

TRAFFIC



PARKING

COMMISSION

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE HEMET TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION

**City Council Chambers
450 East Latham Avenue, Hemet CA 92543**

**May 10th, 2016
9:00 AM**

*If you wish to make a statement regarding any item on the agenda, please complete a Speaker Card and hand it to the clerk. When the Chairman calls for comments from the public on the item you wish to address, step forward to the lectern and state your name and address. **Only testimony given from the lectern will be heard by the Traffic and Parking Commission and included in the record.***

1. CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT: Chairman C.W. Cecchi, Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler, Commissioners David Oltman, Donald Funkhouser and Stephen Covington

ABSENT: None

Flag Salute: Vice-Chair Fowler

Invocation: Chairman Cecchi

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes for the Traffic and Parking Commission of March 8, 2016

Motion to approve Minutes for the Traffic and Parking Commission of March 8, 2016 was **MOVED** by Commissioner Funkhouser and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Covington.

The **MOTION** was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Chairman C.W. Cecchi, Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler, Commissioners David Oltman, Donald Funkhouser and Stephen Covington

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

3. NOMINATION AND ELECTION FOR TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION CHAIR FOR 2016/17

Chairman Cecchi opened for nominations for the Traffic and Parking Commission Chairman position for 2016/17.

Vice-Chairman Fowler nominated Commissioner Covington.
Commissioner Covington accepted the nomination.

Nomination was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Chairman C.W. Cecchi, Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler, Commissioners David Oltman, Donald Funkhouser and Stephen Covington

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

4. NOMINATION AND ELECTION FOR TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION VICE-CHAIR FOR 2016/17.

Chairman Cecchi opened for nominations for the Traffic and Parking Commission Chairman position for 2016/17.

Chairman Covington nominated Vice-Chair Fowler.
Commissioner Cecchi seconded the nomination.
Vice-Chair Fowler accepted the nomination.

Nomination was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Chairman Stephen Covington, Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler, Commissioners David Oltman, Donald Funkhouser and C.W. Cecchi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

****Brief Recess for Reorganization of Commission Members****

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

*Anyone who wishes to address the Commission regarding items **not on the agenda** may do so at this time. Please line up at the lectern when the Chairman asks if there are any communications from the public. When you are recognized, please give your name and address. Please complete a Speaker Card and hand it to the Clerk so that we have an accurate recording of your name and address for the minutes.*

Chairman Covington opened the Public Comment period.

Sally Mason, Fruitvale Avenue expressed concern for the excessive speeds and unsafe driving practices on Fruitvale Avenue and would like speed bumps put in before and after Fruitvale Elementary school. Ms. Mason stated she has brought the matter to the Traffic and Parking Commission several times since February 2010. Ms. Mason read a letter submitted by Mrs. Books, the Principal of Fruitvale Elementary that stated concern for the safety of the students. Approximately eight hundred students are released from Fruitvale Elementary at the same time every day which causes a lot of traffic congestion. Ms. Mason stated fewer kids are riding the bus which is also contributing to the congestion.

Vice-Chair Fowler stated the lack of kids riding the bus is due to the fact that it is no longer a free service provided by the school district. Families must pay for the kids to use the bus service.

Chairman Covington stated the service was changed by the district a few years ago as the cost savings measure. Chairman Covington stated that most of the schools were not designed for the amount of traffic congestion currently taking place.

Sally Mason stated that 18-wheeler trucks are using Fruitvale Avenue to avoid Florida Avenue. This is causing safety issues for the residents of Fruitvale Avenue as well as the students of Fruitvale Elementary school.

Chairman Covington asked Steven Latino, City Engineer to please respond to Sally Mason's concerns and what steps can be taken. Chairman Covington agrees the City and the School District need to work together to find a solution.

Steven Latino, City Engineer informed Chairman Covington that it is not common practice to rebut public comment; however, he gave his contact information to Sally Mason to schedule a meeting with the principal of Fruitvale Elementary school.

Charles Gunn, Whittier Avenue expressed concern about the excessive speeds and drag racing taking place on Whittier Avenue between Lyon and Palm. Charles Gunn stated this is his second time addressing this concern with the Traffic and Parking Commission. Charles Gunn has also brought the matter to the City Council six times. Charles Gunn stated the last time he addressed the Traffic and Parking Commission, one of the Commissioners said they had pulled out of Elk Street and by the time he made the turn a passing car was already out of sight. Charles Gunn acknowledged that speed studies had been conducted and the posted speed limit is within the 85%, but he feels something more should be done. The Hemet Police Department posted an electronic speed sign on Whittier Avenue but Mr. Gunn believes the electronic sign does not work properly and he has witnessed cars speeding again after they pass the sign. Charles Gunn would like to request a stop sign on Whittier Avenue.

David Austin, Nextdoor Laguna Flats expressed concern about the excessive speeding and reckless driving all over the City of Hemet, especially on Laguna Avenue. David Austin understands the difficulty in pursuing reckless drivers in the area as each block is only approximately 350 feet; however he believes it would help to post 25MPH signs in addition to Slow Children At Play signs in the area. David Austin would like the matter to be on the next agenda to be discussed in more detail.

Commissioner Cecchi asked to please restate which street David Austin is discussing.

David Austin replied that it is Laguna Avenue, Malibu Street, and La Jolla Avenue.

Vice-Chair Fowler informed the Commissioners that the flash drive of video clips each commissioner received in the mail was the area David Austin was discussing.

Chairman Covington stated he did not receive a flash drive and admitted he has been having trouble with his mail.

DeAnna Robertson, Administrative Assistant promised to resend him a new flash drive to an updated address.

Action Items

Meeting Procedure for Action Items:

1. *Receive Staff Presentation*
2. *Commissioners report any Site Visit and ask questions of staff*
3. *Receive comments from the public.*
4. *Close the Action Item*
5. *Traffic and Parking Commission Discussion and Motion*

6. **Four Way Stop – Palm Avenue at Mayberry Avenue** – Ms. Joan Wakefield of Panorama Village submitted a request for a four way stop at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Mayberry Avenue.

Information:

Requestor: Joan Wakefield, Panorama Village Resident
Location: Palm Avenue at Mayberry Avenue
Engineer: Steven Latino, Engineering Director/City Engineer

Recommended Action:

That the Traffic and Parking Commission:

1. *Take no action on this item.*

Steven Latino, City Engineer presented the request made by Ms. Joan Wakefield to install a four way stop at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Mayberry Avenue. Currently the intersection is a two way stop intersection. City staff had a consultant conduct a four way stop warrant report to determine if the four way stop was necessary. The three items the report looks at are crash experience, minimum volumes and delay, and combination of volumes, delays, and crashes. The report was concluded on February 24, 2016 and showed that none of the three items were satisfied.

Commissioner Funkhouser asked what time of day or night the warrant study was conducted.

Steven Latino, City Engineer confirmed it is a multiple hour count data covering an eight hour period during the AM and PM peak hours.

Vice-Chair Fowler commented that there is also a huge dip in the intersection going down Palm Avenue.

Commissioner Funkhouser commented that traffic has increased due to the opening of Walmart on Florida Avenue and Palm Avenue.

No comments from the public.

Motion to approve Engineering Director/City Engineer to take no action was **MOVED** by Commissioner Cecchi and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fowler.

The **MOTION** was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Chairman Covington, Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler, Commissioners David Oltman, Donald Funkhouser and C.W. Cecchi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

7. **Stop Sign – Latham Avenue and Tahquitz Avenue** – Mr. David Austin requested that the City review the intersection of Latham Avenue and Tahquitz Avenue regarding sight distance for southbound traffic, particularly to the west of the intersection. This item is being brought back now that the foliage on the adjacent plants has filled out.

Information:

Requestor: David Austin, Resident
Location: Latham Avenue at Tahquitz Avenue
Engineer: Steven Latino, Engineering Director/City Engineer

Recommended Action:

That the Traffic and Parking Commission:

1. *Take no action on this item.*

Steven Latino, City Engineer presented the request made by David Austin requesting review for site distance problems. This request was presented at previous Traffic and Parking Commission meetings but is being brought back now that the foliage has filled out west of the intersection. Latham is a 30 MPH roadway and therefore must have 200 feet of site distance. On April 4, 2016, Steven Latino did a site visit of the intersection and verified there is adequate site distance even with the trees fully bloomed.

Chairman Covington stated he drives through the intersection several times a day and never noticed a site distance problem. Chairman Covington did acknowledge the additional congestion of people that do not follow the rule on the north east side due to the market.

Chairman Covington opened the item for comments from the public

David Austin agrees that based on the 30mph the site distance is not a problem, however, he sees many cars exceeding the posted 30mph sign.

Motion to approve Engineering Director/City Engineer to take no action at this time was **MOVED** by Commissioner Cecchi and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Funkhouser.

The **MOTION** was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Chairman Covington, Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler, Commissioners David Oltman, Donald Funkhouser and C.W. Cecchi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

8. **Stop Sign – Chambers Street and Slate Avenue** – Mr. Khader Hassan sent a request to consider installation of a stop sign at Chamber Street and Slate Avenue.

Project Information:

Requestor: Khader Hassan, Resident
Location: Chambers Street at Slate Avenue
Engineer: Steven Latino, Engineering Director/City Engineer

Recommended Action:

That the Traffic and Parking Commission:

1. *Take no action on this item.*

Steven Latino, City Engineer presented the request made by Khader Hassan requesting a stop sign at the intersection of Chamber Street and Slate Avenue. Steven Latino did a site visit and noted Chambers Street is a one way street and there are one-way signs and no-left turn signs at the intersection as well as pavement legends. The original request for a stop sign at the intersection was to deter speeding; Steven Latino reiterated that a stop sign is not be used for speed control. The legal use of a stop sign is for assigning a right of way at an intersection where there is a right of way concern.

Commissioner Funkhouser asked if anything can be done with the tree that is shown in the picture on Chambers Street.

Steven Latino, City Engineer clarified due to Chambers Street being one way to the west the tree should not be affecting any site problems for traffic coming south on Slate Avenue.

Vice-Chair Fowler stated she drives through the intersection twice a day and confirmed the tree is not a site issue. Vice-Chair Fowler did agree that when the area is developed she could see a potential need for a stop sign in the area.

Steven Latino, City Engineer clarified that the potential need would be part of the Development Review Process for the development project. Steven Latino stated there are currently four maps being proposed for the area and are in the tentative phase.

No comments from the public.

Motion to approve Engineering Director/City Engineer to take no action at this time was **MOVED** by Commissioner Oltman and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Funkhouser.

The **MOTION** was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Chairman Covington, Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler, Commissioners David Oltman, Donald Funkhouser and C.W. Cecchi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

9. **Speed Limits** – Update of speed limits for ten (10) City Street segments. The locations are due to expire this year, and speed surveys were conducted by the City’s Traffic Count Consultant.

Project Information:

Location: Various Locations
Engineer: Steven Latino, Engineering Director/City Engineer

Recommended Action:

That the Traffic and Parking Commission:

1. *Recommend approval of the changes to posted speed limits on several City Streets.*

Steven Latino, City Engineer presented the 2016 Streets Speed Surveys. Steven Latino explained that speed limits are set by engineering and traffic surveys. Cities hire a company that take speed surveys during nonpeak hours to obtain the true speed of traffic without interference. Speed limits are set on the 85th percentile of a 100 vehicle survey per the California Vehicle Code and the CAMUTCD. Steven Latino explained that speed surveys are conducted every five (5) years for each road segment, however, there are caveats in the vehicle code that allow an extension up to seven (7) years if the citing officer issuing the speed limit has additional radar training and certification. City staff confirmed with Hemet Police Chief David Brown that Hemet Police Officers have radar training and certification. The survey can then be extended to ten (10) years if the Traffic Engineer reviews the survey and determines nothing has changed and agrees to write a certification and submit it to the courts. Steven Latino is approving new policy to follow the practice of conducting speed surveys every seven years. Steven Latino is presenting 10 speed surveys for approval, but will be presenting additional surveys in the future that he recently found while cleaning up the database.

Commissioner Oltman noted only one speed changed in the ten surveys presented. **Steven Latino, City Engineer** confirmed only one speed changed on Stetson Avenue from State Street to San Jacinto Street. According to the Vehicle Code, in addition to the 85th percentile, the Traffic Engineer is allowed to take a 5 mile per hour reduction with no findings. Other reductions can be taken depending on roadway characteristics. Steven Latino reviewed all the past surveys and kept the exceptions as they were.

Commissioner Funkhouser commented that the Stetson Avenue speed change is where the lanes change from two lanes to one lane.

Steven Latino, City Engineer answered that the percentile actually was closer to 45mph and he lowered it to the recommended 40mph. There is not legal way for Steven Latino to drop the speed any lower at this point.

No comments from the public.

Motion to not take any action at this time was **MOVED** by Commissioner Oltman and **SECONDED** by Vice-Chair Fowler and Commissioner Cecci.

The **MOTION** was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Chairman Covington, Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler, Commissioners David Oltman, Donald Funkhouser and C.W. Cecchi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

10. **ENGINEERING DIRECTOR REPORTS:** *Verbal reports from Engineering Director*

A. City's 5-Year CIP Update and Budget Process

The City adopted the 5 year CIP and Budget Process at the April 26, 2016 Council meeting. Fiscal year 2016/17 has identified about \$35 million worth of improvements of which approximately \$27 million has already been funded through grant and alternative funding. City staff met with each council member one on one to review the plan. The document is available online under the City Council report and will be available on the Engineering website soon.

At the May 10, 2016 council meeting, the first presentation of the new fiscal year's budget will take place. Discussion will take place at the council meeting on May 24, 2016 and hopefully adopted at the council meeting on June 14, 2016.

B. Citywide Traffic Signal Timing Updates

Contract with STC Traffic will be signed May 10, 2016. STC Traffic will review every traffic signal, document what is inside of the signal, pull the timing sheets, and check speed limits surrounding each signal. STC will do a citywide refresh of signal timing and bring all signals into compliance with the law. STC will also be coordinating the timing and synchronization of Stetson and Sanderson. One of the projects in the 5 year CIP is research a citywide signal interconnect plan which will tie all the signals together via hardline as opposed to wireless. This will allow the City to continue to advance the signals and create a traffic management center. STC will scan all drawings, provide check prints in every cabinet, and provide all the signal timing in each cabinet giving the City a very well organized database of all equipment and documentation.

C. Update on WRCOG/SCE Street Light Takeover

WRCOG started the process with SCE to do streetlight takeovers. SCE currently owns approximately half to two-thirds of the City's lights. WRCOG will retrofit each light with LED lights and draw up a maintenance contract with all of the jurisdictions but then will turn it over to the City. The LED lights will be in compliance with Mount Palomar's regulations. WRCOG will be doing a pilot study and will place various manufacturers' lights in different neighborhoods to see which light best suits the needs of the area. The pilot will take place in Hemet, which allows various agencies and public to come and see Hemet.

11. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSIONER REPORTS: *Commissioner Reports on meetings attended, future agenda item requests, or other matters of Engineering interest.*

A. Chairman C.W. Cecchi

Commissioner Cecchi noticed several of the stop signs and street signs in the City are covered by trees.

Steven Latino, City Engineer asked Commissioner Cecchi if he had specific street names.

Commissioner Cecchi responded with the names Johnson Avenue and Palm Avenue.

Steven Latino, City Engineer requested Commissioner Cecchi to write down the street names of concern and Steven Latino will submit the names to the City Public Works Department.

B. Vice-Chair Farrah Fowler

Nothing to report

C. Commissioner Oltman

Nothing to report

D. Commissioner Funkhouser

Commissioner Funkhouser requested status of the City staff's research for Seven Hills to purchase a traffic light.

Steven Latino, City Engineer responded that the City staff is still researching. Steven Latino located the original mylar for the area, but is still looking for the mylar that changed the area from a T intersection. Steven Latino promised to submit a report as soon as all the research is complete.

E. Commissioner Covington

Nothing to report

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/CONTINUED ITEMS:

A. SB Left Turn into Del Webb Community at Corte del Mar from Warren Rd.

City staff is still researching the area to see if anything can be done in terms of right of way.

B. Issues regarding block walls being hit

City staff receives a lot of requests for people hitting block walls, including locations that have been dealt with in the past. City staff would like to propose a work study to research solutions to the issue.

C. Traffic Calming Devices

Steven Latino, City Engineer would like to put together a Traffic Calming Handbook and find alternatives to speed bumps. Steven Latino acknowledged there is an enforcement component and that Hemet Police is continuously looking into it.

Chairman Covington acknowledged Hemet Police Department had their motorbike police officers enforcing speeds and Chairman Covington witnessed at least three speeders receive tickets in the span of 20 minutes.

D. School Driving Safety Issues

Steven Latino, City Engineer added that the City will coordinate with the school in regards to the safety concerns. When schools are developed they go through State architect, not the City, so they are not always designed with traffic impact in mind.

Vice-Chair Fowler inquired about inviting someone from the school district to address the commission regarding the traffic safety issues at all of the schools. Vice-Chair Fowler believes the schools need to address the issue with the parents as to their driving practices.

Steven Latino, City Engineer agreed that the schools need to help educate the parents as to safe driving practices during drop off and pick up of the students.

Sally Mason addressed the Commission informing them that she has also been in contact with the postal carriers. The postal carriers are frustrated that they are unable to get to the mail boxes due to parked cars. Sally Mason inquired about painting the curbs red in front of the mail boxes.

Steven Latino, City Engineer responded that painting the curb in front of the mailboxes will set a precedence to paint all curbs in front of mailboxes which is not feasible. Steven Latino said the issue can be researched to possibly post No Parking signs instead. Steven Latino said the vehicle code can also be researched to see if it is an enforceable issue to have an officer issue citations and/or warnings. Steven Latino will also research the collision history of the area.

Commissioner Cecchi stated that the vehicle code states that the curb in front of mailboxes are to be painted white indicating dropping off and picking up of mail only.

Steven Latino, City Engineer responded that the City does not paint white curbs, but he will research the Vehicle Code. Steven Latino mentioned possibly having officers put warnings on cars that are parked in front of mailboxes as a deterrent.

Commissioner Cecchi recommended to Steven Latino, City Engineer, to speak with Hemet Police Sergeant Miller regarding the Hemet Police Volunteers going out to the schools during pickup and drop off times.

Steven Latino, City Engineer agreed it is a good idea.

Commissioner Funkhouser stated that it is a big deterrent to have a patrol car there and seen.

E. Laguna Avenue

Steven Latino, City Engineer added reviewing the video clips submitted by David Austin regarding Laguna, Malibu, and La Jolla Avenue.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn meeting at 10:06 a.m. to the regular meeting of the Traffic and Parking Commission scheduled for July 12, 2016 to be held at City of Hemet Council Chambers located at 450 E. Latham Avenue, Hemet, CA 92543.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Traffic and Parking Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Engineering Department counter of the Covell Building located at 510 E. Florida Avenue during normal business hours. Agendas for Traffic and Parking Commission meetings are posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact the Engineering Department office at (951) 765-2360. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to insure accessibility to the meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).