



MINUTES
Traffic and Transportation Commission Meeting
City of Buena Park
City Council Chamber
6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, CA 90622
Thursday, February 6, 2025

1. GENERAL:

1A. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Arellano called the Traffic and Transportation Commission (TTC) meeting of February 6, 2025, to order at 6:30 PM.

1B. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Vice Chair Arellano, Commissioner Desai, Commissioner Rodden, Commission Brown, Commissioner Espinoza

ABSENT: None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Deepthi Arabolu, Assistant City Engineer, Nader Alqam, Principal Engineer, Norman Wray, Senior Engineering Technician/GIS Specialist, Kristi Ibarra, Administrative Assistant.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: None

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: None

1C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice Chair Arellano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ELECTIONS

2A. COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:

Commissioner Arellano (District 3) was appointed as Chair. Commissioner Desai (District 4) was appointed Vice Chair.

3. COMMUNICATIONS:

3A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Jessup, a Bird Track resident, raised concerns about semi-trucks illegally parking on both

sides of the red curb and blocking lanes on Orangethorpe Avenue, creating safety hazards. She reported the issue to the police but saw no action. She requested measures to prevent accidents and suggested installing a traffic light at a neighborhood entrance for safer exits.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

4A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Chair Desai, Seconded by Commissioner Rodden

Motion carried 4-1 to:

Approve meeting minutes from November 7, 2024 meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5A. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND DENY THE INSTALLATION OF RIGHT TURN POCKET AT THE INTERSECTION OF LA PALMA AVENUE AT WESTERN AVENUE

Mr. Alqam presented the item and was available to answer questions.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Rodden questioned why only one study was done and why it was on a weekday.

Mr. Alqam explained that one day's counts were sufficient, as only one hour of data from Tuesday through Thursday is needed for the purposes of the study.

Commissioner Rodden noted the study missed weekend traffic and proposed a right-turn-only lane.

Ms. Arabolu explained that roads are designed based on weekday traffic, per industry standard. She added that adding right-turn lanes would worsen service levels, so it is not recommended.

Commissioner Rodden recommended applying the same approach used on Western Avenue, Knott Avenue, and Orangethorpe Avenue to Western Avenue and La Palma Avenue.

Mr. Alqam noted that early merges could delay traffic, while later merges improve flow, and only illegal parking in the red zone would violate the merger taper.

Commissioner Rodden asked about how the traffic counts were conducted.

Mr. Alqam stated that counts are typically done via recording and then turning vehicles are counted post-processing.

Commissioner Brown stated the first parking spot is over 400 feet from the intersection and a right-turn-only lane isn't needed.

Commissioner Espinoza asked why the study was conducted once and if that's standard.

Mr. Alqam explained the 4:45 to 5:45 peak hour data was sufficient, and no extra data was needed. Additional data would cost the City funds and that was not justified since we had recent data to use.

Ms. Arabolu noted that recent data was used, and any new count would focus on the intersection's volume.

Vice Chair Desai asked how recent is the data and about the traffic merge near the post office in the diagram.

Mr. Alqam answered that the data is from November 14, 2024, and the distance from the crosswalk to the merge point is approximately 170 feet.

Chair Arellano inquired what problem is being solved by removing the merge and creating a right-turn pocket, and if there have been any safety concerns or complaints.

Mr. Alqam responded that the request seeks to improve traffic flow and reduce wait times for southbound right turns, with no resident complaints.

Chair Arellano asked how the collision data is collected, specifically whether it comes from police traffic collision reports or insurance company reports.

Mr. Wray explained that the data is from the California Highway Patrol's Integrated Traffic System, which includes collision reports from local agencies, excluding unreported ones.

Commissioner Rodden explained the reason this item was brought to the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INPUT: None

ACTION: Motioned by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Desai

Motion carried 4-1 to:

Deny the installation of a right turn pocket at the intersection of La Palma Avenue at Western Avenue.

6. AGENDA FORECAST:

6A. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONFERENCE REPORTS AND CALENDAR REQUESTS:

None.

7. STAFF REPORTS:

7A. STATUS REPORT OF PRIOR APPROVED ITEMS

None.

7B. OTHER INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

Mr. Alqam informed the commission the two items going to Council: Battery Backup System Upgrade Project and a Cooperative Agreement with the County of Orange. He also provided an update on Highway Safety Improvement Project and highlighted recent accomplishments of the Sign and Striping Division.

Mr. Wray provided an update on the Citywide Safe Routes to School Project, the Dale and Whitaker Streets Project, and the striping of the Knott's Berry Farm public right-of-way.

Vice Chair Desai asked about progress on identifying a thoroughfare for safer bike lanes. Mr. Wray mentioned Ball Road, Malvern Avenue (Fullerton), Valley View Street (Cypress), and bike lanes from Auto Center Drive to Whitaker Park. Mr. Alqam added that the city received a grant to study Orangethorpe Avenue, potentially linking facilities with neighboring cities. Ms. Arabolu clarified the grant hasn't been awarded yet, but they have approval to start the study, with another grant for Stanton Avenue next year. Overall, the city is actively planning and implementing bike lanes without compromising parking or other factors.

7C. OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

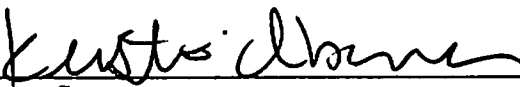
Chair Arellano adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

The next scheduled TTC meeting is Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 6:30 PM.



Pete Arellano, Chair

ATTEST:



Kristi Ibarra, Secretary