

MEETING MINUTES

SALINAS TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Salinas Traffic and Transportation Commission met on Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Rotunda, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas.

1. ROLL CALL: Chairperson Tack called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

STAFF PRESENT: James Serrano, Transportation Manager
Andrew Easterling, Traffic Engineer
Jim Sandoval, City Engineer
Crissy White, Administrative (Recording) Secretary

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS (RECEIVED BY STAFF):

Written communications were received related to the Consideration Agenda, Commissioners were provided with copies of correspondence.

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS / COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA:

Anthony Rocha, resident of District 6 approached the Commission. Mr. Rocha serves on the Library and Community Services Commission. Mr. Rocha has spoken to the City Council already regarding Everett Alvarez High School and the street that goes up to Hemingway park area. He is very concerned with speeding in this area, he is worried about the elementary students at John Steinbeck Elementary school. He would like the City to consider installing speed bumps or other types of traffic calming.

Chairperson Tack elaborated there have been a lot of applications for traffic calming and this issue will be addressed during tonight's meeting.

Mary Ann Worden approached the Commission. Last week she was driving home on Del Monte Avenue, at the corner of Grandhaven Street near the fire station, when she stopped for someone crossing in a crosswalk. The car behind her did not stop and hit her vehicle from behind. There is a problem with the lights here not being over the crosswalk so you can see pedestrians.

Mary Ann Worden also reported that the intersection corners in her neighborhood are getting worse with cars parking around the corners on Tahiti and Caribbean and Pacific and Caribbean. It is impossible to turn at night and to see around the corners because of all the parked cars. On Bernardo, where there are two disabled zones, there are cars that park back to back right up against the disabled zones.

Eric Petersen approached the Commission to report there are a lot of handicapped spaces being blocked on Cherokee Drive, especially in the 1800 block. Also, on Monterey Street, where Maya Cinemas in doing some construction they are not taking care of their fence and it is protruding into the street.

Mary Ann Worden re-approached the Commission to report on John Street, just off of Sanborn, there is no parking allowed in front of the apartment complex but there are always a line of vehicles parked here. There needs to be more police enforcement.

4. BUSINESS

A. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 13, 2017
2. 2017/2018 SPECIAL CURB MARKING DELETIONS

COMMISSION ACTION: Recommend that City Council approve updating the status of the 2017/2018 Special Curb Markings by deleting eleven special curb markings

COMMISSIONER VIARENGO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM (7/13/17 Minutes and 2017/2018 Special Curb Marking Deletions), COMMISSIONER HOWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, ALL APPROVED, NONE OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED.

B. CONSIDERATION AGENDA:

1. PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN CHINATOWN

COMMISSION ACTION: Consider recommending the designation of "No Parking or Stopping" along East Lake Street between Bridge Street and Soledad Street, and along Bridge Street between East Lake Street and Market Way.

Andrew Easterling presented his report, on file in the Public Works Department.

Commissioners had questions and concerns regarding an email received from Dale Compton regarding a disabled space being requested in front of Dale's Custom Machining on Bridge Street.

Eric Petersen approached the Commission to express that he is generally in support of the recommendation, but he thinks it is just a small bandaid on a larger problem that needs to be addressed. The City needs to deal with the overall problem.

Mary Ann Worden approached the Commission to state that she is in favor of the proposed parking restrictions in order to assist police officers in patrolling this area.

COMMISSIONER HILL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSIDERATION AGENDA (Parking Restrictions in Chinatown), COMMISSIONER HAYES SECONDED THE MOTION, ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

1. CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECTS

COMMISSION ACTION: Provide feedback regarding staff's proposed prioritization criteria

Andrew Easterling presented his report, on file in the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Tack had questions regarding scoring criteria, Andrew provided clarification.

Commissioner Howell asked about current and future funding for the various traffic calming projects, Andrew provided information.

Commissioner Hayes commented regarding traffic being one of the worst problems in the City. Commissioner Hayes would like to see an overall traffic calming plan created throughout the City without each neighborhood having to go through the application and analysis process.

Eric Petersen approached the Commission to comment that Eisenhower Street is a good candidate for traffic calming. Mr. Petersen commented he would like to see the construction done for traffic calming to be of good quality and not done in a "cheap" way like the work done on Cherokee Drive.

Mary Ann Worden approached the Commission and made general comments in support of traffic calming and speed dots and bumps.

Commissioner Viarengo commented regarding upcoming traffic calming meetings and the success of recently installed traffic calming.

Commissioner Howell commented she is pleased with the continuing process of getting traffic calming out into the neighborhoods and engaging the communities to get involved with improving their neighborhoods. The other area that will help the issue is increased police enforcement.

Commissioner Flescher asked about traffic calming done off of Natividad Road, just south of the Boronda intersection, near the New Republic School (near Arcadia Street). James Serrano provided information regarding traffic calming that was installed as a part of the subdivision.

Commissioner Viarengo commented cut through traffic has gotten worse in neighborhoods as drivers use modern technology to look for routes to avoid traffic.

2. PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN – DOWNTOWN VIBRANCY

COMMISSION ACTION: Receive report on the Parking Management Plan

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

Commissioner Hayes recently read about this item in the paper and it seems like there is going to be more people and not enough parking.

Commissioner Tack commented he is happy to see the Commission discussing this item and he believes the future growth of the City will bring new revenue.

Eric Petersen approached the Commission to comment regarding the need for parking lots in Salinas. Mr. Petersen spoke about the successful parking program used in Palo Alto.

Mary Ann Worden approached the Commission to comment years ago businesses downtown had their own parking lot for their employees. If there is going to be housing downtown, there needs to be a safe place for people to park.

Commissioner Tack observed that in the past a selling point for some businesses was that they would provide free parking for their customers.

Matt Farrell, City parking consultant, approached the Commission to advise the problem with managing a downtown parking district is that you have land costs that are higher than what it costs developers to build large shopping malls on large areas of land. Also, in the downtown area there is a large variety of different parking uses throughout the day.

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / REPORTS:

- A. Commissioner Viarengo reported the area has seemed to improve a little where PG&E is doing their project on Laurel and Natividad.
- B. Commissioner Flescher reported on Alisal and Main Streets the little shadow covers that shade the lights have fallen off and it makes it harder to see the lights.
- C. Commissioner Flescher reported when you are going north on 101 and get off at Boronda, the signal light where the onramp hits Boronda seems to stay green for a long period of time when there are no cars there.
- D. Commissioner Howell reported the big news for District 3 is the traffic calming being proposed on Riker Street, between Acacia and Blanco.
- E. Commissioner Hill suggested when traffic calming is installed on streets, the whole street should be repaved instead of just small sections.
- F. Commissioner Hayes commented she was happy to see the "sting" operation that occurred at Sherwood at the pedestrian crossing; and also on Abbott. Also, she is working on three traffic calming areas – 1) Cambria, 2) near Steinbeck Elementary and across from Alvarez High School, and 3) in the Monte Bella area.

Commissioner Hayes commented she is seeing a problem in the Monte Bella area where there is extreme overcrowding, which is causing more and more cars throughout the neighborhoods. More enforcement and a designated Traffic Division is needed within the Police Department.
- G. Commissioner Tack commented regarding the past item of traffic calming on Riker Street, and this item is moving forward. Also, there has been recent discussion in the paper regarding roundabouts.

6. ATTENDANCE AT NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT: October 12, 2017

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

Commissioner Larry Tack, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Crissy White, Administrative Secretary

/CW

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