

**PLACENTIA TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2013**

The Regular meeting of the Placentia Traffic Safety Commission of March 18, 2013 was called to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room, 401 E. Chapman Avenue Placentia by Commissioner Stafford.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Chadha

ROLL CALL: Present: Chairperson Stafford
Commissioner Chadha
Commissioner Gorman
Commissioner Hernandez
Commissioner Stafford
Commissioner Hutain

Absent: Vice Chair Brusckke
Commissioner Labreche

STAFF PRESENT: Ruth Smith, Traffic Engineer
Troy Butzlaff, City Administrator
Scott Millsap, Traffic Sergeant
Sara Salazar, Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of November 21, 2011

The approval of the November 21, 2011 minutes was tabled to a future meeting due to lack of quorum.

Minutes of November 19, 2012

MOTION by Commissioner Hernandez to approve the minutes of November 19, 2012 as submitted; **SECOND** by Commissioner Gorman and **CARRIED** by a **3-0-2-2 VOICE VOTE** (Brusckke, Labreche Absent, Chadha, Hutain Abstain).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairperson Stafford invited public comments on items which are not public hearings but none were offered.

REPORTS:

**TRAFFIC CONTROL: TSC NO. 13-01
Adult School Crossing Guard Placement Policy**

Ms. Smith advised the Commission that City Administrator Butzlaff has requested the Traffic Safety Commission review City Policy No. 606 concerning Crossing Guards and proceeded to give her staff report.

Commissioner Hutain asked if the City loses design immunity by implementing more stringent guidelines. Ms. Smith responded that the City loses immunity with more stringent guidelines than the MUTCD. Mr. Butzlaff added that anytime a municipality goes outside the MUTCD design standards, they are at risk.

Ms. Smith finished her report and offered to answer any questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Gorman asked if there is information on accidents at the present locations with crossing guards. Ms. Smith responded that she was not able to obtain that information.

Commissioner Chadha asked for clarification on the MUTCD guidelines which part of Table 1 refers to. Mr. Butzlaff responded that the City Council would need to decide whether or not to exceed those guidelines and how much liability the City should be exposed to.

Commissioner Chadha asked if exceeding the MUTCD is costing the City more than if the City were following the guidelines of the MUTCD. Mr. Butzlaff responded that yes, it is costing the City more and the City Council will decide whether or not to maintain the same level of service.

Chairperson Stafford asked when the counts were taken for Table 1. Ms. Smith advised that the counts were taken during the school year, probably last spring. Chairperson Stafford asked when counts are re-done. Ms. Smith advised that counts are not re-done until the information is requested.

Commissioner Chadha asked if the revenue received from traffic enforcement make up for the cost of the crossing guard. Mr. Butzlaff advised that the cost of the crossing guard far exceeds traffic enforcement revenues.

Chairperson Stafford asked if the City can use volunteer crossing guards. Mr. Butzlaff indicated that there is a problem with consistency. Sgt. Millsap added there have problems in the past with reliability resulting in Police Cadets and Officers being pulled from other areas to fill the gap.

Commissioner Chadha asked if all crossing guards are on the City payroll. Mr. Butzlaff responded that the City has a contract with All Cities Management. He added that in the past the City had approached the Placentia Yorba Linda School District about cost sharing however they had other budget priorities. Ultimately, the City wants to work with the District in a way that eliminates City liability and maintains student safety.

Commissioner Hutain asked for clarification concerning no crosswalk control on Table 2 items 4, 8 & 16. Ms. Smith responded that there is no Stop sign, just a crosswalk and a crossing guard. Commissioner Hutain asked if a signal or other type of 'on demand' crosswalk could be installed at these locations. Ms. Smith responded that the intersection of Yorba Linda & Kilt has a flashing beacon.

Sgt. Millsap indicated that crossing guards often comment about the unsafe conditions at the crosswalk at Yorba Linda and Kilt. He expressed that considering the low volume of pedestrians; it may not be worth the City's liability to have a crosswalk at the location.

Mr. Butzlaff reminded the Commission that they are not being asked to choose which intersections have crossing guards, they are only being asked to consider rescinding the City's current Policy No. 606.

Chairperson Stafford opened the public hearing.

Mr. Steve UMBER of the Placentia Yorba Linda School District addressed the Commission. Mr. UMBER expressed that the crossing guards are necessary for student safety and asked that the Commission not remove the City's crossing guards.

Chairperson Stafford closed the public hearing.

Mr. Butzlaff stated that no immediate action will be taken. It would be suggested to Council to refer the item back to the Traffic Safety Commission to discuss which intersections, of those not meeting MUTCD guidelines, need a crossing guard. Mr. Butzlaff added that he is open to discussing cost sharing ideas with the District.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GORMAN TO RESCIND POLICY NO. 606 AND ADOPT THE GUIDELINES IN THE CA MUTCD, CHAPTER 7D, AS THE OFFICIAL POLICY TO DETERMINE THE PLACEMENT OF ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHADHA AND CARRIED BY A 5-0-2-0 (BRUSCHKE, LABRECHE ABSENT).

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS:

Police Department Traffic Summary –

Sergeant Millsap notified the Commission that the City has had 2 fatalities in the last 3 months. He commented that the Department is down a motor officer after Officer Moore had an accident near Chapman and Orangethorpe. D.U.I. checkpoints will be held monthly thru October, 2013. He commented on Emerald Isle and the need for a shuttle to taxi the residents across the street to the shopping center to avoid crossing outside the crosswalk. Dr. Chadha asked if the driver of the recent fatality is being charged. Sgt. Millsap stated that they are working on the case with the District Attorney's office.

Discussion items by Traffic Engineer

Ms. Smith reported that the City received a grant from OCTA for signal coordination on Kraemer Blvd. Currently signal coordination on Yorba Linda and Bastanchury is almost complete, Rose Dr coordination is ongoing and Placentia Avenue will begin soon.

Sgt. Millsap asked if OCTA is going to fund the new signal at Richfield and Orchard. Ms. Smith stated that yes, OCTA is supposed to fund the signal, however we have not yet

received anything official from them. She added that the City of Yorba Linda has expressed concerns over the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection, since its residents will not be expecting to stop. Ms. Smith indicated that flashing beacons may be installed for advance warning to drivers.

Response to prior meeting items

Permit parking on Madison Avenue is moving forward. As well, the bus loading zone on La Jolla was approved by Council. Rospaw is being paved and Ms. Smith stated that she has some traffic calming striping ideas.

Chairperson Stafford asked about the non-standard parking signs that are posted near Valencia High School. Ms. Smith responded that the Safe Routes to School grant will address that concern. Chairperson Stafford asked if the signs can be removed in the interim. Ms. Smith said she would need to go back out and look at the signs.

Ms. Smith asked if Mr. UMBER has anything to offer on the signage. He stated that he would go take a look at the site.

NON AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Hernandez asked about the Grade Separation construction on Rose Drive. Ms. Smith responded that while OCTA is doing prep work, construction will not begin until Kraemer Blvd is complete.

Commissioner Hutain asked about the installation of a pedestrian button for bikes at the exit of Tri City Park. Ms. Smith said that she would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Commissioner Hernandez to adjourn to the next regular meeting on May 20, 2013; **SECOND** by Commissioner Gorman and **CARRIED** by a **5-0-2-0 VOICE VOTE** (Bruschke, Labreche absent). Meeting adjourned on March 18, 2013 at 8:05 p.m.



RUTH SMITH, P.E., Traffic Engineer
Secretary to the Traffic Safety Commission