



CITY OF HEMET
Traffic and Parking Commission Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 2004
8:00 AM

City Council Chambers
450 E. Latham Avenue
Hemet, CA 92543

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 AM by Chairman Berry.

1. **ROLL CALL:** Commissioner Don Berry, Chair; Commissioner Dan Walters, Chair pro tem; Commissioner Gareth Modica; Planning Commissioner Jim Calkins; Council Member Roger Meadows.

Absent: Planning Commissioner Jim Calkins - absent.
(The resignation of Commissioner Tom Covington was accepted by City Council on 4/13/04.)

Staff Present: Deputy Public Works Director Mike Gow; Streets Superintendent Richard Broos; Police Captain Rudy Cabrera; Police Sergeant Joe Nevarez; Police Corporal Randy Young; Engineering Aide Carly Johansen; Administrative Assistant/Commission Secretary Marilyn Hampton.

2. **FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Chairman Berry.

3. **Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2004.**
Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 3-0.

4. **Report of Council Action on March 9, 2004 - Council Accepted Resignation of Patrick Searl from Traffic and Parking Commission.**
Patrick Searl is now serving on the Planning Commission. Commissioner Tom Covington resigned. New Commissioner Roger Wellman was appointed and will attend the May meeting.

5. **Report of Council Action on March 23rd to Commission recommendations of March 10, 2004 - Approved.**

Signs for Whittier Elementary have been ordered and will be placed.

**6. Request for Four-Way Stop at corner of Oakland Ave. and Santa Fe Street.
(Florence Norgard - Hemet)**

Florence Norgard, 551 W. Santa Fe, stated she lives in the 350-unit Oak Terrace Apartments which houses mostly Seniors. Across the street is another large complex. Across Oakland down Santa Fe is the future Jacob Weins Elementary School and existing Santa Fe Middle School. At 2:30 PM, buses must wait sometimes 5-10 minutes to get onto Oakland because of heavy traffic at high speeds. Compounding the problem are parked cars on both sides of both streets, due to lack of parking at the apartment complexes. She was informed of a possible recent fatal accident in that area. She said students walk and cross the street in a very dangerous situation which needs a 4-way stop. Mr. Gow stated that previous studies indicated warrants for a 4-way stop were not met. Staff can do another warrant study and return it to the Commission in May. He felt that the new school will tend to increase the need for a 4-way stop at that intersection.

Police Corporal Young reported that statistics for the past year at Oakland and Santa Fe and the two blocks in either direction reveal 3 traffic collisions in the intersection, but no fatalities at that intersection.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve staff recommendation to do another warrant study and bring it to the May meeting, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 3-0.

**7. Request for Miscellaneous Signing on Thornton Avenue.
(Forwarded by County of Riverside Transportation Department from
Cindy and Larry Snyder - 3776 W. Thornton Avenue - Hemet)**

Mr. Gow said the City is involved with litigation in the area and staff comments will be limited. He reported that Council has awarded a contract to widen and improve Sanderson from Stetson to the bridge, including curb and gutter. Traffic signals will be added, one on Sanderson between Stetson and Thornton and one on Stetson about 700' west of Sanderson; a future signal is planned at Mustang Way and Sanderson, and conduits for a future potential signal at Thornton and the planned signal at Mustang Way will be installed as part of the improvements. Traffic will be monitored on Sanderson and on Thornton to determine if any other improvements are needed as the area develops. The request from the Snyders was sent to the County, who forwarded it to the City.

Cindy Snyder, 3776 W. Thornton Avenue, said she came to this meeting to request signs for special needs children, a special needs bus stop, and a mid-block cross walk on Thornton with a crossing guard. She felt these requests have no bearing on any litigation. Mrs. Snyder stated she is a party to the litigation. She showed a photograph of a "Clean Up After Your Pet" sign on Devonshire, and felt that signs also need to be placed to help protect special needs kids, saying she has two autistic children who cross the streets.

Mrs. Snyder said that kids from Harmony Elementary and West Valley High School cross Thornton at Cawston. Mr. Gow stated that the City worked with the school district to place a stop sign and crosswalk at Windsor and Cawston for which the school district provides a crossing guard. Students of this development have a safe route to school considering the stop signs and crosswalks at Windsor at Cawston and across Thornton at Cawston.

Mr. Gow stated that the speed limit is 25 mph and is not posted. Posted speed limits must be based on a speed survey. He described that a speed survey showing higher speeds as claimed may obligate the City to set a higher speed limit than is present now. An unidentified woman stated that the residents do not want another survey, but do want something which will alert drivers that the kids crossing the street might not hear their vehicles. Mr. Gow stated that the requested signs can create a false sense of security.

Mr. Meadows stated that Council is again setting up communications with the school district. He will get their feelings on the situation at their next meeting. He feels that kids should be kept from playing in the street. Mrs. Snyder indicated she is talking about kids crossing the street to go to and from school, not kids playing in the street. Mr. Meadows said there has been discussion of creating another park in that area where kids can play. He said he has a problem with kids playing basketball in the street. Mrs. Snyder asked what kind of signage would be required. Mr. Meadows said a sign could be placed showing children crossing, like that present at Mary Henley Park. He agreed that creating a crosswalk gives a false sense of security. He stated that until such time as the litigation is resolved to a degree, the situation can be watched and decisions made at a later time.

Sue Fox, 3800 W. Thornton Ave., stated that the children in the Morningside residential area do not play in the street, but on the sidewalk and the grassy area. They do cross the street on their bikes. She reported that speeding cars have gone up into the grassy area when turning too fast. She is concerned about safety for the kids and thinks signs will not stop speeders; however, she felt that signs are needed to forewarn vehicles that children are present. She stated that something physical needs to be done to protect the kids.

Mrs. Snyder stated the signs need to be "Special Needs Bus Stop" and "Deaf" signs. She indicated that when the special needs bus stops to let the children out, vehicles blow right past the bus stop sign and its flashing red lights. Mrs. Fox asked if a Police patrol person could sit there before and after school. Captain Cabrera stated that Sgt. Nevarez is talking to Mrs. Snyder regarding specific citations with the bus safety issue. He stated that the Police cannot be out at the site daily, because of limited resources and neglecting other areas. He stated that there are special needs kids everywhere. As special enforcement needs are brought to the Police, they will hit them, but not every day. It is hoped that this will

serve as a prevention program to slow vehicles down. Mrs. Fox inquired whether Thornton will ever be more than two lanes going each way. Mr. Gow stated that Thornton will be one lane going each direction between Sanderson and Cawston.

**8. Request for 25 mph sign on Washington St. between Meridian and Hemet St.
(Betty J. Glaw - Hemet)**

Mr. Gow presented a photo of the area indicating that Hemet is on one side and San Jacinto on the other. The request for a speed limit sign would have to be handled in concert with the City of San Jacinto. He stated there is a stop sign present at both ends of Washington and Hemet.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to deny the request for posted speed limit, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 3-0.

9. Auto Mall Traffic Issues:

Mr. Gow stated he met with the owner in the Auto Mall regarding potential improvements on dedicated City streets within the Auto Mall. Improvements include: 1) Center Stripe; 2) Stop Sign at Auto Blvd./Carriage Circle; and 3) On-Street Parking Stalls. Center line striping on Carriage Circle was felt to aid in segregating the increased traffic.

A four-way stop is requested at Carriage Circle and Auto Blvd., and Mr. Gow felt that it would not meet warrants for traffic volume for a 4-way stop. He stated there is a sight distance problem, however, which warrants putting a 4-way stop there. In addition, current development of new dealerships will increase traffic.

The third request is to paint on-street parking spaces along Carriage Circle. These are not typically placed, because the benefits of striping do not warrant the maintenance requirements. He said staff has no objections to allowing the dealership to put the striping down and maintain it at their own expense, through the encroachment permit process. Staff recommendation is to paint the center line stripe at Carriage Circle; install the 4-way stop sign at Auto Blvd. and Carriage Circle; and allow the dealership to place and maintain striping at its own expense through the encroachment permit process.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 3-0.

10. Menlo from Cawston to Seattle - Access into and out of Fronting Residences.

Mr. Gow stated the main concern is the difficulty in entering and exiting from fronting residential homes on Menlo, from Cawston to Seattle. The Commission is being requested to look at what can be done, if anything, to improve the situation. He felt that warrants for traffic volume would not be met for a stop sign at Seattle. New residential developments are prohibited to place fronting residential homes on main streets. Because of new schools and housing developments in the area, traffic will increase on Menlo. It is planned to be a 4-lane road through that area. If the street is intended to be a thoroughfare, it was questioned whether placing stop

signs would counter that intent. Homes are already there and the current speed limit is 35 mph. Mr. Meadows stated that, when the school opens, the speed will drop to 25 mph for the school zone. The speed limit on Cawston and on Menlo will be the same in both directions. Commissioner Berry felt that, after the school opens and the signs are placed, this may help the situation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to monitor the situation as development occurs and determine if any other improvements can be made, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 3-0.

11. Speed Limits on Stetson and on California.

Mr. Gow reported that a large batch of speed limits recently was approved by the Commission and Council, and a couple of those reports need corrections to complete the process. The City is required to do speed surveys every 5 years.

On California from Florida to Devonshire, in regards to the golf cart crossing, and north of California from Devonshire to Tres Cerritos, the speed limit is currently 40 and, based on the speed survey, will remain 40. Stetson from Palm to State is currently 35 and will remain 35. The previous Staff Report showed it incorrectly as 45 existing and 45 proposed. The action will not change the speed limits on all three segments. Council Member Meadows stated that Devonshire to Tres Cerritos is half in the County. Mr. Gow stated there will be coordination with the County; the City will give them a copy of our survey to use.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve staff recommendation to accept the resolution to update speed surveys and speed limits, as outlined, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 3-0.

12. Riverside County TIP update.
Informational item.

13. Action Item List.
Informational item.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Peggy Stinson, 820 Centinella Ct., commented on speed conditions on Meridian between Park and Mountain in San Jacinto. Mr. Gow reported that speed limit adjustments on Meridian between Park and Washington were accomplished as early as mid last year. Some sight distance improvements were done with the removal of signs and a tree, and trimming of trees in addition to adjusting the speed limit. He stated that this particular item is not on the present agenda, but can be placed on the next one.

The Commission requested this item to be placed on the May 12th agenda.

Ms. Stinson stated that some evening meetings should be held in order for working people to attend. She urged the Commission to consider changing their meeting times. The Council has tried to accommodate all the citizens by having one daytime

Council meeting and one evening meeting, and other Commissions meet at night or at other times. No other requests or concerns have been made recently to change the Traffic and Parking Commission meeting time.

15. Future Agenda Items.

Meridian, Park to Washington - request for lower speed limit.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:46 AM, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for 8:00 AM, Wednesday, May 12th, in City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

**Marilyn Hampton
Commission Secretary**