

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
October 24, 2019**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California was held on October 24, 2019 at the hour of 6:00p.m., in the City Council Chambers, at 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. PLEDGE TO FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Murillo, Franklin, Paralusz, Delk, and Chair Longhurst
Absent: None
Staff Present: Traffic Engineer Erik Zandvliet
Clerks: Fel Cortez

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10/24/19-1 Regular Meeting – September 26, 2019

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (**Murillo/Franklin**) to approve the minutes with no changes.

AYES: Murillo, Franklin, Delk, and Chair Longhurst
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Paralusz
ABSENT: None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-minute Limit)

Chair Longhurst opened Audience Participation (3-minute Limit).

No Audience Participation.

Chairperson Longhurst closed audience participation.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

10/24/19-2 Review of Two Safe Routes to School Project Improvements on Blanche Road near 29th Street

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet summarized the staff report. In 2011, the City applied for two “Safe Routes to School” Grants, which were funded and authorized in 2015. Two of the items in the grants are located at Blanche Road and 29th Street; 1. A flashing beacon and a crosswalk with in-roadway warning lights on the south leg of Blanche Road and 29th Street. 2. An electronic speed feedback sign located on the west side of Blanche Road, north of 29th Street. Residents in the area came to City Council claiming to be adversely impacted by the improvements, which lead to City Council directing staff to mitigate upgrades to the impacted residents. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated that some of the mitigation included installing shields around flashing beacons to focus towards the street, installing a “dusk-to-dawn” switch, and removing the audible features on the push buttons (i.e. locator tone and notice to cross). Residents that claimed to be adversely impacted were invited to PPIC meeting to provide additional feedback. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated that staff believes mitigation was successful while still providing safe crossing during the daytime.

Commissioner Delk asked if the noise from push button beeps constantly to help locate the button. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed and stated that it has ambient control. The audible sound is a recommendation from the American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA); not a requirement.

Commissioner Franklin asked if staff went back to the location at night to confirm the upgrades’ functionality. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed. **Commissioner Franklin** further asked if the

shields had to be custom made to divert the light. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed and stated that staff worked with the manufacturers to have them made. The shields will be offered as a feature in the future.

Chairperson Longhurst opened for public hearing.

Hal Croft of 2901 Blanche Road stated that he and his wife had concerns about the project when it was first proposed due to the possibility of light/noise pollution. With the current mitigation upgrades, he feels that they have greatly reduced the prompted concerns and has no issues with the installations. **Mr. Croft** provided some rough data he gathered at the intersection. **Mr. Croft** stated that he feels the next time an upgrade is to be installed, someone should be hired to gather current and relevant data.

Commissioner Murillo asked if data was collected for the whole day. **Mr. Croft** responded no, only in the morning.

Commissioner Franklin asked if there is a “walk to school” program. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed.

Gary Osterhout of 598 31st Street stated that he feels the installations are out of size and scale for the neighborhood. He wants to see speed monitor sign gone as it is situated in the middle of the sidewalk and that speed awareness signs only provide a “placebo” effect for speed mitigation. **Mr. Osterhout** expressed his displeasure at the lack of involvement in neighborhood on the matter and his lack of notification on the matter. He stated he would like for the Commission to recommend further mitigation or removal of the improvements.

Lissen Schnack of 2921 Blanche Road stated that the flashing speed beacon is located at perimeter of her property. **Mrs. Schnack** stated that because of the small neighborhood and tight streets, the improvements are overkill and not in character with the neighborhood. She further questioned why other measures were not considered for mitigation (i.e. crossing guards).

Randall Schnack of 2921 Blanche Road stated that he concurred with Mr. Osterhout and Mrs. Schnack’s statements. **Mr. Schnack** agreed that the issues have been mitigated but not resolved, especially the issues with the speed awareness sign. He stated when the power goes out, the light from the sign strobes. **Mr. Schnack** brought attention to the speed on Blanche Road and that the speed awareness sign is not helping to mitigate said speed. He feels that data should be gathered to determine the necessity of the sign and that the current location of the sign should be moved.

Chairperson Longhurst closed public comment.

Commissioner Delk stated he was unaware of the crossing guard at Blanche Road and 27th Street. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed that the new crossing guard was approved at the September 18th City Council Meeting. **Commissioner Delk** stated that the presence of a crossing guard at this intersection changes his opinion on the necessity of the improvements at Blanche Road and 29th Street. He stated that he does like the in-ground lighting in the crosswalk, but that the other measures are not needed.

Commissioner Paralusz asked for clarification that the “Safe Routes to School” grant and not the City funded the improvements. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed. **Commissioner Paralusz** agreed with Commissioner Delk and stated that some improvements should be removed, but not all. She further communicated her concern about lack of notification to the neighbors.

Commissioner Franklin asked if there is any detailed data on the effectiveness of speed awareness sign and if they work. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated he does feel that they work. Drivers have a tendency to become accustomed to signs and the flashing speed notification will remind them to reduce speed if speeding. **Commissioner Franklin** asked if there could be any coordination with block captains to assist with neighbor notifications. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated this particular item is not a public hearing matter; it is a discussion topic that will go to City Council regardless of what is discussed. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated that concerned residents were notified based on interest in the matter and were invited to the meeting in a similar fashion to their inquiries. Commissioner Franklin asked what is the reason for the traffic on Blanche Road. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** responded that Blanche Road is a major local road that is supposed to have more traffic than a normal residential street. The speed limits on a street are set by prima fasciae speeds. There are special reductions made when conditions exist that

are not readily available to driver. This is the case for Blanche Road (25 MPH). For the purposes of the grant, the measures had to be put in to complete the grant and must remain in place for a particular amount of time. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** concurred that all the measures may not be necessary for this location and offered to look at other locations where the measures can be moved. Separate decision when more information available.

Commissioner Paralusz asked what is the minimum time frame in order to retain the grant funding. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** responded that he believes it to be about 5 years.

Commissioner Murillo asked when the improvements were installed. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** responded earlier this year (2019). **Commissioner Murillo** asked if it is possible to move the speed sign to new location and keep the other improvements in place without losing grant funding. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** responded the speed awareness sign could be relocated or faced in an opposite direction and still retain grant funding. **Commissioner Murillo** asked if the speed awareness sign measures data? **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** confirmed. **Commissioner Murillo** stated he would like to have the data downloaded to see if it is doing anything to mitigate speed.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that the speed awareness sign is solar powered and not connected to the Edison system at all. It is possible that the battery died and rebooted the systems, which could explain the strobe effect.

Commissioner Paralusz stated that she does not want the City to lose the grant funding and amended previous statement saying staff should look into alternative locations for the speed awareness sign and/or turning the lights off at night.

Commissioner Delk concurred he would also recommend relocating the speed awareness sign a new location.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (**Paralusz/Delk**) with amendment from **Commissioner Murillo** to maintain the current modifications for the two Safe Routes to School improvements on Blanche Road near 29th Street and to consider the relocation of the speed awareness sign and flashing beacons to a more justified location in the future if feasible, including direction to staff to include speed data from the speed awareness sign in the City Council staff report to show its efficacy.

AYES:	Murillo, Franklin, Paralusz, Delk, and Chair Longhurst
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

Commissioner Murillo asked why the crossing guard at Blanche Road and 27th Street was not placed at the Blanche Road and 29th Street intersection. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** responded that Blanche Road and 27th Street is the best place for the crossing guard. Blanche Road and 29th Street was selected for the improvements at a different time with different data.

Chairperson Longhurst re-opened Audience Participation.

Rene Ascencio asked **Commissioner Franklin** to summarize their conversation prior to the Commission Meeting about his issue with the Aviation Boulevard and Voorhees Avenue intersection.

Commissioner Franklin stated that **Mr. Ascencio** and his wife are concerned with driver speeds and recklessness at the intersection of Aviation Boulevard and Voorhees Avenue. He further stated that it has been difficult to get neighbors to increase awareness and participation on the matter and that there are few mitigation measures on the east side of Manhattan Beach.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated there is a concept for pedestrian improvements on Aviation Boulevard. The improvements will be brought forth through the Capital Improvements Plan to the City Council. He further stated staff would request the Police Department increase speed enforcement.

Commissioner Murillo asked what the project is called. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** responded the Aviation Boulevard Streetscape Plan.

Discussion followed on other issues along Aviation Boulevard.

Aida Ascencio stated that traffic signal timing made traffic slower in the past. However, because the signal timing changed recently, Aviation Boulevard acts as a freeway and there are more accidents.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet requested **Mr. and Mrs. Ascencio** send their issues to him so that it can support the project in the Capital Improvements Plan.

Chairperson Longhurst closed Audience Participation.

G. OTHER ITEMS

10/24/19-3 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Receive and File

Received and file

10/24/19-4 Staff Updates

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that parking funds will likely see an increase due to new parking meters that have been approved by City Council and will be installed near Parkview Avenue, but would see a large expense in the parking fund to buy next generation parking meters. **Commissioner Franklin** asked about the impact of parking rates year over year and how to assess the information. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated this information could be seen in the Revenues and Expenditures reports over the last 2 years.

10/24/19-5 Commissioner Items

Commissioner Delk asked if a hotel would be placed in vacant area on Rosecrans Avenue. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated the City of El Segundo is currently reviewing a proposal for a media center at that site.

Commissioner Paralusz asked if the Urban Plates project is on track. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated it will be opening soon and they are currently working on their tenant improvements.

Discussion followed on restaurants in the City.

Commissioner Delk asked about a crosswalk sign located in the middle of the sidewalk on Highland Avenue and 36th Street and if it would be moved. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated any relocation would be a decision of the Engineering Division.

Chairperson Longhurst asked about a project at Rosecrans Avenue and Highland Avenue. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated it is undergrounding for Southern California Edison. **Commissioner Delk** stated there is no parking on Highland Ave because of the construction.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that Rosecrans Avenue between Highland Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard would be slurried and striped.

Commissioner Franklin asked about complaints about new LED street lights installed in neighborhoods. **Traffic Engineer Zandvliet** stated there have been some complaints. When the city owns its own lights, the city can choose the intensity and color tone.

Discussion followed on the effect of different colored street lights.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24p.m. to the regular Parking and Public Improvements Commission Meeting on December 5, 2019 at 6:00p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

/s/Scott Longhurst
SCOTT LONGHURST
Chairperson

/s/Fel Cortez
FEL CORTEZ
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

/s/Erik Zandvliet
ERIK ZANDVLIET
Traffic Engineer