

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023
MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Hughes called the Regular Meeting of the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission (MTIC) to order on June 20, 2023, at 6:39 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Vice Chair Hughes

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

Council Liaison: Councilmember Jack Donovan

Absent: Chair Dunlap

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 Zavala led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Public Comment – General

Ben and Dana Nialis-Saulson – Expressed concern regarding the street conditions on Martos Drive and requested that the street be repaved. They voiced concern that they contacted the city twice, but never received a response.

INFORMATION REPORTS

2. Project Status Update – PWD Gerber

PWD Gerber gave a brief overview of this item. He stated staff is working on the bid packages for the FY 2018-2019 Street Improvement projects that include resurfacing and slurry projects. Also included in the bids are the FY 2019-20 resurfacing projects, slurry projects, and improvements on Arroyo Drive, Mission Street and Pasadena Avenue.

The commissioners requested a complete list of the projects outlined in the bids, along with the projects indicated on a map. In addition, the projects list should include the SB1 projects. Also, the project specifics should include if there is special utility work needed or planned.

Transportation Program Manager Pena briefly discussed the short-term measures being rolled out along Fremont Avenue to improve safety. Measures include the trimming of trees away from warning signs, replacing bot dots, repainting of speed limit signs, and raised reflectors. Staff is in communications with a contractor to address these concerns, as well as with our Operations staff. Mr. Pena stated that the crosswalk at Fremont Avenue and Magnolia Street is faded. There is also an issue at Fremont Avenue and Buena Vista Street, which has conflicting longitudinal crosswalk markings.

The commission stressed the need for community/public outreach for the improvement efforts. The group also mentioned that speed feedback signing could be helpful depending on the location, placement and other factors.

Public Works Director Gerber reported that the City of South Pasadena is monitoring the 710 Freeway “Stub” Projects” with both City of Pasadena and City of Alhambra. The City of South Pasadena is following the development of plans for the two areas and how the future plans might impact the City of South Pasadena. Commissioner Abelson reminded staff to also monitor the development of these projects by the City of Los Angeles.

Discussion ensued regarding the various street projects, “Stub” project coordination, ramp configurations, and funding.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Draft – Annual Report and Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Plan Report

PWD Gerber gave a brief overview of the Annual Report and Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Plan. This information will be presented at the upcoming City of South Pasadena Commission Congress, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

The commission mentioned the issue of school traffic near the South Pasadena High School and Holy Family. Traffic continually impacts Ramona Avenue. The concern is the status of the efforts to mitigate the impacts, and what can efforts be rolled out by the start of the new school year, the new loading zone on Fremont Avenue in front of South Pasadena High School in particular. It was mentioned that the high school was planning on issuing an informative letter before the start of the school year, but this is not final. One item that was mentioned was updating the yellow line on Fremont Avenue.

In looking at work projects, Commissioner Abelson reminded staff to include the proposed Garfield Avenue/Monterey Road signal on the projects list. He also asked that the commission get a copy of the follow-up report regarding the second crossing guard at Huntington Drive/Marengo Avenue. Commissioner Abelson also commented that installing the loading zone in front of the high school before the start of the school year in August is necessary.

Commissioner Zavala suggested that school assemblies at the high school might be effective in sharing drop-off and pick-up information to students.

Commissioner Fisher, in regards to the Annual Report commented that key areas of focus should include “Slow Streets,” traffic mitigation and calming.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Special Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission Meeting on May 31, 2023

Minutes approved as amended. Motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Zavala (4-0)

COMMUNICATIONS

5. City Council Liaison Communications

Council Liaison Donovan announced that the City has a new City Attorney, Roxanne Diaz, Esq. with the law firm, Richard, Watson and Gershon. The Council will review the proposed 2023/2024 City Budget and it is expected to be approved at the June 21, 2023 City Council meeting. The Council will continue the discussion on the “Just Cause for Eviction” item and he is hopeful to get a resolution.

6. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Zavala inquired about the process for street improvements (timeframe and expectations). PWD Gerber explained the process (design, bid package, contractor selection) and discussed short-term improvements (potholes) and that can be addressed by staff.

Commissioner Fisher inquired if the Commission will receive a PCI, street condition rating for Martos Drive and other streets in the City.

PWD Gerber responded that the PCI survey is currently underway for all city streets. Priority will be given to those streets with the lowest PCI index and we will create a five-year program to address those streets in need.

Commissioner Fisher advised regarding another accident on southbound Orange Grove Avenue north of the 110-parkway onramp involving the knockdown of another street light and recalled that the Commission recommended to use Measure M funds to create on southbound Orange Grove Avenue a one through lane and one on-ramp lane to the 110 Parkway, which would widen and realign southbound Orange Grove.

PWD Gerber responded that the Orange Grove project is on the list and that the City had to prioritize five projects (the earliest will be Grevelia Street at Fair Oaks Avenue, intersection pedestrian crossings, and Orange Grove Avenue), and staff is working to execute the funding agreements.

Commissioner Abelson agreed with Commissioner Fisher's comments regarding the safety issues on southbound Orange Grove Avenue and the street repair process. He inquired about the correct process for residents to effectively communicate their concerns regarding street repairs, and asked staff to address the issues that were highlighted with Martos Drive. He also discussed a tool for encouraging bike use by providing continuous bike lanes but preventing through vehicular traffic, which he had observed abroad.

PWD Gerber responded that moving into FY 23-2024, there will be more information online that residents can understand the process of how the program works and where their street is in the program. He mentioned that residents can download the City Mobile app and submit their concerns regarding streets and safety into the system thru the app.

Commissioner Hughes thanked staff for the Annual Report and Work Plan. She also thanked the residents for commenting today to speak on their street condition. She is hoping that staff can look into their concerns and address any immediate safety issues.

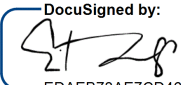
7. Staff Communications

PWD Gerber reminded the Commission about the Commissioner Congress on June 28th from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m., at the War Memorial Building. South Pasadena will be the host City for the 626 Golden Streets Arroyo Fest, scheduled on Sunday, October 29, from 7am to 11am. In collaboration with Active SGV and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, Mission to Mission Event, with street closures along Mission Street to Orange Grove Avenue.

He also announced a Leaf Blower Event on Tuesday, June 27th at Garfield Park, from 8am – 12pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:36 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 July 18, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

Eric Dunlap, Chair