

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSION

April 8th, 2021

The regular meeting of the Escondido Transportation and Community Safety Commission was called to order at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, by Chair Spoonemore, in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Commissioners present: Chair Spoonemore in person; via video: Vice Chair Thornburgh, Commissioner Durney, Commissioner Hatley, Commissioner Korbecki, Commissioner Phillips, and Commissioner Kassebaum.

Commissioners absent: none

Staff present: via video: Julie Procopio, Director of Engineering Services; Owen Tunnell, Assistant City Engineer; Virpi Kuukka-Ruotsalainen, Associate Engineer; Craig Williams, Associate Engineer; Amanda Bajhart, Engineer I; in person: Kimberlianne Miller, Minutes Clerk.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Moved by Commissioner Spoonemore to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CONSENT ITEMS:

None

ACTION:

MINUTES:

Commissioner Spoonemore requested approval of the minutes of the January 14, 2021 TCSC meeting. Moved by Commissioner Kassebaum, seconded by Commissioner Durney, to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Speed Surveys – Various Locations Citywide

Engineer Amanda Bajhart referenced the staff report. Staff recommended approval of updated Engineering and Traffic Surveys (E&TS) for posted speeds on various (26)

street segments Citywide. Recommendations included a speed reduction on one (1) segment: Kauana Loa Drive from Harmony Grove Road to City Limits/Oak View Way.

Commissioner Thornburgh commented that he logged into the meeting late and that he has no comments or questions.

Action: Moved by Commissioner Spoonemore, seconded by Commissioner Hatley, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) /Traffic Impact Analysis(TIA) Guidelines Approval

Associate Traffic Engineer, Craig Williams, presented a report on the final draft of the Traffic Impact Analysis - VMT Guidelines, with an overview of its development, decision points, and screening criteria. Staff was requesting that the Commission recommend to City Council to accept Staff recommendations for VMT Methods, Thresholds and Screening Criteria.

Commissioner Hatley requested to elaborate if we have any additional information regarding the locally-serving projects, and which projects are considered locally-serving. She also requested which projects are to be and not to be included in the guidelines.

Mr. Williams replied that locally-serving projects are discussed in the VMT guidelines. Mr. Williams also replied that some criteria, such as projects having only a 200 ADT, or a 0.5-mile radius from the transit line would not require a VMT analysis. He mentioned this is discussed in greater detail in the document.

Commissioner Thornburgh commented that the new change with the type of analysis may or may not affect the result of the projects. He then requested whether or not there is a threshold to meet certain criteria when completing a VMT analysis. Also, he requested whether or not there are projects that are performing VMT analysis at the moment. He also requested whether or not developers have made any comments on the document.

Mr. Williams replied that there is a threshold for determining whether or not VMT analysis would be a requirement for a project. He also replied that there are no projects currently performing this analysis and no developers have made any comments regarding the document.

Action: Moved by Commissioner Spoonemore, seconded by Commissioner Durney to approve the staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approve Continental Crosswalk Standard

Associate Traffic Engineer, Craig Williams presented for the approval of the Continental Crosswalk as the City of Escondido High Visibility Crosswalk Standard. The City of

Escondido Crosswalk Policy is to be amended to replace 'Ladder-style' crosswalk with 'Continental-style' crosswalk as the City Standard for High Visibility Crosswalks for use in mid-block and uncontrolled locations as referenced in the April 14, 2016 Commission meeting. An element of this recommendation is to be consistent with neighboring and guiding agencies' designs.

Commissioner Durney commented that a few years ago this consistency problem arose and that he appreciates our effort.

Commissioner Thornburgh commented that at some intersections, such as North Broadway and Valley Parkway, it would not be preferred as there are some areas with decorative pavement.

Mr. Williams replied that we will have the freedom to use the parallel cross bars at the discretion of the engineer. He also stated that we would not need to use this style crosswalk at every location, rather it would only be used as our typical standard.

Action: Moved by Commissioner Durney, seconded by Commissioner Hatley to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

4. 2021/2022 Traffic Management Priority List (TMPL) Preliminary List of Projects

Associate Traffic Engineer, Virpi Kuukka-Ruotsalainen requested that the TCSC to provide direction to staff as to which projects should be selected for further evaluation and design. Staff will report back in July with detailed design and cost information for TCSC consideration. Transportation and Community Safety Commission (TCSC) approved a policy to evaluate and prioritize proposed projects using a Traffic Management Project List (TMPL) on January 9, 2014. As stated in the policy, a list of projects needs to be evaluated by staff and presented to TCSC for consideration each year.

Commissioner Hatley requested why crossing guards are not considered a part of a traffic control measure.

Mrs. Kuukka-Ruotsalainen replied, saying that most schools have that service provided by students and parents, and that is one of the reasons why we don't consider it a traffic control measure. She also mentioned vehicles have been seen to still fail to yield to pedestrians even with crossing guards.

Mrs. Kuukka-Ruotsalainen reiterated that traffic control equipment has been shown to be more effective overall.

Mr. Tunnell replied that these additional improvements give crossing guards a safer platform to operate from.

Commissioner Korbecki requested whether or not TCSC has to adhere to the list recommended by staff to select which projects should be selected and funded.

Mrs. Kuukka-Ruotsalainen replied, saying that TCSC does not need to follow this list, although there would need to be justification for not following.

Commissioner Thornburgh commented whether or not the North Broadway improvements should be made by the school. He also mentioned that he thinks Juniper School is not as big a priority compared to the Felicita School improvements needed. He also commented whether or not the street improvement project is incorporated with these improvements.

Mrs. Kuukka-Ruotsalainen replied that the annual street improvement project is in conjunction with the recommendation made per the TMPL improvements list.

Commissioner Durney stated that he is concerned with the amount of money that would be needed for the Felicita improvement project.

Commissioner Thornburgh replied that it would be towards the end of the list.

Action: Moved by Commissioner Thornburgh, seconded by Commissioner Durney to approve and amend the list to five (5) projects per staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. An overview of various projects involving the City
 - a) Source: Associate Engineers Virpi Kuukka-Ruotsalainen and Craig Williams
2. Written or verbal reports were presented on the following topics:
 - a) TMPL Project Updates
 - i. FY20/21: Contractor selected for work. Project completion Spring/Summer 2021.
 - b) LRSP – Local Road Safety Plan. Plan development was awarded to Michael Baker International; work on the plan has recently started.
 - c) Traffic Signal Communications Grant Application. Application approved March 30, 2021; total project \$2.32m; local share \$1.16m.
 - d) Traffic Signals - New
 - a. In Design
 - b. Design approved:
 - i. Quince Street at Escondido Creek Trail

- ii. Tulip Street at Escondido Creek Trail
- c. Under construction
 - i. El Norte Parkway at E. Lincoln Avenue (Henry's Ranch) (just completed)
 - ii. Country Club Lane at Gary Lane (The Villages)
 - iii. Country Club Lane at Nutmeg Street (The Villages).
- e) Traffic Signal Modifications:
 - a. In Design:
 - i. Felicita Avenue at Escondido Boulevard - protected left-turns; part of Active Transportation Fund project; consultant design at 90%.
 - ii. Juniper Street at Felicita-17th Avenue. - protected left-turns; part of Active Transportation Fund project; consultant design at 90%.
 - iii. Hale Avenue at Tulip Street (in design)
 - b. Design approved:
 - i. El Norte Parkway at Nordahl/Nutmeg Street (The Villages).
 - c. Under Construction
 - i. El Norte Parkway at Country Club Lane (The Villages)
- f) Roundabouts
 - a. Country Club Lane at Golden Circle (The Villages) (construction nearing completion).
 - b. Country Club Lane at La Brea (The Villages) (design approved /construction starting soon).
 - c. Felicita Rd at Park Drive (design approved/construction starting soon).

SCHOOL AREA SAFETY:

- 1) Del Dios Academy – School Bond Improvements. Signing/Striping design and crosswalk improvements including Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon for 9th Avenue reviewed.
- 2) Juniper Elementary. School Bond Improvements for parking lot and drop off/pick up areas. City Active Transportation Grant project to improve sidewalk, relocate student crosswalk and install RRFB. Two (2) signal modifications for protected left-turns in design.
- 3) ATP Grant Submittal for Citrus Avenue sidewalk (not approved)

COUNCIL ACTION:

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None

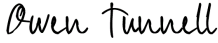
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Thornburgh advised staff to be ready for possible additional funding from COVID relief funds. He also reiterated his earlier concerns about the intersection of Escondido Blvd and Centre City Parkway, as well as the Brotherton intersection, and if we had an update on possible funding requests for those locations.

Mr. Tunnell stated we applied for funding to make improvements to those intersections, but that funding was not approved from this latest round of Caltrans approvals. We would keep looking for opportunities to make improvements.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Thornburg, Seconded by Commissioner Kassebaum to adjourn the meeting, which was carried unanimously.

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Owen Tunnell, Asst. City Engineer

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Kimberlianne Miller, Minutes Clerk