

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023
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 January 17, 2023, at 6:34 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Chair John Fisher

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

Council Liaison: Mayor John Primuth

Absent:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hughes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Public Comment – General

1. Casey Law – Mr. Law is the Chair of the South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission. He expressed concerns about climate change and how pollution and emissions are related to transportation. Mr. Law supports creating a safety plan to reduce traffic related injuries and deaths, as well as the expansion of slow streets and complete streets efforts. He believes it would be good to remove parking minimums and update the bicycle master plan.

Via Zoom

2. Matthew Thomas – Expressed concern regarding the existing slow signs on Arroyo Drive and requested the signs be removed.

INFORMATION REPORTS

2. Project Status Update

PWD Gerber gave a brief update on various projects. Director Gerber shared that the process to hire a new “transportation position” was moving forward. The company KOA is assisting the city in the signal synchronization of Fair Oaks Avenue. They would assist with looking at signal timing options.

Metro will be reviewing Measure M projects. It has already come to light that the project at Garfield and Monterey needs an analysis to determine if a guideline is met for traffic signal control.

Vice-Chair Dunlap inquired about the status of the evaluation of the crossing guard that was being tested. It was reported that the review had not been completed yet.

Director Gerber shared that in regards to the traffic circulation around Holy Family School, Oak Street and Ramona Avenue, a community meeting was going to be held soon. Traffic tactics, such as creating a “drop off” area in front of the high schools would be shared.

Commissioner Abelson inquired about how we can deal with the analysis issue in regards to the signal at Garfield Avenue and Monterey Road. Would the consultants that were recently approved by City Council, be able to assist with the needed warrant analysis? PWD Gerber advised that he would follow up on the timing to amend the

Measure M list.

Chair Fisher inquired if KOA would be working on the simulations for the Fair Oaks signals and, if so, would it be identifying the projected improvements in reducing stops, air pollution emissions, fuel consumption and greenhouse gases.

Director Gerber shared that one of the tasks the city needs to complete is a new updated greenhouse gas inventory.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Review of Development Projects and Transportation Impact Analysis Methodology

PWD Gerber gave a presentation on this item.

New Development Projects-Transportation Issues

Director Gerber shared information about two coming developments in the city and the traffic implications. The entrance and exit issues and the number of parking spaces were discussed for 815 Fremont and for 1020 El Centro. It was discussed that the current process includes mitigation measures to be implemented after the respective completion and occupancy of each project, if determined to be justified.

There was a discussion about transportation analysis methodology. The issue of Level of Service was discussed as was information regarding traffic delays and reducing vehicle miles travelled.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that pedestrian safety should be paramount.

Commissioner Hughes had concerns about the planned “service entrance/exit” that was planned for the 815 Fremont project, as the left turn into the proposed entrance could back up traffic into the intersection of Mission Street and Fremont Avenue.

Commissioner Abelson raised questions regarding the conditions of approval of projects related to transportation and post occupancy traffic studies and commented how the transportation impact analysis methodology was not shared with the Commission to review and/or comment on the guidelines.

Chair Fisher thanked Director Gerber for the presentation. He stated that the revised transportation environmental assessment had its genesis in a large project in the San Francisco Bay Area that would have major traffic impacts. Those impacts using the conventional Level of Service evaluation, which examines intersection delay, would be significant. However, the impacts using the new Vehicle Miles Travelled approach would not be significant. Thus, the new approach tends to be developer friendly.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission on October 18, 2022

Minutes approved as amended. Motion made by Commissioner Hughes and seconded by Vice- Chair Dunlap (5-0, motion passes).

COMMUNICATIONS

5. City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro-Tem informed the Commission of the items on the City Council agenda scheduled for January 18, 2023.

6. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Hughes she agrees with the slow signage in the Arroyo area and she hopes this can mitigate some of the traffic concerns in the community. She inquired if there is a final accident report for Marengo Avenue and Maple Street and if that information will come before the Commission. PWD Gerber stated that there is a final report and the County district attorney is pursuing charges, however only the scope of the Marengo study will be brought before the Commission.

Commissioner Abelson congratulated Mayor Primuth on his appointment as the Mayor. He inquired if accident data would be part of the Marengo study. PWD Gerber responded that there is a review of accident data.

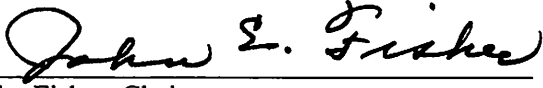
Vice Chair Dunlap thanked PWD Gerber and his staff.

7. Staff Communications

No Comments

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:48 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 February 21, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "F".

John Fisher, Chair