

**MINUTES OF THE
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING**

August 6, 2019

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Gavilanes called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 7100 Garfield Avenue, Bell Gardens.
- ROLL CALL:** Secretary, Veronica Sanchez took roll call.
- PRESENT:** Chairperson Jayson Gavilanes, Vice-Chairperson David Heredia and Commissioner Victor Barbosa were present. Commissioner Rosa Galvan had an excused absence. Chau Vu, Director of Public Works, Cesar Roldan, Associate City Engineer and Veronica Sanchez, Secretary were also present.
- INVOCATION:** Ms. Vu led the invocation.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice-Chairperson Heredia led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- POSTING OF AGENDA:** The agenda was posted as prescribed by law.
- PUBLIC AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** No comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Barbosa and second by Vice-Chairperson Heredia to close public participation.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2019:** Vice-Chairperson Heredia made the motion to approve and Commissioner Barbosa second the motion.
- CLARA STREET FRONTAGE TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY:** Chau Vu gave the report. This request came from residents pertaining to the intersection of Clara Street and Clara Street or Frontage. It is the street right before the bridge over the 710 freeway. The concern is the driver's ability to safely turn from the Frontage Road onto Clara Street. Residents requested an all-way stop at the intersection in order to mitigate their concerns. A field review noted the intersection of Clara Street and Frontage Road is a T-intersection with a stop sign for northbound approach. No traffic controls exist along Clara Street at the intersection. The length of Frontage Road is approximately 320 feet and a cul-da-sac. The City complies with MUTCD guidelines for installation of stop signs, specific traffic pedestrian volumes, accident history and unique conditions must be present at the

intersection before installing a stop sign. Staff analyzed line of sight concerns as well as obtained traffic data from SWITRS for accident/collision reports. Base on all these factors, stop signs for eastbound and westbound Clara Street at the Frontage Road are not recommended. However, staff is recommending adding 110 feet of red curb on the south side of Clara Street to the already existing red curb that would result in 5 parking spaces loss. Additionally the installation of signage intended to give motorist additional advance notice of an intersection ahead.

Vice-Chair Heredia wanted clarification if a left turn movement is permitted off of Frontage Road.

Commissioner Barbosa suggested installing 'Keep Clear' pavement legends because traffic does gets backed up in the evenings.

Ms. Vu directed the Commission to page 4 for the rendering of the current red curb and the intend red curb. Adding there is a parking study currently underway and will investigate who is currently parking along Clara, the concern being vehicles from Cudahy are parking in Bell Gardens.

Mr. Roldan added that staff understands that parking is at a premium and staff is looking to find balance, safety being the priority. There is parking available on the north side of the street in front of the Casino parking lot.

After a discussion between staff and the Commission Vice-Chairperson Heredia suggested approving staff's recommendation, visiting allowing parking at the curb radius of the cul-a-sac and installing 'Keep Clear' pavement legends.

Vice-Chairperson Heredia made the motion to approve and Commissioner Barbosa second the motion.

**TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY
EAST OF BELL GARDENS
HIGH SCHOOL:**

Cesar Roldan gave the report. The City received a request to evaluate the area east of the High School, five segments were evaluated: Watcher Street between Jaboneria and Darwell, Lanto Street between Jaboneria and Darwell, Agra Street between Jaboneria and Darwell, Jaboneria Road south of Lanto and Darwell Avenue south of Lanto. Traffic volume counts, collision history, citation history and vehicle speed counts were collected. No traffic controls are present at either end of Lanto Street, Agra Street and Jaboneria Road is all-way stop controlled. The SSARP study, which has not yet been adopted, provided various safety enhancement recommendations by schools such as bulb-outs, ADA compliance ramps and speed humps. Additionally, the City's Complete Streets Plan focuses on improvements

in relation to the streets just east of Bell Gardens High School. The SSARP will provide very technical recommendations and a plan to have on hand to be able to secure federal and state funds. Based on the engineering analysis staff is recommending that some sign improvements be implemented at the studied area. After a discussion Ms. Vu emphasized that the recommendations to the Commission is signage improvements, pavement marking and other enhancements that are handled by in-house maintenance staff. Structural improvements are being recommended as part of the SSARP which is now complete and can be on hand to secure funding through state and federal grants. Those improvements require design and are technical. 5 years ago all 7 schools were part of the Safe Routes to School which included non-infrastructure project, which emphasized pedestrian and student safety. Future projects can have an outreach element.

Mr. Roldan expressed that having the SSARP and the Complete Streets Plan will be the foundation to secure future funding.

Vice-Chairperson Heredia made the motion to approve and Commissioner Barbosa second the motion.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Ms. Vu informed the Commission that staff will be bringing the SSARP presentation at a future meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM
THE COMMISSION:**

Commissioner Barbosa had traffic concerns 1) Priory and Ira visibility issues when traveling on Ira to turn in either direction onto Priory 2) Quinn and Garfield having the visibility issues when traveling on Quinn as well as speeding on Garfield 3) speeding on Quinn between Gephart and Eastern and 4) the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Garfield Avenue having a near-mis this weekend because motorists don't respect their lanes.

Ms. Vu explained that this year's budget included signalizing Garfield and Muller, which should aid Garfield and Quinn and the City received \$4.2 million METRO grant that will re-design Eastern Avenue and Garfield Avenue which is currently a Y and may be confusing, so a better configuration is the ultimate goal.

Vice-Chairperson Heredia experienced similar issues on Eastern and Garfield. Also mentioning that he recently visited Downey Apollo and noticed flashing beacon above the stop signs and wondered if these would be cost effective and aide as a traffic calming measure.

Ms. Vu agreed to take a look at them.

Chairperson Gavilanes commented that it was nice to see everyone and the agenda items, especially Clara was much needed.

ADJOURNMENT:


Commissioner Barbosa made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Vice-Chairperson Heredia second the motion. Chairperson Gavilanes adjourned the meeting to the next scheduled meeting of September 3, 2019 at 6:45pm.

APPROVED BY:



Jayson Gavilanes, Chairperson

Submitted by:



Veronica Sanchez, Secretary