

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

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

January 14th, 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: Julie Procopio, Director of Engineering Services; Owen Tunnell, Assistant City Engineer; Virpi Kuukka-Ruotsalainen, Associate Engineer; Craig Williams, Associate Engineer; Amanda Bajhart, Engineer I; Police Lieutenant, Scott Walters;; Kimberlianne Miller, Minutes Clerk.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Moved by Commissioner Spoonemore, seconded by Commissioner Durney, to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CONSENT ITEMS:

None

ACTION:

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Spoonemore to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020 T&CSC meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. VMT Guidelines Progress

Associate Traffic Engineer, Craig Williams presented a progress report on the

development of the draft 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 VMT Methods, Thresholds and Screening Criteria.

Commissioner Hatley requested additional information regarding the locally serving projects, and which projects are considered locally serving. Mr. Williams replied that a comprehensive list would be included in the guideline's appendix.

Commissioner Spoonmore wanted to know how often the guidelines will be revised after they are adopted. Mr. Williams explained that the guidelines would be reviewed likely after the first year and revisions would be considered at that time.

Commissioner Durney asked whether we can assign a percentage of trips that would define a threshold for locally serving projects. A discussion ensued regarding locally serving businesses that have changing of uses over time. Mr. Williams replied that a percentage factor would be included in the guidelines.

Commissioner Thornburgh asked whether this new methodology will inadvertently defer traffic improvement projects needed in the future for the city. He also asked whether there are also more transit priority areas not shown on the exhibit provided in the presentation. Mr. Williams replied that the intent was to include all City transit lines that meet the criteria of the OPR on the transit map in the final report.

Action: Motion to approve as presented by staff to "Recommend to City Council to accept Staff Recommendations for VMT Methods, Thresholds and Screening Criteria" was approved unanimously. Moved by Commissioner Spoonmore, seconded by Commissioner Thornburgh, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 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 street segments Citywide. Recommendations included speed reductions on two segments: Via Rancho Parkway from I-15 to Bear Valley Parkway and Washington Avenue from Hale Avenue to Mission Avenue.

Commissioner Hatley asked why all the speed surveys were not included in the final package. Ms. Bajhart explained that ones with proposed changes to speed limits are included in the package at the request of Commissioner Kassebaum, but that all surveys are available for review if desired.

Commissioner Thornburgh asked why a segment on Escondido Blvd had a posted speed limit of 40 mph. Discussion followed on justification.

Action: Speed Limits as presented by Staff. Moved by Commissioner Spoonemore, seconded by Commissioner Hatley, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Escondido Creek Trail Crossings - Project

Associate Traffic Engineer Virpi Kuukka-Ruotsalainen referenced the staff report on the crossing improvements for the 2.5 miles of the Escondido Creek Trail between Juniper Street and Citrus Avenue. Improvements include pedestrian-actuated rapid flashing beacons, high visibility crosswalks, pedestrian refuges and pedestrian signals.

Commissioner Hatley asked how eliminating travel lanes would impact Harding Street. Ms. Kuukka-Ruotsalainen explained that the treatments for the crossings are based on the approved City of Escondido's Crosswalk Policy which also considers the Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Traffic volumes on Midway were also discussed and staff explained that traffic signal was previously approved. Ms. Procopio explained how a traffic signal would function at a crossing.

Commissioner Durney noted that current ADT on Harding is lower than ADT at Fig, Citrus, Rose and that the road diet on Harding could carry the vehicle volume.

Commissioner Thornburgh was concerned about driver behavior at new crossings and asked if new signage will be installed. Ms. Kuukka-Ruotsalainen explained that warning signage will be installed for all crossings.

Action: No action was required.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) An overview of various projects involving the City

i) Source: Associate Engineer Virpi Kuukka-Ruotsalainen

2) FY19/20 TMPL Completed Project Updates:

3) Citrus/Oak Hill Crosswalk Improvements with RRFB.

4) Pioneer Elementary School Crosswalk Improvements. Signage on E/B Lincoln @ Ash St. YIELD pavement legends, palm tree removal, new chevron striping.

5) Countdown Pedestrian Indicators in School Zones,

6) Accessible Pedestrian Signals @ Centre City Parkway & El Norte

2) SCHOOL AREA SAFETY:

- a) Ms. Kuukka-Ruotsalainen provided information related to school area safety activities at Del Dios Academy – School Bond Improvements, and
- b) Juniper Elementary – School Bond Improvements for parking lot and drop off/pickup areas.
- c) She also provided an update on the ATP Grant Submittal for the Citrus Avenue sidewalk.

3) COUNCIL ACTION:

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

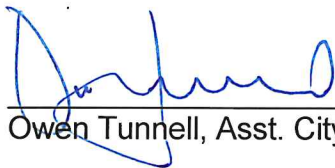
None

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Owen Tunnell, Asst. City Engineer



Kimberlianne Miller, Minutes Clerk