

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Chair Abelson. Present were Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Glauz and Commissioner Granath. Councilmember Robert Joe was present. Staff present: Deputy Public Works Director (DPWD) Rafael Casillas and Public Works Assistant Leonna DeWitt.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Glauz led the pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Meeting on August 9, 2017.

Minutes approved as amended. (Granath, Hughes 5-0)

Chair Abelson requested to reorder the agenda to hear Item No. 8 (Discussion/Action Items) prior to Items No. 5 (Council Liaison Comments), No. 6 (Staff Comments), and Item No. 7 (Commissioner Comments).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Fox – 319 Fremont Avenue. She shared her concerns regarding the traffic and congestion on Fremont Avenue specifically between Mission Street and Columbia Street. This particular area of Fremont is entirely residential, but due to the high speeds and excessive traffic, prevents residents from walking to schools, churches and businesses in the City. Ms. Fox stated the City has studied this area and found that Fremont Avenue has a daily capacity of 13,300 cars. She is aware of the funding the City receives from the General Fund and Measure R and is hoping that some could be used for traffic calming on Fremont Avenue. Ms. Fox pointed out that the speed on Fremont Avenue was increased from 25 MPH to 35 MPH without any direct input from the residents in the area. She stated there are many streets in the neighborhood that have been closed off and traffic is forced to travel on Fremont Avenue. Ms. Fox and her neighbors have several ideas that might assist with calming traffic.

1. Enforcing truck restrictions on Fremont Avenue and installing additional signage.
2. Lower the speed limit and remove the street closures.
3. Interconnect traffic signals between Mission Street and Columbia Street for better traffic flow.
4. Permit cameras to be installed to target excessive speeders.
5. Pedestrian access to travel southbound on Fremont.
6. Installation of a three way stop signs on Fremont Avenue at Buena Vista Street.

Alexis Boxer – 508 Fremont Avenue. She shared her concern about the inability to access the sidewalk on the eastside of Fremont Avenue. She suggested some alternatives such as a crosswalk at Buena Vista Street, or a flashing speed alert traffic that would slow down traffic, there could also be some sort of stop (roundabout) or an overhead flasher.

Alex Swanson – 1140 Foothill Street. Mr. Swanson shared his concern regarding the speed limit on Fremont Avenue and a legal impediment to reducing the speed from 30 MPH to 25MPH. Mr. Swanson suggested the Commission look at the issue and any impediments of reducing the speeds. He stated the street is not currently zoned as residential and he believes the City can resolve that issue.

Lisa Robles – 307 Fremont Avenue. Ms. Robles agrees with all of the previous speakers and she is concerned with backing out of her driveway. Her car has been damaged when parked on the street and she is also concerned with the amount of traffic and excessive speeds on Fremont Avenue. Ms. Robles requested the City improve the situation immediately.

The Commission agreed to hear Discussion/Action Item No. 8C (Fremont Avenue and Grevelia Street Northeast Corner Pedestrian Access) first, due to the number of residents present that live on Fremont Avenue that were present and had interest in the issue.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

C. Fremont Avenue and Grevelia Street Northeast Corner Pedestrian Access

DPWD Casillas gave a brief overview of the item. Staff recommends the Commission to receive and file. Based on his observation all of the issues at this intersection were caused by installation of the new to the Metro crossing.

Discussion ensued regarding logistics, crosswalks, and pedestrian access.

Public Comment Period Open

Andrea Fox-319 Fremont Avenue. Ms. Fox is concerned that there is no safe way to cross Fremont Avenue north of the tracks.

Councilmember Joe requested staff to write a letter to Caltrans regarding the conditions at this intersection and what can be done on the east side of the street. He also requested staff contact City of Alhambra regarding Fremont Avenue and possibly develop traffic calming for the entire segment of Fremont Avenue.

Commissioner Granath requested staff provide an exhibit showing detailed logistic information and look into any available property that can be utilized to expand pedestrian access.

Commissioner Glauz is concerned with traffic intrusion into residential areas and requested that staff look at this issue carefully.

Commissioner Fisher is concerned with the significant problems with Fremont Avenue and any traffic safety efforts must look at the geometrics of the area. He believes the railroad bridge was not rebuilt when the old Gold Line was added. Commissioner Fisher commented that the deletion of the crosswalk, on the eastside of Fremont Avenue was probably due to the Gold Line crossing to prevent anyone from getting trapped on the railroad bridge. He is opposed to installing a crosswalk at this location. Staff should explore installing a crosswalk on the north leg to get to the east side of Fremont Avenue. Commission Fisher stated handicap accessible ramps would need to be installed, but would be a challenge due to the narrow sidewalks on the freeway bridge. The commission needs to see better drawings to show the exact configurations of the crossings, sidewalks and bridge.

Commissioner Abelson stated he agrees with a letter to Caltrans. He is concerned with pedestrians crossing at this intersection with or without protection (signal, crosswalk). Commissioner Abelson believes exploring the idea of a crosswalk at the north leg of the intersection is appropriate.

A motion was made requesting staff to 1) Explore the installation of a crosswalk on the north leg of the intersection of Fremont Avenue and Grevelia Street; and 2) Send letter to Caltrans requesting their assistance; and 3) Gather information on the street closures on Fremont Avenue.

Chair Abelson withdrew his motion.

DPWD stated there are a number of variables at this intersection that need to be taken into consideration.

Chair Abelson suggested that staff take into account the comments made by the Commission; follow up and come back with suggestions on the best way to proceed and any other options that could be explored.

A motion was made requesting staff evaluate the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing on the north leg of Grevelia Street to address the issues that have been raised and come back with a recommendation or other alternatives. Commissioner Hughes requested a detailed schematic similar to the request made by Commissioner Granath. (Abelson, Hughes 4-1, Granath a no.)

D. Monterey Road and Garfield Avenue Southeast Corner Visibility Concerns

DPWD gave a brief overview of this item. The Southeast corner lot has hedges along the sidewalk area allegedly obstructing visibility. Staff has contacted San Marino Code Enforcement to alert them of this issue and to contact the property owner. The Commission agreed that they did not need to take any other action, as the property with the hedge is in the City of San Marino.

A. Appointment of Public Works Commissioners to an Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee for the SR-710 TSM/TDM Alternatives

A motion was made to appoint Chair Abelson and Commissioner Fisher to the volunteer working group for the SR-710 TSM/TDM Alternatives. (Hughes, Glauz 5-0)

DPWD requested the Commission to select a date for the next Joint Freeway and Transportation Commission and PWC meeting. The Commission agreed on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, as the first choice and the second choice is Tuesday, October 17, 2017.

Chair Abelson gave an overview of the suggested projects submitted from the PWC for the SR-710 TSM/TDM funding. The consultant has started the review of certain projects and proposed measures for moving traffic around arterials. The consultant will review a combined list of projects as well as proposals relating to Fremont Avenue Traffic Calming, Fair Oaks bulbouts and various other projects.

Discussion ensued regarding General Plan projects, regional impacts and funding challenges.

B. Discussion of Joint FTC/PWC Report and revisions to the PWC Ordinance

Chair Abelson gave an overview of this item. The Commission amended the draft ordinance on page 23-13 of the agenda packet with the following changes:

2.48 - Responsibilities (Freeway and Transportation Commission

9h) To work jointly with the PWC, as directed by the City Council, on *transportation and other projects related to the SR 710 gap*.

2.79-2 - Responsibilities. (Public Works Commission)

(a) To recommend and prioritize to the City Council all public works capital improvement projects or any other significant project as selected by staff or the Commission or as designated by the City Council.

(c) To provide input on capital improvement programs, infrastructure maintenance and repair programs, and other policies, programs and projects as designated by the City Council or selected by staff or the Commission.

(e) To coordinate with the FTC on transportation and other projects related to the SR-710 gap.

Discussion ensued regarding the language, scope of authority, and project limits.

A motion was made to recommend to City Council the revisions to sections 2.48 and 2.79-2 (c) of the draft ordinance. (Abelson, Hughes 5-0)

E. Capital Improvement Project Update

DPWD gave a brief update on the capital improvement projects.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilmember Joe provided a brief update on the historic survey will be presented to the City Council in November. On October 4, 2017, the City Council will be conducting a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of an ordinance to establish boundaries and a sequence of elections within Districts.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

None.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hughes informed the Commission regarding new proposed water and sewer rates. She informed the Commission regarding the redistricting and the information can be found on the City website.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Abelson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

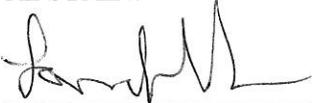
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Public Works Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on August 9, 2017.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Lawrence A. Abelson, Chair