

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **SALINAS TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

The Salinas Traffic and Transportation Commission met on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Rotunda, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas.

1. ROLL CALL: Chairperson Howell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner Kendra Howell  
Commissioner John Viarengo  
Commissioner Chris Flescher  
Commissioner Brandon Hill  
Commissioner Larry Tack  
Commissioner Elias Nunez

ABSENT: Commissioner Yolanda Hayes (notified staff of her absence at the April Commission meeting)

STAFF PRESENT: Gary Petersen, Public Works Director  
James Serrano, Transportation Manager  
Jim Sandoval, Assistant Public Works Director / City Engineer  
Frank Aguayo, Senior Civil Engineer  
Jose Saucedo, Assistant Engineer  
Josie Lantaca, Assistant Engineer  
Victor Cuin, Engineering Aide  
Crissy White, Administrative (Recording) Secretary

James Serrano asked the Commission to consider adding an item to tonight's agenda, regarding the Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan, per City Code section. 54954.2(b)(2).

**COMMISSIONER VIARENGO MADE A MOTION TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN FOR THE LAUREL PARK AND SHERWOOD GARDENS NEIGHBORHOOD, MOTIONED SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HILL, ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED.**

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS (RECEIVED BY STAFF): None

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS / COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA:  
None

4. BUSINESS

A. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 13, 2017

Commission Minutes were continued to the next Commission meeting.

2. ALTERNATIVE SIGNING for the STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM

COMMISSION ACTION: Recommend to City Council approval of proposed alternative signing for the Street Sweeping Program

**COMMISSIONER TACK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA (Alternative Signing for the Street Sweeping Program), COMMISSIONER VIARENGO SECONDED THE MOTION, ALL APPROVED, NONE OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED.**

B. CONSIDERATION AGENDA:

1. BORONDA ROAD WIDENING ROUNDABOUT CONCEPT  
AND FUTURE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUNDING

COMMISSION ACTION: Recommend to City Council approval of the Roundabout Concept for the Boronda Road Widening Project; Authorize the execution of an agreement, in the amount of \$139,800.00, to begin engineering concept

Public Works Director Gary Petersen presented his report, on file in the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Nunez commented he is undecided regarding the roundabouts on Boronda, he is not completely convinced a roundabout can deal with such a high volume of traffic. He would like to see more about how a roundabout works in a high traffic area. He has gotten a lot of push back from residents he has spoken with.

Commissioner Flescher is also concerned about the roundabouts working on such a high volume road.

Commissioner Tack commented he has experience using roundabouts and believes the roundabouts concept here would work.

Commissioner Hill commented he has recently experienced a roundabout in the middle of a highway in Arizona and it worked very well.

Commissioner Howell commented she has reviewed the notes from the recent community meeting and has had positive experiences with roundabouts in other countries. She understands why drivers would be hesitant if they are not familiar with how roundabouts work.

Commissioner Viarengo commented he has had past positive experiences with roundabouts on military posts on the East coast. He also understands that drivers are nervous about using the roundabouts.

Michelle Hitch approached the Commission. She has experienced the Alisal roundabout on many occasions. She is concerned with how traffic moves around the roundabout when there are emergency vehicles responding to an accident in the middle of the roundabout. She believes community education is an important part.

Chris Miller approached the Commission. She attended the community meeting last week. She wanted to know about the money developers were supposed to pay towards Boronda improvements. She is concerned about the bottleneck coming down Independence towards Boronda.

Suzanne Wurz approached the Commission. She has commuted through the roundabout at Alisal and Skyway. She has witnessed many near misses at this intersection. She is concerned with the high speed of traffic on Boronda and concerned for the children crossing McKinnon. She does not recommend roundabouts for Salinas.

Kathleen Hills approached the Commission. She is concerned about drivers yielding to pedestrians and the bottleneck at Dartmouth. She would like to see a live model of a roundabout instead of a simulated model. She believes there are other improvements that could be made in lieu of a roundabout. She would like to see the results of the roundabout going in at Highway 1.

Commissioner Howell asked Gary Petersen to go back over the project timeline. Commissioner Howell asked staff what has been seen from other communities who have gone through the public education, Gary Petersen provided information.

Commissioner Tack asked about the developer contribution to road improvements.

Commissioner Hill asked if all the roundabouts would be done at the same time, Gary Petersen advised the specific timeline still needs to be determined.

Commissioner Nunez asked if the new Lowes has paid any contribution towards traffic improvements, Gary Petersen provided information.

Commissioner Nunez commented it seemed to make sense to start at the bridge first, Gary Petersen provided information regarding environmental concerns and time factors.

**COMMISSIONER HILL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE CONSIDERATION ITEM #1 (Boronda Road Widening Roundabout Concept; including authorizing the execution of an agreement, in the amount of \$139,800.00, to begin engineering concept), COMMISSIONER VIARENGO SECONDED THE MOTION, COMMISSIONER NUNEZ OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED.**

2. TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN FOR THE LAUREL PARK AND SHERWOOD GARDENS NEIGHBORHOOD

**COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommend to City Council approval of a Traffic Calming Plan for the Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens Neighborhood

Transportation Manager James Serrano presented his report, on file in the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Tack asked what materials are used for the speed cushions, James Serrano provided information.

Commissioner Tack asked if a special assessment district would be created to pay for the traffic calming, James Serrano advised it would not.

Commissioner Viarengo commented traffic calming has been installed on Rosarita and Granada and it has been an improvement.

William Shack of Heather Drive approached the Commission to thank staff for responding to their requests for traffic calming. When they approved the details of the traffic calming there was another speed cushion between Lupin and Heather that has been left out. He would like to see it added back in.

Commissioner Tack asked staff why this speed cushion was left out, James Serrano answered it was removed due to the convalescent hospital and emergency vehicle access.

Bruce Bean, of Tyler Street, approached the Commission. Tyler is a very narrow street and there are several accidents caused by too many vehicles speeding down their narrow street.

Donna Leonard approached the Commission to voice support for the traffic calming. They have a problem with larger vehicles and excessive speeds on their streets.

Liz Hibbard approached the Commission. She has lived in this neighborhood since 1954 and a lot has changed since then. With only one signal light in the neighborhood it has become a cut through for large volumes of speeding traffic.

Suzanne Wurz approached the Commission. They have recently installed speed cushions on Little River Drive and she was wondering what kind of reduction in volumes have been seen since they were installed. James Serrano advised staff will re-study traffic volumes after the first year.

**COMMISSIONER TACK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE CONSIDERATION ITEM #2 (Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan), COMMISSIONER VIARENGO SECONDED THE MOTION, ALL APPROVED, NONE OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED.**

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / REPORTS:

- A. Commissioner Flescher reported at the corner of Market and Sanborn one of the traffic signals is bent about 90 degrees.
- B. Commissioner Tack commented the community meeting last week regarding the Boronda roundabouts was very well attended, he would like to see these meetings held a little sooner in the project timeline in the future.
- C. Commissioner Viarengo reported the traffic signals on Sherwood and on Alisal seem to be a little off.
- D. Commissioner Howell reported there will be a community meeting held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm, in the West Wing conference Room at City Hall, to discuss traffic calming for the area of Riker Street and Capistrano.

6. ATTENDANCE AT NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT: June 8, 2017

Commissioner Howell will not be present at the June Commission meeting, all other Commissioners present plan to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

APPROVED:

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Commissioner Howell, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Crissy White, Administrative Secretary  
/CW