

My husband- Yang and I have been South Pasadena residents for 13 years and my two kids were born here. I also own a business registered in SP and contribute to the city tax in the past a few years. We love the city. However, the tragic fatal traffic incident on Marengo last night really put our entire family in shock.

My 9 year old and 7 year old play in the neighborhood all the time but the residential street we live on (Marengo/Maple) gets so much busier every year especially with the help of "traffic detection GPS". People think our street is a short cut to COSTCO and many commercial area... The accident last night shows that it is getting out of control.

The neighborhood is 100% residential area, the constant traffic disturbs our life and bring danger to the elder and kids. We strongly suggest/demand installing speed bumps on Marengo/Maple area to control the speed of the traffic efficiently to avoid any fatal incident from happening again. Please keep our neighborhood safe as it is for the rest of the city.

If anything I can do to help, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely

Jean Qiao/Yang Zhu

From: Paula Imoto
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 6:50 PM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: Marengo speed limit

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To whom it may concern,

Our city witnessed an unfortunate tragedy yesterday at the Maple/ Marengo intersection. Having lived on Marengo for 4 years now, I have witnessed countless drivers blow through that particular stop sign heading north and south of Maple and Marengo. I have seen cars speeding down Marengo as if it's a racetrack not adhering to the speed limit of 25 mph and going at least > 50 mph. I have seen drivers not waiting or yielding on Huntington/ Marengo Ave to pedestrians or bikers. What our street needs are speed bumps to slow down the drivers and deter them from driving as it's a highway. Many young families casually walk up and down the street. Many bike riders use the bike lanes on both sides of Marengo. We cannot afford to lose another life when we can easily solve the problem with speed bumps, more signage, and police presence.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Paula Imoto

Sent from my iPhone

August 3, 2022

South Pasadena City Council

Mayor Michael Cacciotti

Mayor Pro Tem Jon Primuth

Councilmember Jack Donovan

Councilmember Diana Mahmud

Councilmember Evelyn G. Zneimer

Re: Fatal Car Accident at Intersection of Marengo and Maple on July 27, 2022

Dear South Pasadena City Council Members:

We were shocked and heartbroken by the fatal traffic accident that occurred on the evening of Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at the intersection of Marengo Avenue and Maple Street in South Pasadena. A northbound car failed to heed the stop sign at the intersection and struck three elderly pedestrians, who were out for a stroll.

Hoa Le suffered a broken femur, which required surgery and hospitalization. Connie Nguyen, who has lived with Parkinson's for 25 years and is partially blind, suffered cuts, bruises and a contusion to her head. Tam Nguyen, who tried to protect his wife, absorbed the greatest impact from the oncoming car. He succumbed to his catastrophic injuries at the hospital.

This accident has devastated the Le and Nguyen families and their friends and neighbors. As members of the South Pasadena family, we share their grief and mourn their loss. We also demand action from the City of South Pasadena to make our streets safer for all. As residents know too well, cars speed up and down the 1900 and 2000 residential blocks of Marengo at all hours of the day, far in excess of the legal speed limit.

The intersection of Marengo and Maple is especially dangerous because it is highly traveled by pedestrians and cyclists, in addition to cars. Drivers not only speed excessively, but they fail to come to a complete stop at the Marengo/Maple intersection. The intersection and crosswalk are not clearly visible or well-lit and, prior to the accident, the northbound stop sign at the intersection was partially obscured by a tree.

The City of South Pasadena is undoubtedly aware of these dangers, as residents for years have asked for traffic abatement on Marengo, and the police are periodically dispatched to write tickets (with no discernible long-term impact on speeding). We are aware of two other car accidents in the 1900 and 2000 blocks of Marengo just this year alone. The accidents involved speeding drivers who lost control and struck parked cars with enough force to total the parked cars. A couple years prior, another speeding driver totaled a parked car in the 1900 block of Marengo.

This cannot be allowed to continue.

It is our understanding that the City has trimmed the tree that partially obstructs the northbound stop sign at Marengo/Maple, and it added the intersection to a traffic engineering study of crossing guard locations. These may be necessary first steps but they are hardly sufficient to address the larger issue of speeding and reckless driving. We ask that improved safety in the 1900 and 2000 residential blocks of Marengo, including the Marengo/Maple intersection, be added as an agenda item for the August 17 meeting of the City Council.

Members of our South Pasadena community have proposed the following safety measures for consideration and discussion:

- Traffic bumps
- A flashing red traffic light installed above the Marengo/Maple intersection
- Improved street lighting
- Flashing lights installed in the Marengo/Maple crosswalk
- New yellow reflective paint for the Marengo/Maple crosswalk
- A SpeedCheck radar sign
- Increased traffic patrols in the area

We look forward to a productive discussion of how to best address the speeding and safety issues raised by the recent tragic events. We ask that the City Council keep residents informed and included in the planning and development of any safety improvements in the area.

Sincerely,

Felicia Yu and Jeffrey Liter
1964 Marengo Avenue

Phillip and Victoria Tan
1977 Stratford Avenue

Peggy and Jim Shirreffs
2001 La France Avenue

Ken Zangwill and Daphna Enzer
2006 Marengo Avenue

Vivian and Brian Center
2007 Stratford Avenue

David Sifuentes
2015 La France Avenue

Cristian Ovalle and Anh Hoang
1972 Marengo Avenue

Lisa Arciniega
1980 Stratford Avenue

Kevin and Trish Keenan
1937 La France Avenue

Spencer and Monica Krieger
2002 Marengo Avenue

Anita and Geoff Williams
2070 Stratford Avenue

Patrick Wright
2065 La France Avenue

Paula Imoto
1919 Marengo Avenue

Monica and Jay Hong
2010 Stratford Avenue

Natasha and Steve Prime
2035 La France Avenue

Mike and Paula Toshima
2050 Marengo Avenue

Michelle and Tom Round
1980 Stratford Avenue

Laurie Chatham
1915 La France Avenue

Matt and Andrea Carless
2040 Marengo

Mario Haidar
2001 Marengo

Rumduol Vuong
2038 Marengo Avenue

Jay and Carrie Nakamura
2045 Marengo Avenue

Hoa Hoang
2038 Marengo Avenue

Laura Farber
Tomas Lopez
2007 Marengo Avenue

Eva Lueck
Jay Tittle
1967 Marengo Avenue

Karen Choi
1968 Marengo Avenue

Jean Qiao
1959 Marengo

Michael and Joyce Sloss
2071 Marengo Avenue

Rene Daley
2025 Marengo Avenue

Nick and Judy Bernal
2032 Stratford Avenue

Greg Kabealo
2015 Stratford Avenue

Ed and Joni Wong
1948 Stratford Avenue

Lorraine Daskal
2019 Stratford Avenue

Katherine Jaroch
1951 Stratford Avenue

Mark Jackson
Chie Nagatani
2035 Stratford Avenue

Charles Nicolet
Peggy Farnham
1930 La France Avenue

Susan and Peter Chiu
1426 Beech Street

Wayland and Cecilia Chew
1922 La France Avenue

Howard Fang
Sherry Kuo
Jason Fang
Shirley Fang
2017 La France Avenue

Norma Serna
1406 Oneonta Knoll

Patricia Johnson
2025 La France Avenue

Julie Guilioni
1944 La France Avenue

Sandy Shannon
1926 La France Avenue

Edward and Alice Li
2004 La France Avenue

June Scott and Ken Rudman
2040 La France Avenue

Ella Hushagen
Owen Ellickson
1961 La France Avenue

Melissa Finstead
Bruce Finstead, MD
1947 La France Avenue

Sally and David Evans
2044 La France Avenue, Apt. A

Barbara Amstrong
2049 La France Avenue

Kenneth Owens
Tammie Owens
Chelsea Owens
Nick Owens
2049 La France Avenue

Sheta Ara
1430 Beech Street

From: Susan Sulsky
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 8:38 AM
To: MTIC Public Comments
Subject: August 16, 2022 MTIC Committee Meeting - Public Comment

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Agenda Item #1

To: Members of the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission

I wish to express my concern about the number of construction trucks traversing Meridian Avenue, passing by my home at Meridian and Bonita. I have called and written numerous departments and Council Members, but have yet to receive the courtesy of any explanation.

My question is whether the City conducts any kind of survey as to the condition of the streets prior to issuing permits for heavy construction vehicles to traverse said street(s). If multiple permits have been issued, doesn't it make more sense to repave the street(s) in such a manner to accommodate the additional weight prior to approving permits?

Subsequent to the construction, does the City inspect the street(s) for any assessment of damages? Who is responsible for the further deterioration of the street(s)? As you are all aware, Meridian Avenue has not been repaved in decades. I watch as Meridian continues to crack under the weight of these trucks. How many more decades will it be before Meridian is repaved?

Susan Sulsky