



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION – MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Works Infrastructure Commission meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Kerwin, Kuo, Sharma, Vice-Chair Brunelle, Chair Dunlap

Members Absent: None

Phillip Tran, Management Analyst, announced a quorum

Staff Present: Public Works Director Julian Lee, City Engineer Michael Vartanians, Transportation Program Manager Bassam AL-Beitawi, Management Analyst Phillip Tran, Management Assistant Rigoberto Escobedo

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Kuo.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**1. Public Comment received**

Kathy Jones.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA**

**2. REORDERING OF, ADDITIONS, OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

At the request of staff, Agenda Item 4 was tabled to the next meeting. There were no objections.

**PRESENTATION**

**3. UPDATE ON STATUS OF ORANGE GROVE AVENUE TRAFFIC STUDY**

Transportation Program Manager Bassam AL-Beitawi delivered a presentation and answered questions from the Commission. Chair Dunlap asked Public Works Director Julian Lee to provide brief history of site for those in attendance. Commissioner asked whether the proposed alternatives reflected the consensus of the residents staff had met with and how their input was used to develop the options, and further inquired, in the scenario where both Oliver Street and Prospect Drive are closed and the local Columbia Street connection remain closed, whether neighborhood access would be limited to Fremont Avenue and Mission Street. Commissioner Sharma asked whether, with the inclusion of a new concept involving closure of Oliver and Prospect, any of the mitigation elements from Concepts 1 and 2 would still be retained or whether that closure would be the sole mitigation measure. Commissioner Sharma also requested clarification on purpose and effect would be of eliminating the peak hour left turn restriction at Columbia Street and how that change would alter lane assignments and left turn movements for southbound traffic from Pasadena. Commissioner Kuo asked whether the consultant's scope also included the Orange Grove segment between State Route 110 and Mission Street and, if so, when that

portion of the study would be presented to the Commission. Commissioner Sharma further inquired whether the proposed near-term changes would affect the engineering and traffic speed survey requirements, and whether any cost sharing with the City of Pasadena was anticipated for intersection improvements. Vice-Chair Brunelle emphasized the importance of early staff-level coordination with the City of Pasadena to build support for near-term measures and inquired if a crosswalk at Prospect could be provided. Chair Dunlap strongly encouraged staff to implement temporary safety measures until a more permanent solution can be found.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Chair Dunlap, seconded by Vice-Chair Brunelle, for staff to proceed with all feasible near-term safety measures on Orange Grove as identified by the consultant, and that City Council consider working with the City of Pasadena to implement a southbound lane reduction north of Columbia Street. The motion carried 4-0, by the following vote:

<b>AYES:</b>	Kerwin, Kuo, Sharma, Vice-Chair Brunelle, Chair Dunlap
<b>NOES:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	None

Comments were received from Tucker Nelson, Caroline Howell.

#### 4. UPDATE ON STATUS OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

At the request of staff, Agenda Item 4 was tabled to the next meeting. There were no objections.

### ACTION/DISCUSSION

#### 5. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO CITYWIDE TRAFFIC SAFETY PLAN AD-HOC COMMITTEE

##### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission appoint two members of PWIC to join the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Chair Dunlap, seconded by Vice-Chair Brunelle, to appoint Vice-Chair Brunelle and Chair Dunlap to the Traffic Safety Plan Ad-Hoc Committee. The motion carried 5-0, by the following vote:

<b>AYES:</b>	Kerwin, Kuo, Sharma, Vice-Chair Brunelle, Chair Dunlap
<b>NOES:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	None

#### 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR PWIC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026

##### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and consider approval of the February 11, 2026, Regular PWIC Meeting Minutes.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Sharma, seconded by Commissioner Kerwin, to review and consider approval of the February 11, 2026, Regular PWIC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 4-0:

<b>AYES:</b>	Kerwin, Kuo, Sharma, Chair Dunlap
<b>NOES:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Vice-Chair Brunelle

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### 7. City Council Liaison Communications

City Council Liaison Omari Ferguson reported that the City recently held an open house on proposed

improvements for the Huntington/Fremont project and encouraged continued public participation at future outreach meetings as the project advances.

**8. Commissioner Communications**

Commissioner Kuo suggested improvement to future Capital Improvement Program presentation for greater transparency and recommended that staff present a three-month look-ahead schedule highlighting key milestones of projects.

Commissioner Kerwin commended staff for the turnout at Fremont/Huntington open house, stated preference for more cost-effective options for project, and recommended retaining center turn lane on Fremont to avoid congestion.

Commissioner Sharma asked that any needed roadway or public works improvements at fatality site be brought back to the Commission as a future agenda item.

Vice-Chair Brunelle encouraged continued engagement with local community-based organizations and asked for prioritization and updates on Mission Slow Street.

Chair Dunlap echoed the importance of advancing the Mission Slow Street project.

**9. Staff Liaison Communications**

City Engineer Michael Vartanians reported that the public outreach meetings have been well received and staff is planning third meeting at end of month to review intersection concepts based on feedback.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further matters, Chair Dunlap adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM to Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

Respectfully submitted:



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Michael Vartanians  
Staff Liaison, City Engineer



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Eric Dunlap  
Public Works Infrastructure Commission Chair