



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Room 280A

In-Person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, September 7, 2023
9:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: September 7, 2023 / 9:00 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Geller, Afra-Maghen, Ignarro, Chair Shalowitz

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Schwartz

Staff Present: Martha Eros, Daren Grilley, Jessie Holzer Carpenter, Ilene Knebel

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the agenda.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from Kory Klem.

Public Comment: Public comment was read into the record from Amir Dar.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By order of the Chair, the agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes

Consideration of Minutes of the Traffic and Parking Commission regular meeting of August 3, 2023

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Ignarro, SECONDED by Commissioner Afra-Maghen to approve the consent calendar item as presented (4/0).

AYES: Commissioners Geller, Afra-Maghen, Ignarro, Chair Shalowitz

NOES: None.

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

2. Police Department Report

Police Sergeant Dale Drummond provided an update from the police department on impaired driving control and traffic safety. The commission discussed the traffic injury report, possible collaboration with the public on road safety design, and any possible causes for the nationwide increase in impaired driving.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from Kory Klem.

3. Monthly Educational Speaker Series – Congestion Pricing

Transportation Planner Jessie Holzer Carpenter introduced Dr. Michael Manville, Professor of Urban Planning at UCLA. He provided an overview on congestion pricing, its public health benefits, and how it can be used to reduce traffic congestion on major roads. The commission thanked Dr. Manville for his presentation and asked about which roads would be selected in a potential congestion pricing program, along with how to educate the public about the use of congestion pricing. The commission also questioned the issue of low-income drivers who might not be able to afford congestion pricing.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from David Gingold.

4. Planning Quarterly Report

Project Manager Andre Sahakian provided an update on several major projects throughout the city and how they would affect roads and traffic. The commission asked about the housing projects listed, which Principal Planner Cindy Gordon provided answers for. The commission also asked about the lane closure on Wilshire Boulevard, which may begin within the next weeks and will continue through the end of the year.

The commission took a break at 10:12 AM.

The commission returned from break at 10:23 AM.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Beverly Boulevard Bike Lanes

Transportation Planner Jessie Holzer Carpenter provided an overview of a proposal to add green colored bike lanes (5.5 feet wide) to Beverly Boulevard between North Santa Monica Boulevard and Doheny Drive as part of the city's Complete Streets Plan, which was approved by City Council in 2021. The proposal would not remove any traffic lanes or parking spaces. Staff is also exploring adding delineators to increase safety in the lanes. Staff is asking for feedback on the current proposed design.

The commission asked about the research for options to paint the concrete along Beverly Boulevard green, the width of the concrete lanes, the speeding issues on Beverly Boulevard, how Doheny Drive is divided between West Hollywood and Los Angeles and connecting these bike lanes to the greater network. The commission expressed their concerns about the quality of the proposed bike lanes without making physical adjustments to the street.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from Mark Elliot, David Gingold, John Hoffhines, Kory Klem, and Michael Schneider.

Public Comment: Public comment was read into the record from Alex Abdi, Jessica Bielski, Larry Birroff, Alan Bronowicz, Jesse Budlong, Daniel Fink, Ezekiel Golvin, Hannah Gray, Abe Knobel, Olga Lexell, Jacklyn Ma, Frank McMullin, Riley McNair, Joselyn Perez, Adam Remba, Kerry Sempelsz, Michael Siegel, Andrea Spatz, Rich Waldow, and Matthew Wunderlich.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Ignarro, SECONDED by Commissioner Geller to recommend the project to City Council (3/1).

AYES: Commissioners Geller, Afra-Maghen, Ignarro

NOES: Chair Shalowitz

CARRIED

6. Overview of Traffic Signs and Signal Maintenance Team of Public Works

Street Services Manager Robert Sahagun and Traffic Signal & Street Lighting Supervisor Mike Rodriguez provided an overview of the Street Services Bureau of the Public Works Department, which is responsible for the operation, preventative maintenance, and repairs of traffic signs, pavement markings, street signage, traffic signals, streetlights, bicycle racks, sidewalks, and street trees. The commission asked about the wave sensors at intersections not detecting bicyclists and thanked the bureau for their hard work.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from David Gingold.

PROJECT UPDATES AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

7. Project Updates and Follow-Up Items

Transportation Planner Jessie Holzer Carpenter provided updates on current projects, including new bike lanes on Doheny Drive between Gregory Way and Charleville Boulevard and the southbound bike lane on San Vicente Boulevard between Clifton Way and Wilshire Boulevard, the pilot bike lane project on Roxbury Drive, the city's rating for bicycle friendliness from PeopleForBikes, September's transportation safety campaign which revolves around using caution while driving in school areas, and updates on the Metro Section 1 construction. There is a community survey regarding the Roxbury Drive Pilot Bike Lane Project at www.beverlyhills.org/completestreets. The commission asked about safe driving yard signs available for pickup at Public Works.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

The commission expressed their disapproval for the Traffic and Parking Commission Liaison rejecting the pilot program for microtransit. Staff will continue to research general opportunities for rideshare subsidy programs for the general public.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: September 7, 2023 / 11:37 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5th DAY of OCTOBER, 2023

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Ron Shalowitz, Chair