

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 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 April 18, 2023, at 6:34 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Chair Eric Dunlap

Present: Chair Fisher, Commissioner Abelson, and Commissioner Hughes

Council Liaison: Councilmember Jack Donovan

Absent: Commissioner Zavala

Staff Present: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director (“PWD”), David Pena, Transportation Program Manager (“TPM”), and Leaonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant (“PWA”)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Abelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Public Comment – General

No Public Comment

INFORMATION REPORTS

2. Project Status Update

PWD provided an update on various projects. On Thursday, May 18, at the Library Community room at 6:00 p.m., the City will be hosting an outreach event for the North South Corridor ITS project. The Slow Streets Program is moving forward and on schedule for review by the Commission next month. PWD Gerber stated a traffic impact analysis has been initiated for the 625 Fair Oaks project Senior Medical Housing Facility, which is being paid by the developer.

Public Works and the Police Department held a community meeting last Thursday night with the 2000 block of Huntington Drive to listen to their concerns and ideas for the City as a whole.

It was shared that a special “State of the Streets” meeting is planned for April 26, 2023, that will include the City Council and the Mobility & Transportation Infrastructure Commission to discuss street repairs, transportation projects, funding and such. The meeting will be open to the public.

The Measure R project focusing on the proposed improvements to Pasadena Avenue, on the border of Pasadena and South Pasadena approved first by the City of Pasadena, where they agreed to assist with funding has now been rejected. This will mean that South Pasadena would need to cover all related project costs. This can impact the current visibility of the project.

It was reported that there had been the initiation of improvements on Diamond Ave. The street will be monitored to see performance and we will look for community feedback.

ADA ramp projects will need to go out to bid. The bid process is being reviewed.

It was also reported that Alta is looking at the possible issue of closing off the Farmers Market area. There are some issues, as there are Gas Company related work that is planned for the area, which would limit projects.

It was shared that in regards to the Metro L (Gold Line) queuing, right now the timing is based on efficiency when there are two trains that cross the station. There could still be improvements.

Discussion ensued regarding various projects.

Commissioner Abelson asked about if the warrant analysis for the proposed signal was still scheduled to move forward, and asked that it be included on the projects list. He also asked for more information regarding the issues Columbia Street. In addition, he asked about if the draft Ramona Avenue, school plan had been shared with the South Pasadena Unified School District. He also commented that the Commission or public had not seen the recent completed traffic study for Mission Street and slow streets project.

Commissioner Fisher asked about the Mission Street and Meridian Ave. signal timing, as he said that there is area for improvement, especially with pedestrian interval improvements. He also wanted to make sure that if a lane is removed from Mission St. as part of the pilot, there will need to be mitigation actions.

Chair Dunlap asked what might be the hinderance to implemented timing improvements, such as lack of in-house staff for getting assistance with signals.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Evaluation of a Second Crossing Guard on Huntington Drive and Marengo Avenue

TPM Pena gave a brief overview of this item. Staff is requesting that the Commission consider the draft report provided by Minagar & Associates, Inc. and provide input and recommendations related to the draft findings, and further recommendation to Council on next steps.

Public Comment Via Zoom

Alexis Altounian – Expressed support for the second crossing guard. It was shared that in 2003, a crossing guard for the area was struck by a vehicle.

Ella Hushagen – Expressed support for the second crossing guard. She also suggested that perhaps a “Scramble Crossing” could improve safety.

Eva Romero – Expressed support for the second crossing guard. She shared how she was almost hit at the crosswalk.

End of Public Comment

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to recommend that the consultant revise the report to reflect quantifiable data to justify the recommendations; 2) that the consultant consider recommendations from the CA MUTCD with regard to countdown signals, accessible pedestrian signals, and retiming of the signal to reflect modern practices with regard to pedestrian timing yellow and all red timing; and 3) the consultant consider protected left turn for either Northbound or Southbound movement if it can be shown that their paths interlock with each other.

There was significant discussion regarding the report and the issue, including that more information would be helpful such as crash data beyond five years. It was also discussed how some the report recommendations would require large capital expenditures, such as raised crosswalks. Signal timing can also be reviewed for added safety. It was also noted that no speed data was shared. It was also noted that no information from the actual crossing guards was included in the report.

Motion made by Commissioner Dunlap and seconded by Commissioners Hughes to continue staffing the intersection with a second adult crossing guard for the 2023-2024 school year if funding allows (2-2, motion fails)

An amendment by Commissioner Abelson was presented - the consultant, as part of this revision process come back with more of a narrower list/smaller set of data supported recommendations (Fisher, Abelson 4-0)

4. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission Meeting on March 21, 2023

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

COMMUNICATIONS

5. City Council Liaison Communications

Council Liaison Donovan reminded the Commission of the Special Joint meeting on Wednesday, April 26.

6. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Hughes announced that the Eastern Sierra reached its highest level of snowpack in recorded history over 300 percent. She is enjoying the look of the South Pasadena Rock sign and hopes the community is enjoying the signage as well.

Commissioner Abelson informed the Commission of the invitation to participate in a citywide budget survey and if not, the survey is accessible on the City website. The deadline to submit the survey is April 21. He cautioned everyone to drive safely after an incident with South Pasadena Police Officer Holland, who is now recovering. Commissioner Abelson reminded everyone regarding the concerns of residents of Orange Grove between El Centro and Monterey Road with speeding on their street.

Commissioner Zavala announced that he received his driver's license and how that has given him a wider perspective not just as a biker or a pedestrian and gives him an understanding of the habits of drivers, however he will continue to ride his bike.

Commissioner Fisher thank staff for being responsive. He also welcome David Pena to the Public Works Department. He commented how on Orange Grove between Monterey Road and El Centro an easy solution would be to shift parking to one side of the street and allow two lanes of traffic to travel without conflict.


Commissioner Dunlap reminded the Commission of the Work Plan that would be on the next agenda and start thinking of items we want to consider for the coming year.

7. Staff Communications

PWD Gerber next week will be a Special Joint Meeting with City Council and MTIC in the Council Chambers at 6:30p.m. on April 26, 2023. The Commission Congress is coming up and the commission will need to prepare two slides for presentation at the meeting, as part of the Annual Report reporting.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:14 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 May 31, 2023.

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Eric Dunlap, Chair