

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022
MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fisher called the Regular Meeting of the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission to order on July 19, 2022, at 6:36 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Chair Fisher

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

Council Liaison: Mayor-Pro Tem John Primuth

Absent:

Staff Present: Ted Gerber, Director of Public Works, Tatevik Barakazyan, Civil Engineering Associate (CEA) and Leonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant (“PA”)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dunlap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Public Comment – General

No Public Comment.

INFORMATION REPORTS

2. Project Status Update

PWD Gerber gave a brief overview of the on-going projects list. Discussion ensued regarding the various projects. One of the key issues that was discussed is the need to have on-call consultants to design projects and conduct traffic studies. An RFP had been developed that would provide the Public Works Department with professional services that would support project needs. The contract(s) will be going to the City Council for approval.

The Fair Oaks Avenue traffic signal synchronization project is moving forward and city personnel received some training on the program’s software. There will also be a meeting with Metro in integrating bus priority into the system plan.

The city has requested SBI funds to assist with street improvements.

The city is planning to install a student drop off area to assist with the traffic issues with school traffic involving Holy Family and South Pasadena High School. PWD Gerber indicated that he will contact the school principal to get their concurrence.

3. Review of the Meridian Traffic Data and Analysis

PWD Gerber gave a presentation on this item.

The commission had discussion about the presentation, such as the traffic accidents data, which included 20 accidents, as well as the recommendations about visibility at intersections and such. The Commission reminded PWD Gerber that residents voiced concerns about speeding on Meridian Avenue and that having that data will assist in developing appropriate engineering or enforcement measures. PWD Gerber indicated that his staff would review the types of collisions, look for any patterns and recommend appropriate measures. The additional information is intended to be scheduled for the October meeting.

Public Comment

Chris Miller – Inquired about reducing the speed across Meridian or just specific intersections.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission on June 21, 2022

Minutes approved as amended. Motion made by Commissioner Hughes and seconded by Commissioner Abelson (4-0, motion passes).

COMMUNICATIONS

5. City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro-Tem informed the Commission of the items on the City Council agenda scheduled for July 20, 2022. Some of the items include the electrification of City Hall, vehicle leases and the designation of Hawthorne Street, the official name of the roadway that has Railroad Alley street name signs.

6. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Dunlap suggested the City look into a safety plan or a plan like "Vision Zero". He believes this will be a requirement for receiving federal funding or grants.

Commissioner Abelson commented that the high school might start class instruction as early as August 11, so keep the date in mind as we move forward with the project discussed earlier regarding school drop off loading zones along the frontage of South Pasadena High School on Fremont Avenue. In addition, he suggested that if staff is unable to get the Commission agenda by Thursdays that it might be best to reschedule the meeting, so that the Commission and public will have sufficient time for review.

Commissioner Hughes agreed with Commission Abelson to have more time to review the agenda. She requested if staff could speak with Caltrans to repair the large potholes on Arroyo Seco Parkway just south of Orange Grove exit.

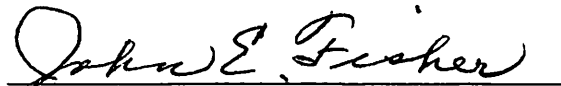
Chair Fisher concurred with Commissioner Abelson with having the items in enough time to digest the information.

7. Staff Communications

PWD Gerber informed the Commission that staff looked into adding mulch to the South Pasadena sign, but the area is too steep. Staff is looking into other ground cover solutions that will help.

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 16, 2022.



John Fisher, Chair



PUBLIC COMMENT

MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMISSION MEETING

July 19, 2022

Item No.	Name	Document	Date Received
3	Michael Siegel	E-mail	7/19/2022
3	D. Shane	E-mail	7/19/2022

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MTIC Public Comments](#)
Subject: public comment - Item 3 Meridian Traffic Data and Analysis
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:41:56 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Commission/Staff/Council,

I love our city, it is fantastic to walk, and I am often out and about walking... in certain parts of our city that is. Unfortunately, I still feel very unsafe from vehicles walking in a lot of our fair city.

Just a point as you make your way through the hourly and time-of-day statistics of traffic volume at various points on Meridian. You will notice not many counts for pedestrians and bicycles. Ask why it's so low - is it because people don't walk or bicycle? Or is it because they avoid that area if they can?

For myself, I can answer definitively it is the latter. That portion of Meridian is just too hostile for non-cars, and I avoid it at all costs. Like many other streets in South Pasadena, vehicles are allowed to flow freely and take advantage to speed unsafely there. Any and all mitigation for this particular area (and others that are similar) that can keep people safe would be much appreciated by the community.

Thanks for your consideration.

Michael Siegel

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MTIC Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Ted Gerber](#); [Tatevik Barakazyan](#); [Leonna Dewitt](#); [John E. Fisher](#); [Lawrence Abelson](#); [Jon Primuth](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#); [Tamara Binns](#)
Subject: MTIC July 19th Commission Meeting: Item No. 3: Meridian Avenue Traffic Issues
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:47:55 AM
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear MTIC Chair and Commissioners:

I am glad that you are now considering what next can be done to calm the traffic on Meridian. Just so you know, my neighbors and I have been thrilled with the three-way stop sign. Friends of ours have remarked how easy it is now to make a left turn while driving from Oak to Meridian without worrying who might be speeding around the corner. Those of us who walk across the street at Meridian/Oak are far more confident now of not being almost hit by cars.

I have reviewed Mr. Gerber's staff report and am pleased that new emphasis is being placed on sight lines. However, as well you know, SMART Families (over 130 residents) made it perfectly clear when the Zimmerman report first came out that it was deficient. Done at the height of the pandemic and not considering late starts for the students were some of the issues we had. There was also not enough consideration for traffic turning from Maple onto Meridian (in either direction) where there are constant near misses. Additionally, the accident reports involve only those with police presence. Many of our fender benders do not get recorded by the police, so the touted accident matrix is a significant undercount. We were told that Garrett Crawford (now gone) was going to prepare an accident form for the residents to report such accidents that they observed. But no form was ever finalized.

I am hopeful that the staff report is the restart in a true conversation between the city staff (i.e., Mr. Gerber and Ms. Tatevik Barakazyan), MTIC Commission, Council representation, consultants, and we the residents in the Meridian Avenue area to agree on and implement feasible solutions. We want to see concrete steps taken towards making Meridian safe again.

Mitigating measures mentioned in the staff report include:

- Edgeline striping
- Speed feedback signs corridor entrances
- Pedestrian crossing devices such as Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRBFs)

Edgeline striping was done as part of the improvements that Ms. Barakazyan did under Mr. Shahid Abbas. Some of the lines are wearing out now or are cracked/potted due to the condition of the street's pavement. The edgeline with bott dots around the curve of Meridian, south of the high school, are now routinely run over by speeding cars that don't slow on that curve.

Speed feedback signs would be helpful, and are needed around the school and south of Oak before Kendall.

RRBF devices may be of great help to the Bank Street crosswalk.

And something has to be done at Maple, Beech, and Pine where cars coming off of Huntington Drive rarely stop before turning onto Meridian.

While my neighbors and I are busy with our lives, we all want a better life experience when using Meridian as a pedestrian, bicyclist, or driver. We ask to be part of the solution by truly engaging conversations about Meridian. This particular format does not meet the opportunity to truly engage, but as I state previously, is a start.

My neighbors and I look for ways to solve these long standing issues. We also appreciate that staff is now seriously looking at the issues of the Maple/Meridian/Bonita public staircase and the Snake Trail. Just to add to the staff report, I live next door to that staircase. The first two steps are in very bad shape. Lots of young and old rely on those stairs, but the city has not maintained them. I can only go up the first landing from Meridian to remove weeds growing through the cracks and the leaves/trash on the stairs. I am scared that as a senior now, I could fall and hurt myself. There are no railings and the steps are sort of narrow. My Bonita neighbors above me need to use those stairs to access their downslope portions of their properties. I meet people who exercise on the stairs and kids who (at least pre pandemic) walked from Bonita and that higher area down to Maple/Meridian via those stairs. The city needs to take up the slack of maintaining those stairs, that the city built in the 1930s.

I don't believe I will be able to attend tonight's meeting, but please know that we residents are as concerned as ever and want to work with the city in a collaborative way.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Delaine W. Shane
2003 Meridian Avenue