

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023
MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
SPECIAL MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dunlap called the Special Regular Meeting of the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission (MTIC) to order on May 31, 2023, at 6:39 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Chair Eric Dunlap

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

Council Liaison: Councilmember Jack Donovan

Absent:

Staff Present: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director (“PWD”), David Pena, Transportation Program Manager (“TPM”), and Leaonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant (“PWA”)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Fisher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Public Comment – General

No Public Comment

REORGANIZING THE AGENDA ITEMS

INFORMATION REPORTS

2. Updates from City Manager’s Office – Domenica Megerdichian, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Megerdichian, shared updates from across the agency, which include Department organizational assessments, Budget Review, FY 2021-26 Strategic Plan (workshops coming this Fall), Caltrans properties, the adoption of the city’s housing element, and the return of summer events (music, movies in the park and summer camp), and 4th of July events. Deputy City Manager Megerdichian announced the organizational assessment for the Police Department currently underway and supporting opportunities for Community input with an online survey available on the website. There will be an opportunity for in-person or virtual input session with a consultant on June 5th at the upcoming Public Safety Commission.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Huntington Drive Safety Concerns

Transportation Program Manager Pena gave a brief overview of this item. It was shared that there had been another accident on Sunday, May 28, 2023 on Huntington Drive near the Ocean Liquor Store.

Public Comment – Via Zoom

Erin Fleming – Expressed concern regarding the 40 miles per hour existing speed limit on Huntington Dr. and requested that it go back down to 35 miles per hour and she suggested a pilot program offered by the State, to install speeding cameras.

David– thanked staff for getting back to the community by June 1, 2023 and inquired about the timeline for the short-term and long-term solutions.

Public Comment Closed

TPM Pena followed up with questions from the community and stated he didn't have any information regarding AB645 pilot program and staff has requested quotes for a vehicle speed feedback sign, which will take about three weeks.

Public Comment reopened

Public Commenter – Expressed concerned regarding vehicles not yielding for pedestrians.

End of Public Comment

Discussion among commissioners ensued regarding improving the lighting issue, speed limits, short term and long-term mitigation efforts, vehicle collisions, markings and signage, hawk signal or rapid rectangular flashing beacons, adding edge striping and the narrowing the lanes.

4. Slow Streets Program

Public Works Director Gerber gave a brief presentation on this item. He presented designs for various mitigation offerings including tape on streets, curb extensions, yellow crosswalk markings. There was a suggestion of adding a “slow streets” sign at the start of a Bike Lane on Grand Ave north of Mission Street.

There was additional discussion that include the subjects of the design of the slow streets signs and it was suggested to add a border (making sure to follow the MUTCD), marking tape, use of thermoplastic, reduction of use of delineators, timeframe of installation, curb extensions on Hermosa Street between Floral Park Terrace and Grand Avenue, use of fixed post versus A-frame for slow streets signs, and signage.

6. FY 2023-2024 Work Plan Discussion

PWD Gerber gave a brief overview of the proposed items for the work plan. The plan would include:

- Street Repairs and Surfacing-bids are underway
- Measure M Projects-all 4 approved projects are funded
- Columbia St. project in conjunction with the City of Pasadena is back on as a potential, active project
- Cooperation with the Cities of Pasadena and Alhambra regarding 710 “stubs” are on-going
- The upcoming “626” Sustainability Transportation Event is Planned for October 29, 2023.

As part of the discussion, Commissioner Abelson shared that it will be important to check on diversion of traffic due to closure of on-ramps, as part of the “626” event, which is planned to take place on the 110 Arroyo Parkway. He also commented about the planned parklets planned at part of the pilot “Slow Streets” and that we need to make sure that the community and businesses are aware of the pilot effort. He also wants to make sure that the traffic warrant analysis is going forward for the proposed signal at Garfield and Monterey Road. He would like to see it on the list of “active” projects.

INFORMATION REPORTS

3. Project Status Update – PWD Gerber

PWD Gerber provided an update on this item. Commissioners asked questions regarding “active” projects including the situation regarding Ramona and the school “drop-off” around Holy Family.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission Meeting on March 21, 2023

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

COMMUNICATIONS

8. City Council Liaison Communications

Council Liaison Donovan thanked the Deputy City Manager Megerdichian with the excellent presentation and to talk about some of the main issues that the City is undertaking. The Housing Element was approved at the May 30, 2023 Council meeting. At the City Council meeting, all the department heads had the opportunity to discuss their department budgets and discuss what their departments are doing. Council Liaison Donovan announced that an ad hoc committee has been created to assist with the discussion of evictions for just cause. In regards to the issue of the Caltrans properties, the city has received bids for repairing the homes. The city is at the point where it will need to decide if the city accepts or rejects the bids. The city can decide to either buy the houses or not. The City is looking at a new law firm to represent the city and act as the City Attorney. The final decision should be made soon.

9. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Zavala mentioned a development in Alhambra that might affect the City of South Pasadena on Fremont Avenue.

Commissioner Abelson reminded everyone to complete the Police department assessment survey online before the deadline of June 6th.

Commissioner Fisher commented on the proposal regarding street surfacing that was mentioned at the recent "State of the Street" joint meeting between the Mobility & Transportation Infrastructure Commission and the City Council. The example shared from the City of Burbank shows that they will have a five-year program and every year were going to do one of five areas. This would provide knowledge, so residents would know when their streets are going to be improved. Commissioner Fisher questioned how the process would work, if the City of South Pasadena moved forward with a similar approach. The city would need to have sufficient funding to cover all of the streets in that area.

PWD Gerber responded each designated area would get subset of streets completed, but not all of the streets. The idea is that when the City is divided up into the five areas is dependent on the funding and the target PCI index.

Commissioner Hughes commented that the City had a wonderful Memorial Day event at the War Memorial Building and she observed that the timing to cross Fair Oaks was 13 seconds, which is not enough time to get across. She suggested staff to look into the pedestrian timing at that location.

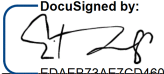
10. Staff Communications

TPM Pena announced on June 16th the regional connector will be opening. There will be a realignment of the rail line, so the segment going from Santa Monica to East Los Angeles and a segment from East Los Angeles to Azusa. The new alignment will be the Blue Line, now officially the A-Line, will be moving from Long Beach to Azusa without having to transfer, so a direct line passing through.

PWD Gerber announced the Commissioner Congress on June 28th from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., at the War Memorial. All commissions will be present and expected to deliver a two-slide presentation on the annual report and highlights from their commission's work plan.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:45 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 June 20, 2023.

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Eric Dunlap, Chair