

# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

City Council Chambers

1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos, CA 92069

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### CALL TO ORDER

At 6:00 p.m. Traffic Commission Chair Rico called the meeting to order.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hoaglin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	SCHELLENGER, ERICKSON, HOAGLIN, RICO, CARROLL, BRIDGE, KOVRIG
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	HANSEN

Also present were: Traffic Principal Civil Engineer Nicholas Abboud; Traffic Senior Civil Engineer Manas Bista; Sergeant Charles Morreale; Senior Office Specialist Gina Jackson

### ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

**Neile Simon, resident of San Marcos:** expressed concerns with the excessive speeding motorists on the 900 block of La Sombra Drive. A traffic study was conducted in 2020 showing that motorists are traveling 9 mph over the 25 mph speed limit. Roadway striping and a 25 mph sign was installed, but has not reduced the speeding. Students from San Marcos High School park on La Sombra Drive, causing dangerous blind spots. Requesting that speed cushions be installed on the 900 block of La Sombra Drive and just beyond the Discovery intersection.

**Keith Lamberth, resident of San Marcos:** Indicated he contacted the City 5 years ago regarding the student parking on La Sombra Drive. The students were and still are keeping the Street Sweeper away and disrupting trash pick-up day by parking on the street, blocking private driveways, and parking away from the curb making the blind spot even more dangerous to the residents when leaving their driveways, as well as from the speeding vehicles.

**Jeff Attig, resident of San Marcos:** expressed his concerns regarding the excessive speeding on La Sombra Drive and the disregard the drivers have for the 25 mph speed limit, and requested that something be done about the speeding.

**Brian Dezember, resident of San Marcos:** expressed his concern for the safety of his family living on La Sombra Drive, people exiting their vehicles parked on the street, vehicles pulling out of their driveway and walking across the street. The speeding is excessive and something needs to be done to make their street safe.

**Sean Simon, resident of San Marcos:** has lived in the neighborhood on La Sombra for a few years and has witnessed many times kids almost getting hit by speeding vehicles when crossing the street going to school or to the park. There is a 40 mph zone then it turns to a 25 mph zone in the neighborhood and drivers don't see the 25 mph sign. Requesting a few speed bumps and pedestrian crosswalks.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **5. Approval of Minutes, October 6, 2021**

COMMISSIONER KOVRIG MAKES A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS RECORDED; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BRIDGE. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:	COMMISSIONERS: ERICKSON, HOAGLIN, RICO, CARROLL, BRIDGE, KOVRIG
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS: NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS: HANSEN
ABSTAIN:	COMMISSIONERS: SCHELLENGER

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **6. A. None**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **7. A. Pilot project: Speed Reduction Cushions along Fulton Road**

The City receives a sizable number of speeding complaints throughout the City. Engineering staff developed a Speed Cushion Policy and Procedure to guide staff through the evaluation and prioritization of potential candidate sites which include the following steps: (1) Initial Screening; (2) Petitioning; (3) Feasibility Study; (4) Selection

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Engineering staff recommends the following: (1) Require residents to produce a signed petition within 30 days; (2) Approve the selection of Fulton Road for the speed cushions pilot program (in support of a successful petition); (3) Approve installation of speed cushions at the identified locations along the two selected segments of Fulton Road; (4) Approve an evaluation period of 3, 6, or 12 months post installation to quantify the effectiveness of the speed cushions; (5) Approve the preparation of a Before-After study at the conclusion of the evaluation period.

**Nicholas Abboud, Traffic Principal Civil Engineer** gave the presentation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Jerry Griswold, resident of San Marcos:** resident lives on Fulton Road and is grateful their street has been chosen for the speed cushion program, but has issues with staff's recommendation regarding the petition to residents. Indicating that the current recommendation for resident feedback will not work and would like to have staff follow what the City of Encinitas did, by contacting the residents living directly on the street and that only 50% of the residents have to approve in order for the speed cushions to be installed.

**Aiden Ely, resident of San Marcos:** resident lives on the corner of Harwich and Fulton Road. Would like to thank staff for their time and effort in the research conducted. Expressed his support of the speed cushions, but has concerns with the required petition needing 100% approval from residents within 100 feet of the speed cushions and 2/3 approval from residents living within 500 feet of cushions. It only takes one person to say no or not respond to halt this entire project. If this applies to all speed cushion installation, then this whole program will be halted in San Marcos. Requested the petition is waived and a survey is sent out to the residents living directly on that street for a realistic rating.

## **CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING**

**Traffic Commissioner discussion included:** requested clarification why the petition is needed; would not want a speed cushion in front of a home; suggested posting a notice in the neighborhood, meeting or direct mailing with/for the residents who will have a speed cushion installed in front of their home, so that they understand the impacts. Evaluate post installation for residents who have speed cushions installed in front of their homes; if notices are mailed, indicate a contact at the City for residents to speak to and give a time frame to respond; suggested lowering the percentage needed for a petition. Need to develop a procedural guideline moving forward.

**Staff response:** The petition is not a legal requirement, it was more of a comfort level to have the devices accepted by the community. Our main concern is if a speed cushion is placed in front of someone's house, who would oppose it. Our goal is to provide some relief and assistance to people impacted the most, are the ones within hearing range of the cushions. The people in the immediate vicinity should be 100% on board. We can research other jurisdictions if that is what is recommended. This is a pilot program and if there is not 100% approval, we can look at moving the cushions.

## **Action:**

COMMISSIONER HOAGLIN MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A 3 TO 6 MONTH REPORT, WAIVE THE PETITION AND REPLACE WITH A MAILER TO RESIDENTS NOTIFYING THEM OF THE TIME FRAME TO RESPOND TO STAFF REGARDING THE SPEED CUSHIONS INSTALLATION; MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KOVRIG.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: ERICKSON, HOAGLIN, RICO, CARROLL, BRIDE, KOVRIG  
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: SCHELLENGER

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: HANSEN  
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS: NONE

## **REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Work Order Updates:**

-Installed a "No Outlet" sign at Mission Hills High School, to warn drivers there is no outlet after passing the Hollandia driveway. To support this sign, we also installed a "Dead End" sign past the Hollandia Park driveway. This is to provide ample warning to drivers on the street.

-Installed a "No turn on Red" sign at Twin Oaks Valley Rd. and Cassou Rd. at Twin Oaks Elementary School. Similar to Double Peak School, drivers turning left had difficulty turning into the school.

-Installed a "Stop" sign, marking and limit line on the street on La Sombra and Valencia Avenue.

-Next week on the schedule a speed limit sign will be installed at Frontage Rd. and Twin Oaks Valley Rd. to help reduce the speed there, and relocating the sign and re-striping on Grand Avenue by the In & Out.

### **B. San Diego County Sheriff's Dept. Traffic Collision Summary and Accident Investigation Log:**

DUI/Alcohol Arrests:	Sept (17)	Oct (9)	YTD (131)
DUI Accidents:	Sept (9)	Oct (4)	YTD (70)
Fatal Injury:	Sept (12)	Oct (16)	YTD (121)
Non-Injury:	Sept (21)	Oct (27)	YTD (202)
NTA Citations/Hazardous:	Sept (217)	Oct (141)	YTD (1951)
NTA Citations/Non-Hazardous:	Sept (79)	Oct (120)	YTD (1095)

- C. **Traffic Commission Commentary:** Asked the sheriff if there are any other patrols in the city for speeding besides Rancho Santa Fe; speeding is horrible on Melrose; inquired if the staff report regarding the issues on La Sombra with the student parking will have anything from the school district; indicated that traffic on Rancho Santa Fe by the high school disrupts traffic turning into Albertsons.

**Sheriff's response:** We try to target the most traveled roadways and address the many complaints received. Resources are distributed to areas with dangerous situations, but we take in account safety for all persons including our personnel. Melrose between San Elijo is a much smaller stretch and curves, which makes it difficult for the sedans and motor units to work in that area.

- D. **Staff Commentary:** In the La Sombra area we have done some work last year, and agree that there is a serious speeding problem with how the alignment of the road is. There is a straight shot with no

deflection or stop control. Last year we worked on the south of that. This intersection jurisdiction is not under the full control of the City of San Marcos. The east leg of Discovery is San Marcos jurisdiction, the north leg of Discovery is the County, and the south leg northbound is City while the southbound is the County. We did contact the County to see what they can do in the southbound movement. The east and west have no control. The County painted this location last year. I prepared a diagram that showed a re-alignment we were hoping the County would agree to. My sketch had Discovery Street curve a bit into the southbound mainline and have La Sombra go at a right angle to turn back and continue on the same movement that is a straight shot. Unfortunately, by the time they got my request, they already had a contractor on board to do the work and they did not want to modify the contract. This issue requires both jurisdictions to agree on changes to that intersection alignment. Many areas in the city are multi-jurisdiction. Some are with the City of Vista and the City of Escondido. For areas with a traffic signal, we have a jurisdictional understanding of memorandum agreement between the two cities.

**Commissioner Comments:** Commissioners recommend that staff place the La Sombra speeding issue on a future agenda date for discussion and include recommending contacting the County Board of Supervisor with a proposal of alignment to review. Also contacting SMUSD about the parking problem on La Sombra to see if they have any solutions.

**Staff Response:** We meet with the school district regularly to discuss parking issues with all the schools, to include dropping off and picking up. The city does not have a say in the layout of the school designs, the parking lot designs, or where they build the school. The school district does not need a permit from the city.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Rico adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m..



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Arturo Rico, CHAIRMAN  
CITY OF SAN MARCOS TRAFFIC COMMISSION

## **ATTEST:**



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GINA JACKSON, SENIOR OFFICE SPECIALIST  
CITY OF SAN MARCOS TRAFFIC COMMISSION