

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
10TH DAY OF JUNE, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06p.m. by Vice Chair Fisher. Present were Commissioner Abelson, Commissioner Glauz, Commissioner Pendo, Council Liaison Schneider. Chair Granath had an excused absence. Staff present: Deputy Public Works Director Shin Furukawa and Civil Engineering Assistant Thomas Amare. Public Works Assistant Leonna DeWitt was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Glauz led the pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting of April 15, 2015.

Minutes approved as amended. (Pendo, Glauz 4-0)

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Items not on the agenda

No public comment.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Council Liaison Schneider informed the Commission regarding the FY 15-16 budget discussion at the City Council meeting on June 17, 2015. The City Council approved the street improvement project recommendations from the Commission.

Commissioner Fisher inquired if the City Council adopted the concept of a 5-Year CIP Plan.

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa stated City Council wants the Commission to review the project list first.

Commissioner Abelson inquired whether the projects on Table 2 – 1) Orange Grove/Monterey Traffic Signal; 2) Via Del Rey/Monterey Protected Left turn signal phase; and 3) Monterey Road median modifications at Pasadena Avenue and at Via Del Rey, were approved by City Council. Council Liaison Schneider stated they were outside of the funding threshold and would not be funded as capital improvement projects in the budget.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

No staff comments.

7. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Consideration of Left Turn Prohibition from Mission Street to Meridian Avenue

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief overview of the item. The updated traffic study recommends turn restrictions during the PM peak hours 4pm – 6pm: east and westbound LT and eastbound RT.

Discussion ensued regarding passenger loading, signage, and number of accidents.

Vice Chair Fisher opened the meeting for public comment.

Jamie Brownlee - 805 Prospect Avenue. He is concerned with pedestrian safety and is in favor of the proposed turn restrictions. He reported the southwest corner pedestrian pushbutton doesn't work. Staff advised that it would follow up and test its operation. Delays on Meridian are due to the Gold Line train. He reported that the traffic signal is obstructed when the crossing arms are up.

Commissioner Abelson supports the study and proceeding with the installation of the turn restrictions and signage as recommended by the study in an effort to promote traffic flow and safety at this intersection. He inquired about the bus exception proposed by the study to be included on the signage, and staff confirmed that buses do not make turns from Mission to Meridian in either direction.

Commissioner Fisher supports the RT restriction and believes it's critical to improve traffic flow. He noted the restriction might cause some controversy with restricting access to the Gold Line and suggested the City could install short term parking or 15-minute parking/green zone on the north side of El Centro west of the station to access the Gold Line. He also suggested on the south side of Mission Street west of the storage facility the red curb can be converted into 15-minute short term parking.

Council Liaison Schneider suggests all LTs be restricted all day.

A motion was made to approve prohibiting left turn movements from both eastbound and westbound Mission Street to Meridian Avenue from 4pm-6pm on weekdays, as well as right turn movements from eastbound Mission to southbound Meridian Avenue during the same hours. The signage to be as recommended in the study but omitting the "EXCEPT BUSES" language. Staff was requested to further study restrictions of left turns from northbound and southbound Meridian Avenue onto Mission Street during the same period. (Abelson, Glauz 4-0)

B. Street Cut Moratorium

Civil Engineering Assistant Thomas Amare gave a brief presentation, accompanied by PowerPoint slides. The guidelines will establish the basis and process for determining the level of repair and replacement for cuts in, reconstructed and newly paved streets.

Commissioner Glauz commented that the City of LA has an ordinance that incorporates a street damage restoration fee of \$22/SF for cuts within the first 5 years.

Commissioner Fisher suggested this should only apply to utility companies and City projects should be exempted. He commented that a moratorium requires that utility companies plan ahead for their construction and maintenance projects and it is therefore essential that they have knowledge of the City's intended 5-Year CIP Plan. He again emphasized that the City needs a 5-Year CIP Plan that can be modified each year when the first year funding is approved. Without such a plan utility companies could not be expected to adhere to a moratorium.

Discussion ensued regarding the parameters of the draft ordinance.

Commissioner Abelson suggested review of street moratorium ordinances adopted by other cities of similar size. He also expressed concern about charging a street damage restoration fee/penalty in addition to the costs which the City would require to be incurred in order to restore the street. He suggested that the restoration work should incorporate changes to the roadway surface or markings, if any, which staff determines are appropriate to include at the time.

It was requested to bring the item back at a future meeting with staff's recommended parameters in a sample ordinance for review.

C. Capital Improvement Project Update

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief update on the current Capital Improvement Projects.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Glauz commented about the installation of the new Orange Grove traffic signal. She is concerned with the additional traffic and riders of the Gold Line having to park on Orange Grove due to the restrictive parking around the Gold Line. To address these concerns, Commissioner Abelson suggested that the City investigate extending the existing Gold Line restricted parking area to include Orange Grove and/or reducing the costs of parking at the Mission/Meridian garage.

Commissioner Fisher noted items recommended by the Commission that have not been submitted to the City Council including Marengo & Oxley, elimination of certain bulbouts on Fair Oaks, and Monterey Road diet study.

Commissioner Abelson echoed Commissioner Fisher's concerns and inquired about the removal of the unprotected crosswalk at Lyndon and Fair Oaks in light of its proximity to the protected crosswalks on Fair Oaks at Monterey, Bank, Rollin and Oak. He requested the item come before the Commission for review.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Fisher declared the meeting adjourned at 9:17p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Public Works Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on July 8, 2015.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:



Clinton Granath, Chair