

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 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 August 15, 2023, at 6:39 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

**ROLL CALL:** Chair Dunlap

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

**Council Liaison:** Councilmember Donovan

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Anteneh Tesfaye, Deputy Director of Public Works (“DDPW”), David Pena, Transportation Program Manager (“TPM”), and Mark Jimenez, Management Analyst (“MA”)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Fisher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**1. Public Comment – General**

In-person Comments:

Michael Ten expressed concern about the safety of pedestrians around the middle school and would like staff to look into delineators around Rollin Street.

Gino Thomas expressed concern with the new “Safe Streets” pilot improvements on Hermosa Street. He feels that the improvements make the street unsafe.

Anne Miller expressed concern with the improvements on Grand Avenue and objects to the installation of bike lanes. She expressed concern regarding the stop sign at Charter Oak and Grand Avenue, stating drivers do not stop and it’s the main thoroughfare to the freeway.

Robert Simpson expressed concerns about the bike lanes on Grand Avenue and suggested radar enforcement to slow down the traffic on Hermosa Street and Grand Avenue. We suggested that radar be used to address speeding instead of the new “poles.”

Chris Miller commended the City on the process allowing the community to provide feedback on the temporary improvements “Safe Streets” pilot efforts.

Via Zoom Comments:

Joseph Chen expressed opposition on the new pilot efforts and markings on Grand Avenue. He did not think there had been enough communication to the public before the installation. He also asked if there was accident data for the street.

Yvonne De La Rose has information related to the Housing Element specifically related to transportation services and request the Commissions who should receive the information.

Jamie S expressed opposition to the bike lanes on Grand Avenue.

Stephen Koch requested the Commission review the comments that were made during the “Listening Session” meeting held on August 14, 2023.

Closed Public Comment

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### **2. State Route SR-110/Fair Oaks Interchange Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Assessment & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

TPM Pena gave a presentation on this item. The project has been years in the making. Metro has earmarked funding of \$70 million for the ramp project. The process will include an agreement with HNTB for \$4.3 million. Project alternatives will be analyzed.

#### **Public Comment**

Tucker Nelson would like to request a formal collaboration with organizations who have experience with bicycle and pedestrian traffic improvements. She expressed concerns with the scope of work. There was also a question as to where would the construction area would be for equipment and such.

Chair Dunlap requested staff provide an overview of the scope of work.

TPM Pena responded this is not the final scope of work and staff will be working with the consultant on refining the scope.

Chair Dunlap asked about when would we receive feedback from Caltrans. Caltrans might be the lead regarding the certification of the CEQA documents. We should get 10 years of accident data for the location. Chair Dunlap also asked if we have the expertise planned to review the models.

Commissioner Abelson asked about the scope of work and if the six alternatives are the only options being reviewed. What is the next step process regarding public meetings?

Commissioner Fisher outlined the 2 on and 2 off ramps in a plan. Part of the development process is working with Caltrans on the historic concerns and exceptions can be addressed for turning areas and such. He also commented that we would not be able to impact the bridge, as it is part of the historic “Arroyo Parkway.”

Commissioner Hughes voiced a concern as to how long Metro will hold the full \$70 million funding.

Commissioner Zavala wants to see bicycle and pedestrians be part of the project and how will they be able to traverse the area.

#### **3. Project Status Update**

TPM gave a brief update on projects on the current list.

A recent “groundbreaking” event was held to showcase street improvements.

Commissioner Fisher and Commissioner Abelson both inquired about the update regarding timing at Mission and Garfield and how was it changed? The concern was insufficient green time for Garfield.

Commissioner Abelson asked about the effort regarding a second crossing guard at Huntington and if any other options recommended by the consultant were being pursued.

There was a question about the high school loading zone timing and when would communications be complete and the loading zone operational.

The commission also asked about the signing for the pilot “Slow Streets” effort and was updated that the informational signing is not complete yet, but the signing will have a QR code so residents can complete a survey about the pilot efforts.

Commissioner Zavala asked if the survey was going to be anonymous?

Chari Dunlap commented that there needs to be a concerted effort to get resident feedback. Should there be mailers, meetings and such to get resident comments and feedback.

#### **ACTION/DISCUSSION**

#### **4. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission Meeting on July 18, 2023 (Dunlap, Hughes; 5-0)**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **5. City Council Liaison Communications**

Council Liaison Donovan responded “No”, to questions raised from Vice Chair Hughes and Commissioner Abelson, regarding community notifications of listening sessions held by the City with certain residents of Grand Avenue regarding Slow Streets. He continued stating he received many calls on Saturday and Sunday regarding this issue. Council Liaison Donovan is pleased to see how quickly the community can come together and organize a meeting of about 25 people who were angry about what was taking place.

##### **6. Commissioner Communications**

Commissioner Fisher commented on communication to the public on projects that are implemented and was pleased to receive a flyer about the upcoming slow street improvements. He believes its vital that we listen to the residents in the affected areas and hear from the bicyclist community on their feelings. He mentioned that the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP), Grand Avenue is not shown and if its ultimately decided that the bike lane becomes permanent the BMP would need to be amended.

Commissioner Abelson suggested to staff that prior to the completion of the “Slow Streets” implementation, that it would be a good idea to place “no parking” signs in advance, so that cars are not parked in the areas that are still need treatment. He commented that it would be nice to hear from those in the community that use these streets. Commissioner Abelson suggested it would be a good idea to publicize where people can go to submit their feedback. Commissioner Abelson thought it was important to have another perspective and read the public comment from Casey Law, which will be made part of the official record. He commented that Ann Miller, resident on Charter Oak expressed concerns about vehicles not stopping at the stop sign on westbound Charter Oak and Grand Avenue, and it was suggested to have spot enforcement where possible. Commissioner Abelson requested staff to look into some short-term solutions, where the two lanes become one on Orange Grove Avenue at the curve at Oliver Street. He reminded staff about approaching the City of Pasadena about reducing the lanes on Orange Grove from two to one, north of Columbia and due to the recent tragedy, that it might be an opportunity to go back with the suggestion.

Vice Chair Hughes acknowledged the tragedy off of Orange Grove that took place over the weekend and how it relates to the ‘Slow Streets’ and” Safe Streets,” and thanked staff for working with the Commission to develop options to mitigate these types of situations. She believes the City can work on the communication process and getting the information out before any implementation. Vice Chair Hughes thanked staff for addressing a large pothole on Orange Grove Avenue just coming off the southbound 110 freeway exit.

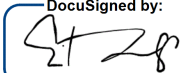
Chair Dunlap thanked staff for all they do and their responsiveness.

##### **7. Staff Communications**

No Staff Comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:57 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 September 19, 2023.

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Eric Dunlap, Chair