

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission

WEDNESDAY, JULY 06, 2022

City Council Chambers

1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos, CA 92069

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:01 p.m. Traffic Commission Chair Arturo Rico called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hansen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were: Director of Development Services/City Engineer Isaac Etchamendy; Assistant Traffic Engineer Damian Schoenecke; San Diego Sheriff's Department Sergeant Charles Morreale; Senior Office Specialist Gina Jackson

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5. Approval of Minutes, May 4, 2022

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

6. A. None

NEW BUSINESS

7. A. Consider a Multi-Way Stop Controlled Intersection at La Sombra Drive and Discovery Street

RECOMMENDATIONS: Engineering staff recommends the Traffic Commissioners recommend the County of San Diego Traffic Advisory Commission and Board of Supervisors approve a multi-way stop controlled intersection at Discovery Street and La Sombra Drive.

Isaac Etchamendy, Director of Development Services/City Engineer gave the presentation.

Zoubir A. Ouadah, County of San Diego Traffic Engineer updated the Commission on the items the County of San Diego will be recommending to the Traffic Advisory Committee, after approval of City of San Marcos Traffic Commission, and that it will be about a year before the updates will be made.

Traffic Commissioner discussions included: Thanked the County for being here tonight to speak and for working with City staff to assist the residents of La Sombra; asked if the County is looking into any potential traffic issues in the La Sombra neighborhood caused by the ongoing construction of the Creek District; methods to use to discourage drivers from using Discovery and instead use Via Vera Cruz; inquired about future signal lights to replace the stop signs at Discovery and La Sombra.

County of San Diego response: Due to staffing, the County is more reactive than proactive. The County will refer speeding issues to the Highway Patrol for enforcement. The County has also received funding to replace the traffic signal at San Pablo that will have improvements to pedestrian accessibility. Traffic signals are based on warrant analysis and the numbers are not high enough to justify traffic signals at Discovery and La Sombra.

Staff response: Staff will be monitoring the portion of Discovery on the east and west direction that goes into the City. Staff will also monitor the traffic flow on the new Via Vera Cruz bridge. Via Vera Cruz will be widened to four lanes, which should reduce traffic volume in this area. If there is a traffic change, staff will notify the County. With the improvements, we hope to encourage pedestrian movement. Discovery has always been shown as a connector to San Marcos Blvd. Staff will monitor how these new improvements affect traffic circulation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Attig, resident on La Sombra Drive: Proposed stop signs are great. Concerns with the stacking on Discovery Street. Requested more 25 mph signs and that the signs have blinking lights to alert drivers of the lower speed limit.

Keith Lamberth, resident on La Sombra Drive: Expressed concerns that the changes to the area will not reduce the speeding. Current stop signs on La Sombra do not reduce the speeding. There is no enforcement in the neighborhood for speeding or illegal parallel parking by the high school student, and would like this to be addressed.

Neile Simon, resident on La Sombra Drive: Encouraged that the City and County are working together to resolve the issues. Requesting law enforcement on the street for the speeding.

Sean Simon, resident on La Sombra Drive: Issues with the students parking in front of resident trashcans preventing pick-up from trash truck. Concerns with the excessive speeding in the neighborhood. Requesting speed humps in the neighborhood to reduce speeding.

Brian Dezember, resident on La Sombra Drive: Expressed parking and speeding concerns for the area of La Sombra where he lives.

Staff response: The City does have parking enforcement. It is difficult to conduct a study of who is parking where. To restrict people from parking on public roadways is also difficult to enforce. The City does not have a permit parking program. Staff continues to look at the portion of La Sombra on the south. That is not a part of this action and staff will bring that portion forward to the Commission as a separate action.

County of San Diego response: The parking in the County is looked at from two perspectives. One is safety, the other is quality of life. If those neighbors living in the County all agree that they won't want student parking there, they can petition the County. The County would remove the parking, but it would also impact the residents. It's a public roadway, the no parking would be for everybody.

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING

Traffic Commissioner discussions included: Would like to find a solution with the jurisdictional issue to get law enforcement to patrol this area; confirming that there will be a future discussion regarding the south side of La Sombra to solve some of the issue there; it's spectacular that the City and County are working together on this; inquired how the Sheriff's office handles jurisdictional issues; inquired about relinquishing the city half of the street to the county; inquired about a county parking enforcement program; would like an agreement with the City and County to have the City patrol La Sombra.

Sheriff response: We have jurisdictional maps that are used for reference. The Sheriff Deputies don't know there's a jurisdictional issue until they are called out to a scene of an accident for instance, and then the two agencies will indicate which part of the scene is their responsibility. Sometimes a supervisor has to make that determination.

Staff response: The City is not relinquishing any of the right of way to the County. The City is only entering into a maintenance agreement with the County. A LAFCO action will need to be taken to adjust City boundaries and that is a very intensive process. We all want to help out the residents here and this area is currently on the Sheriff's monitoring list.

County response: All enforcement is done by the California Highway Patrol. The County encourages the residents here to attend the County Advisory Meeting on Friday July 22, 2022 at 9 o'clock where this issue will be addressed.

ACTION:

COMMISSIONER KOVRIG MAKES A MOTION TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ERICKSON. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

8. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Major Work Order Updates: Staff provided an update on the Fulton Road Speed Cushions. The speed cushions have not been installed on Fulton Road and a redesign was needed.

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

DUI/Alcohol Arrests:	Apr (13)	May (18)	Jun (14)	YTD (84)
DUI Accidents:	Apr (7)	May (10)	Jun (6)	YTD (44)
Fatal:	May (1)			
NTA Citations/Hazardous:	Apr (193)	May (139)	Jun (103)	YTD (735)
NTA Citations/Non-Hazardous:	Apr (149)	May (102)	Jun (108)	YTD (546)

C. Traffic Commission Commentary: None

D. Staff Commentary: Staff provided an update on vacant staff positions and introduced Damian Schoenecke as new traffic engineering staff.

Commissioner Comments: Question regarding construction work on roadways and if contractors are required to provide traffic plan to the City for approval.

Staff response: Confirmed certain work requires traffic plans and approval by the City..

Staff Commentary continues: Staff continued updates on the San Marcos High School fencing project, Rancho Dorado issues, issues on La Sombra, the North City Specific Plan Amendment, the

Creek District construction, and the San Marcos Blvd. at Discovery St. project, Staff indicated the Shea and Lennar continues work on Discovery and opened a portion of the street into their project.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rico adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.



Arturo Rico, CHAIRMAN
CITY OF SAN MARCOS TRAFFIC COMMISSION

ATTEST:



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