



**CITY OF BELL GARDENS  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023, 5:30 p.m.  
AGENDA**

**LOCATION:** CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 7100 GARFIELD AVENUE, BELL GARDENS, CA 90201

The meeting will be held at Bell Gardens City Hall in the Council Chambers. The public may attend the meeting in-person or virtually as instructed below. You may view the meeting live on the City's website at <https://www.bellgardens.org/i-want-to/watch-commission-meetings>. Agendas are available at <https://www.bellgardens.org/government/city-departments/city-clerk/bell-gardens-commissions/traffic-and-safety-commission>.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, in order to observe and/or offer public comment may request such reasonable modification, accommodation, aid, or service by contacting Veronica Sanchez, Commission Secretary by telephone at 562-806-7770 or via email [vsanchez@bellgardens.org](mailto:vsanchez@bellgardens.org) no later than 72-hours before the scheduled meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The members of the public may address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda or on matters which are not listed on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Traffic and Safety Commission. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person. Public comments for non-agenda items will be limited to a total of 30 minutes. Public comments can be made by any of the following ways:

**IN-PERSON:** Members of the public can provide in-person comments at the podium in the Council Chamber. The Council Chamber will have seating available for members of the public to attend the meeting in-person. For your safety, space is currently limited to 50 members of the public. Masking is required for all in attendance. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless a different time is announced by the presiding chair.

**BY TELEPHONE:** Phone Number: [\(669\)900-9128](tel:(669)900-9128) Webinar ID: [818 0091 8706#](#) Passcode: [\\*2021#](#)  
To address the Commission press [\\*9](#) to raise your hand then [\\*6](#) to unmute yourself when instructed.

**VIRTUALLY:** Zoom Meeting ID: [818 0091 8706](#) Passcode: [2021](#)  
Comments may also be made via the Zoom app by using the "Raise Hand" feature when it is your turn to speak the host will unmute you. \*Comments will not be accepted in the QandA Chat function of the zoom app.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** Public comments may be submitted electronically by emailing them to [vsanchez@bellgardens.org](mailto:vsanchez@bellgardens.org) or mailed to the Department of Public Works, 8327 Garfield Avenue, Bell Gardens, CA 90201. To ensure distribution to the members of the Commission prior to

consideration of the agenda, please submit comments no later than one (1) hour prior to the meeting. Those comments, as well as any comments received after, will be distributed to the members of the Commission and will be part of the official public record of the meeting.

For more information, you may contact the Department of Public Works during regular business hours 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday at (562) 806-7770.

**TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMISSION**

Chairperson David Heredia  
Vice Chairperson Raul Velasco  
Commissioner Hugo Alvarado  
Commissioner Carlos Jose Barrera  
Commissioner Jayson Gavilanes

**CITY STAFF**

Douglas Benash, P.E. City Engineer  
Veronica Sanchez, Secretary



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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
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TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023, 5:30 p.m.  
AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Hugo Alvarado, Commissioner  
Carlos Jose Barrera, Commissioner  
Jayson Gavilanes, Commissioner  
Raul Velasco, Vice Chair  
David Heredia, Chairperson

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

During this time, members of the public may address the Commission regarding any agenda items or non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the commission. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Public comments for non-agenda items are limited to an overall 30-minute period and will be heard after all comments for agenda items have been heard. Government Code Section 54590 prohibits the Commission from taking action or engaging in discussion on a specific item unless it appears on the agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR (Item No. 1)**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2023**

**Brief Summary:** March 7, 2023 – Traffic and Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

**Recommendation:** It is staff's recommendation that the Commissioners approve the attached minutes.

**DISCUSSION (Item No. 2)**

**2. COMMUNITY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY TRAINING – BELL GARDENS LOCAL RESIDENT AND SAFETY ADVOCATE COMMITTEE**

**Brief Summary:** The 2020 City of Bell Gardens Complete Streets Plan sets forth a blueprint for initial improvements to active transportation infrastructure. This plan works towards improving safety, public health, and connectivity, and includes a planning toolbox for infrastructure improvement. The Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Training (CPBST) program works to help develop a community-driven implementation action plan to improve walking and biking safety in communities.

**Recommendation:** It is the staff's recommendation that the Commission approve for City Council consideration convene a local planning committee for pedestrians and bicyclist safety training curriculum.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2023**

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BELL GARDENS  
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING**

**March 7, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Heredia called the Traffic & Safety Commission Meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Ms. Sanchez took roll call.

**INVOCATION:** Ms. Chavez led the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Gavilanes led the pledge of allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Alvarado, Commissioner Barrera, Commissioner Gavilanes, Vice-Chair Velasco and Chair Heredia were present. Grissel Chavez, Director of Public Works, Douglas Benash, City Engineer; and Veronica Sanchez, Secretary were also present.

**PUBLIC AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** No comments were received.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023:** Commissioner Barrera made the motion and Vice-Chair Velasco second the motion. AYES: Heredia, Velasco, Alvarado, Barrera and Gavilanes. Ms. Chavez added that these reports get forwarded to the Sergeant and PD for enforcement efforts. Chair Heredia was glad PD will be informed especially since this is close to a school and there is a kid presence in the area. Commissioner Gavilanes made the motion and Vice-Chair Velasco second the motion. AYES: Heredia, Velasco Alvarado, Barrera and Gavilanes.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS-  
REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF  
SPEED HUMPS ON FOSTORIA  
STREET FROM GARFIELD**

**AVENUE TO SCOUT AVENUE:** Ms. Chavez reminded the Commission that this was tabled from the previous meeting and turned it over to Mr. Benash to give the report. The Department of Public Works received the request for installation of speed humps on Fostoria Street from Garfield to Scout. As with all other speed hump request and in accordance with City policy, key points need to be reviewed when evaluating: It should be a local street, width no more than 40 feet, no curves on the road, traffic volumes between 500 to 3,500 vehicles per day,

posted speed limit/prima facia speed limit of 25MPH, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed greater than by 8MPH or more, not a transit route and citizen support. Fostoria is a local street with 25MPH speed limit, the width is approximately 26 to 38 feet with allowed parking on both sides. Traffic volume data and speed profile were collected over a 4 day period, December 8<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup> and the average over the 4 day period was 637 vehicles per day and recorded speed profile measured the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed at 30MPH. Therefore 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed does not exceed the posted speed limit, so the criteria is not met.

Vice-Chair Velasco asked if PD will still be contacted for enforcement.

Mr. Benash confirm and Ms. Chavez added that staff always forwards all items present to the Commission with the Police Department.

Chair Heredia added that after the indicated time frame residents can request a re-evaluation.

Ms. Chavez added that after a 12 month period, if there is a change in traffic pattern or a change reported by PD, staff could re-evaluate.

Commissioner Gavilanes made the motion and Commissioner Barrera second the motion. AYES: Heredia, Velasco Alvarado, Barrera and Gavilanes.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS-  
REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF  
SPEED HUMPS ON AJAX AVENUE  
FROM WATCHER STREET TO  
AGRA STREET:**

Ms. Chavez deferred to Mr. Benash to give the report. The department received the request for installation of speed humps on Ajax Avenue from Watcher Street to Agra Street. In accordance with the City policy, the criteria was taken into consideration when evaluating. Traffic volume counts and a speed profile was ordered to confirm the extent of the reported speeding activity. Agra is a local north south residential street with a prima facia speed of 25MPH and a width of 40 feet. The results of the average daily traffic volume count over the four day period, February 9<sup>th</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, where an average of 1,259 vehicles per day. The recorded profiles indicated the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 29MPH. Although Ajax meets the curb to curb width, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed does not exceed the posted speed limit was not met. Therefore, it is recommended that the request be denied.

Chair Heredia asked if the intersection of Lanto and Ajax had a stop.

Ms. Chavez confirmed it is a two way stop at Lanto. Vice-Chair Velasco asked if when collecting data what hours are being captured.

Mr. Benash explained that it is a 24 hour for the consecutive 4 days of collecting data.

Ms. Chavez added that it captures both 2 weekdays and 2 weekend days.

Vice-Chair Velasco made the motion and Commissioner Alvarado second the motion. AYES: Heredia, Velasco Alvarado, Barrera and Gavilanes.

**RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION:**

Ms. Chavez deferred to Secretary Sanchez. As per the Bell Gardens Municipal code, the commission shall elect its Chairperson and Vice-chairperson from among its members for a term of 1 year and as it may determine necessary and convenient. The position of Chairperson was declared vacant and nominations were accepted. Commissioner Velasco nominated Commissioner Heredia to continue as Chair. No other nominations were received. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Heredia, Velasco Alvarado, Barrera and Gavilanes. The position of Vice-Chairperson was declared vacant and nominations were accepted. Chair Heredia nominated Commissioner Velasco as Vice-Chair. No other nominations were received. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Heredia, Velasco Alvarado, Barrera and Gavilanes. The re-organization of the Commission was concluded.

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF:**

Ms. Chavez mentioned that the Marquee sign that was mentioned at the previous Commission meeting, is on the radar for replacement and the administrative staff and Community Development are working on seeking out proposals for a new sign up to 2023 standards and technology. It will potentially be a budget item for the upcoming fiscal year.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Vice-Chair Velasco asked about the requirement associated with installing a dedicated left turn signal at Eastern and Clara and Eastern and Gage.

Mr. Benash explained that it requires an initial traffic study and if recommended then left turn phasing project can be added to the budget. The initial study \$10,000 to \$15,000 and the project an approximate \$400,000.

Ms. Chavez added that Eastern at Clara is already a project that will be funded next year. It is a project through the Gateway Cities for next spring. And Eastern at Gage can

also be examined to see if it can be added as part of another CIP project.

Chair Heredia also asked if staff could check the timing at these two intersections.

Vice- Chair Velasco also added he appreciates the Public Works staff who was recently removing graffiti in his neighborhood.

Chair Heredia echoed the sentiment, he saw staff going from storm drain to storm drain removing debris so that water could flow during the recent storms.

Commissioner Gavilanes congratulated Chair and Vice Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Heredia adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting of April 4, 2023.

**APPROVED BY:**

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**David Heredia, Chairperson**

**Submitted by:**

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**Veronica Sanchez, Secretary**





# CITY OF BELL GARDENS

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### AGENDA REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Traffic and Safety Commission
<b>FROM:</b>	Gustavo Romo, Community Development Director
<b>BY:</b>	Steven Jones, City Planner
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Cal Walks' Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training Program</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	May 2, 2023

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the staff's recommendation that the Traffic and Safety Commission by motion approve for City Council consideration convene a local planning committee for a pedestrian and bicyclist safety training curriculum.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

At the February 13, 2023 regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting, staff was directed to provide information on ways Bell Gardens coordinates accessible mobility and transportation infrastructure among neighboring jurisdictions and to help encourage safe and well-connected active transportation. Active transportation, such as walking, bicycling, and rolling, reduces vehicle miles traveled ("VMTs") and improves public health. By decreasing VMT, it reduces emissions and congestion. Further, people who use active transportation have healthier lifestyles and present less of a risk to others as they travel through the City.

In a 2021 survey, residents of Bell Gardens stated that they would like to see more bicycle and pedestrian facilities on major streets. The Bell Gardens Traffic and Safety Commission promotes active transportation as encouraged by the 2020 Complete Streets Plan and 2022 Circulation Element to the Bell Gardens General Plan. Improvements such as pleasant streetscapes, continuous and well-maintained sidewalks, more frequent and visible pedestrian crossings, and protected and connected bike facilities help to make active transportation more convenient and appealing for small children, students, senior citizens, employees, and visitors.

Policies and programs exist to support local and regional goals as set forth by Los Angeles County and the Southern California Association of Governments ("SCAG") in connection with new development, City active transportation infrastructure improvements, and land use planning.

Funding of Capital Improvement Program projects and development review encourage active transportation and promote measures to ensure public health, safety, and welfare, and mobility connections to surrounding municipalities. Cal Walks and UC Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (“SafeTREC”) created a joint program that works with local residents and safety advocates to develop a community-driven action plan to improve walking and biking safety in their communities building on existing documents and policy framework.

The Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training (“CPBST”) program works to increase knowledge, identify action plan implementation strategies, and build public-private relationships for effective and successful efforts. Program activities include a facilitated discussion, a group-led physical assessment, an educational overview, and ways to affect changes with funding for public infrastructure projects.

CPBST has been successful in providing advocacy and support with the Altadena Town Council Safe Streets Committee to secure an AARP Community Challenge Grant for safe access to parks and to implement a demonstration project that included a pop-up bike park for youth, an accessible community nature trail loop, and a short nature trail ecology walk.

The program is positioned to convene a local committee, facilitate advancement and change, and help to mobilize the community partnerships to action here in Bell Gardens.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

The convening of a proposed committee is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) under the following provisions of the CEQA Guidelines: Section 15061(b)(3) because there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect upon the environment; and under Section 15378, as the formation of a committee is not a project under CEQA because it will not cause a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because it does not authorize any specific activity. Furthermore, the committee’s actions would be exempt pursuant to Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines since they would involve the feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which would be unapproved and unfunded. Individual projects may be considered projects subject to CEQA.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

People are more likely to utilize active transportation infrastructure when they feel safe to do so. People are more likely to feel safe walking and biking if streets are well lit and are more heavily traveled by other people. In this way, making active transportation accessible may improve a sense of safety and community. Residents, groups and coalitions, schools and school districts, agencies, community-based organizations, city departments and local businesses alike can participate in Bell Gardens improvements under your leadership and the program’s guidance.

Staff recommends the Traffic and Safety Commission provide feedback on proposed measures to facilitate workshops promoting safe use of active transportation infrastructure and take action by recommending City Council consider convening a local planning committee beginning the members of the Traffic and Safety Commission or an ad-hoc committee with community members.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Exhibit 1 – Project Overview

## Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training

### About the Program

The Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training (CPBST) program is a joint project of [California Walks](#) (Cal Walks) and [UC Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center](#) (SafeTREC). The program works with local residents and safety advocates to develop a community-driven action plan to improve walking and biking safety in their communities.

The program will:

- Increase participants' knowledge of pedestrian and bicyclist safety;
- Identify Safe System strategies to implement in a community to improve safety for all road users; and
- Strengthen rapport between residents, local officials, agency staff, coalitions, and other partners.

**As of 2022, SafeTREC and Cal Walks have conducted 119 workshops statewide.**

### Project Activities



A facilitated discussion on local crash data and the community's safety experiences;



A walking and biking assessment to identify safety concerns and opportunities for improvements;



An educational overview of the Safe System framework and strategies; and



An interactive activity to develop a community-driven safety action plan

### Past sites have accomplished the following by participating in the CPBST:

- The City of Fowler installed a stop sign at the Nelson Street and East Vine intersection with community advocacy and support.
- In Modesto's Airport neighborhood, the community developed a pilot volunteer walking school bus plan during their CPBST workshop. The school has since formalized it into a permanent walking school bus program.
- The Altadena Town Council Safe Streets Committee secured an AARP Community Challenge Grant to advocate for safe access to parks and to implement a demonstration project that included a pop-up bike park for youth, an accessible community nature trail loop, and a short nature trail ecology walk.
- Muscoy in unincorporated San Bernardino County was awarded \$1.88 million for pedestrian safety improvements through Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 5.
- Many communities who received trainings have reported that they planned a community outreach (59%) activities, an education event (53%), or a walk/bike assessment (36%) since the CPBST workshop.

## Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training

**Explore** our interactive map to access summary reports from previous workshops at [bit.ly/CPBSTMap](http://bit.ly/CPBSTMap) and our short videos on community engagement at [bit.ly/CommEngSafeStreets](http://bit.ly/CommEngSafeStreets) and [bit.ly/CommInvolvedPlanning](http://bit.ly/CommInvolvedPlanning).

### What to Expect

Each community will:

- Convene a local Planning Committee to adapt the workshop curriculum to fit their specific safety concerns.
- The Planning Committee will actively participate in four meetings to learn about Safe System strategies, how to implement them in their community, and identify actionable next steps.
- The Planning Committee will plan, attend, and invite their local community to a community-wide workshop.

### Who is Eligible

This free program is open to:

- Resident Groups and Coalitions
- Schools and School Districts
- Agencies
- Community-Based Organizations and Nonprofits
- City Departments
- Local Businesses

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**SUBMIT** the Program Application to [kristenmleckie@berkeley.edu](mailto:kristenmleckie@berkeley.edu). For early consideration, submit your application by Friday, January 20, 2023.

**VISIT** <https://safetrec.berkeley.edu/programs/cpbst> or <https://calwalks.org/cpbst> for more information.

**CONTACT** [cpbst@berkeley.edu](mailto:cpbst@berkeley.edu).

**The English and Spanish application can be found at [bit.ly/CPBSTApplication](http://bit.ly/CPBSTApplication).**

If you require accommodations in order to fully participate in the program, please feel free to contact us. The CPBST program is also able to provide ASL interpretation, CART captioning, alternative media formats, etc in order to make our events accessible for all.

*Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.*