

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023
MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dunlap called the Regular Meeting of the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission (MTIC) to order on July 18, 2023, at 6:39 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Chair Dunlap

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

Council Liaison:

Absent: Councilmember Jack Donovan and Commissioner Zavala

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Hughes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Public Comment – General

In-Person

Ben and Dana Nialis-Saulson – They reside at 531 Mantos and expressed continuing concerns regarding the street conditions on Martos Drive and requested that their street be repaved.

PWD Gerber explained the process on how streets are selected for improvements. City staff has made some improvements to the street by filling potholes, but we’ll have staff look at it again and make additional repairs, if possible.

Commissioner Abelson shared how he had visited the street to view the condition and had seen where some repairs had been completed.

INFORMATION REPORTS

2. Fremont Avenue and Huntington Drive Corridor Planning Project Update – TPM Pena

TP M Pena gave an overview of this item. The direction of the plan stems from a 2009 traffic calming concept that was not executed. Funding for the new efforts will be coming from Measure R and Measure M sources. The total amount for the corridor project is \$16 million. Unfortunately, the caveat to the funding is that it cannot cover planning costs. Other sources of funding will need to cover the planning costs.

The city will proceed and is embarking upon the project and is issuing a task order for scope and planning. Part of the process will include community meetings to garner resident input.

Public Comment

Via Zoom

Brandon Fox – Expressed support for the project. He expressed how important it is to spend these grant funds and to keep with the timelines mentioned in the presentation. The concern is that there is an expiration date on the funds.

Discussion ensued regarding funding, charrettes, project timeline, scope of work, outreach (visuals) and parking. The plan is to have the community meetings at the South Pasadena Public Library in the “Community Room.” Due to the limitations of the venue, the meeting will not be available electronically. TPM Pena shared how the city has

been in contact with the neighboring cities of Alhambra, San Marino and Pasadena about the projects,

Commissioner Abelson inquired as to the timeline and if these needed “first steps” would be completed by the end of the year. TPM Pena responded that he estimated that the preliminary work would be completed by then.

Commissioner Abelson also questioned as to how this project and process would interact with the greater pending Fair Oaks Avenue/110 interchange project. He also asked about the funding source for this work mentioned that, since there was not going to be electronic access at the community meeting at the South Pasadena Library, could the issue be a topic at a future MTIC meeting.

Commissioner Fisher said that after hearing the public feedback, it is vital that the project definition and features be developed only after the consultant has conducted an objective evaluation to identify collision patterns, congestion bottlenecks, speeding, etc. The process should avoid the tendency to identify so-called solutions before any problems are documented.

Commissioner Hughes inquired if bus shelter improvements could be part of the efforts, as we have many uncovered bus stops along Huntington Drive and with rising temperatures, coverings and shelters are needed.

Chair Dunlap commented that there are issues with the intersection of Fremont Avenue and Huntington Drive, but like the comments of Commissioner Abelson, we need to look at Fair Oaks Avenue and Huntington Drive.

3. Project Status Update – PWD Gerber

PWD Gerber gave a brief overview of this item.

It was shared that there will be a community “Groundbreaking Event” on July 26, 2023 at 110:00 a.m. to initiate the long-awaited street improvement projects that had been delayed.

It was shared that the Loop Ramp project was moving forward with environmental review and Measure R funds will cover the associated costs

An updated on “Slow Streets” was provided. The efforts are moving forward with the parklets and extended contracts for the K rails on Mission Street.

Efforts to address the traffic issues around the High School and Holy Family are moving ahead. There is a communications plan in development. The city is working with the South Pasadena Unified School District and a flyer is going out about the new loading area on Fremont Avenue.

The issue of the second crossing guard at the intersection of Huntington Drive and Marengo Avenue is going to go to the City Council for consideration.

Commissioner Abelson thanked Director Gerber for making sure that the proposed traffic signal for Garfield Avenue is on the projects list. He also asked if the Columbia Street and Fremont Avenue proposed striping could go forward near-term pending completion of the planned Measure M improvements. Director Gerber shared that discussions were going on.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission Meeting on June 20, 2023

Minutes approved as amended. Motion made by Vice Chair Hughes and seconded by Commissioner Abelson (4-0)

COMMUNICATIONS

5. City Council Liaison Communications

No Comments

6. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Abelson thanked staff for quickly responding to the issues raised at the last meeting on Martos Drive. He commended staff on the improvements on Fremont Avenue, repainting of the parking T's, red zones and a blinking light was repaired.

Commissioner Hughes thanked staff for helping with the Fourth of July celebrations.

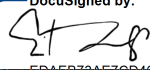
Chair Dunlap announced that the Draft General Plan is out for public comment and encourage residents to provide feedback.

7. Staff Communications

PWD Gerber announced a Ground-Breaking ceremony on Sterling Place on Tuesday, July 25 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a community meeting on Thursday, July 20th at the Library, regarding the impacts of SP1383 regulation regarding food waste recycling and how that will impact the City.

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 15, 2023.

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Eric Dunlap, Chair