

PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of July 25, 2012

COMMISSIONERS

Michael Benbow, Chairperson
Norris Turner, District 1
Denise Gonzalez, District 2
Charles Coronado, District 3
Gene Eldridge, District 4

STAFF MEMBERS

Keith Lockard, Acting City Engineer
Chad Sweet, Acting Principal Transportation Engineer
Selma Salausa, Secretary

I. Roll Call of Commissioners and Call to Order by Chairperson

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael Benbow at 7:05 p.m.

All Commissioners were in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes for May 23, 2012, and June 27, 2012 Meetings

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes for May 23, 2012, and June 27, 2012, meetings with a minor correction on having the speed hump pending request due to budgetary funding.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion.

Motion passed with a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Gonzales abstained.

III. Public Comments (comments on items not listed on the agenda)

Dan Hightower, 409 E. Regent Street, Apt. No. 7, Inglewood, CA. 90301. Mr. Hightower stated that his landlord had given a lease in the rental agreement with a parking spot because his truck will not fit in the garage. She has since cut his lot and has given his parking spot to someone else. He said he is handicap and has a placard. There is no parking on Thursday mornings in this area. It is a residential and business area. He requested the City install a blue handicap curb and was informed Inglewood does not allow blue curbs in the residential areas. Mr. Hightower said he has a 7-month old child and being disabled, it is very difficult to try and park with a child and his groceries. He has gotten ticketed and has paid his fines. He is also paying his rental fees. Landlord has taken his garage which is in his lease, and he has nowhere to park and is seeking help from the Commission.

Commissioner Turner asked Mr. Hightower what type of truck does he own.

Mr. Hightower said a three-quarter ton truck.

He stated that on his lease agreement it states he has a parking garage lot, but when he tried to park his truck with landlord's guidance and assistance, the truck was damaged in the process due to height of garage. He presented a bill to the landlord for compensation, which she has ignored and has since changed the lock on the garage and given his space to someone else that now requires him to park on the street. He is seeking counsel and advice from the Parking and Traffic Commissioners in this matter.

Commissioner Turner said the landlord must upgrade her garage to accommodate your truck if it is in your lease and you are paying for the space.

Mr. Hightower gave the Commissioners a copy of his lease agreement to show that he was entitled to garage parking.

Commissioner Coronado suggested Mr. Hightower to seek legal advice from the City Attorney's office.

Chairperson Benbow recommended staff contact the Police Department to assist Mr. Hightower with his situation and to let them know what is going on.

Staff requested Mr. Hightower's telephone and/or email address so that they may contact him and follow up regarding this issue.

IV. Referral from City Council or City Departments:

a. Athens Shuttle Bus Service Route Extension and Bus Stop Locations

Acting City Engineer Keith Lockard described staff's one-page staff report and other various reports presented by Transportation Analyst John Zeigler, of the Los Angeles County. Using an aerial photograph he illustrated the shuttle bus stop locations and route extensions. Mr. Lockard recommended a bus stop be located on the south side of 108th Street east of the Crenshaw frontage road adjacent to an apartment building, which is consistent with the request of Mr. Ziegler. Mr. Lockard recommended a bus stop be located on the north side of Imperial Highway east of Ardath Avenue. This location is an existing Metro bus stop at a traffic signal in proximity to commercial development.

Mr. Zeigler, Los Angeles County, presented testimony to the Commission. He stated he was a transit analyst County Public Works and a project administrator for the Athens Links Service. He discussed the e-mail that the Commissioners had received and answered the questions the Commissioners raised in the previous meeting.

Mr. Ziegler then responded to questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Eldridge was concerned that since there are Metro buses on the same route all the time he didn't see much participation by residents of Inglewood and not beneficial to the citizens of Inglewood at the location at 108th Street near Crenshaw Boulevard. Commissioner Eldridge said he would have to agree with Councilman Franklin and oppose this new location.

Mr. Ziegler said the reason for the Athens bus stopping there is for providing an additional boarding and egress location for citizens using the Athens service.

Commissioner Eldridge asked Mr. Ziegler what kind of rider participation Athens has right now.

Mr. Ziegler said their route is a 30-minute circular loop. He said 90% of the route is County incorporated. It is an extension to provide support for those at the location to give citizens more access to major intersections of Crenshaw Blvd and other areas near to give them additional opportunity to nearby retail shopping centers. Shuttle operates between 2 loops with an average of 15 boardings per service hour, which is quite exceptional. Shuttle schedule is from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. There is no service on Sundays.

Commissioner Eldridge suggested the Commissioners could go on a ride on the shuttle routes if they wish to get a better understanding of the ridership.

Chairperson Benbow asked Mr. Ziegler about the different stops the shuttle bus makes.

Mr. Ziegler responded by communicating all the locations of the bus stops by the shuttle.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked Mr. Ziegler is any of the shuttle bus stops stand alone where there are no metro or other bus stops

Commissioner Gonzalez was concerned about Athens shuttle service sharing in keeping the bus stop areas clean.

Mr. Ziegler stated it is an Inglewood sidewalk and it would be up to them to keep the additional bus stop clean that they are proposing.

Mr. Lockard stated that the City does maintain and ensure the cleaning of these areas.

Chairperson Benbow said since the Councilman and Commissioner of that district are against the additional Athens shuttle bus stops, he is inclined to agree with them and oppose them too.

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to not have an additional Athens bus stop services at those locations at 108th and Crenshaw Boulevard and 108th and Ardath Street at this time to service the public.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion.

Motion was approved with a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Coronado opposed.

b. Ash Avenue at Olive Street Temporary Closure Implementation Plan

Mr. Lockard went over previous discussions regarding the temporary closure at Ash Avenue at Olive Street. He also discussed the handouts he gave to the Commissioners explaining all the details that will go into preparation of closure, which will take about 2 weeks to complete.

Mr. Lockard also used maps to illustrate how this temporary closure would occur.

Commissioner Turner said it appears that it would be safer to take the Oak Street proposal, although he does not know whether the residents would agree.

Commissioner Eldridge said the best way to do this is to go ahead and close it as Mr. Lockard has illustrated and see if residents will agree.

Chairperson Benbow said the overall plan should be to install it and see how many residents complain. The people that live there may experience a different outcome that we may have overlooked.

Commissioner Gonzalez said living in a resident that has a school (Kelso School) bring more problems. Residents around the area particularly close to the school with school drop offs need to know. Commissioner Gonzalez said she is really concerned about school drop off hours and congestion and think that staff should discuss with the school as well.

Commissioner Coronado stated that Caltrans has a project going on there in that area.

Mr. Sweet stated there is a \$20 million Caltrans project going on through Measure R in this area. Mr. Sweet said staff had a meeting recently with the South Bay Council and these projects take a very long time to develop. However, staff wanted to do something a lot faster for public safety.

Commissioner Eldridge said nothing will be done permanently by this and if later Caltrans comes in and modify remove it would be fine. Right now we are concerned about public safety.

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to recommend going forward with the temporary street closure.

Chairman Benbow seconded the motion.

Motion was passed on a 5-0 vote.

c. FY-2011-12 CIP Traffic and Street Projects

Mr. Sweet handed out copies of a project listing which shows all the projects that staff is currently working on in various parts of the City.

d. FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17 CIP Traffic and Street Project Proposals

Mr. Lockard stated to the Commissioners that in their packet are copies to show proposed projects through FY 2016-17.

Mr. Lockard asked the Commissioner if they would like to recommend additional projects to consider.

Commissioner Gonzalez said the La Tijera-Fairview area with La Cienega needs something done. The new La Tijera school is open with about 700 children being dropped off coming through the neighborhood. Fairview is 2 lanes, but with morning school traffic becomes 3 lanes due to school traffic. The City eliminated the cross walk guards for the children.

Commissioner Gonzalez is concerned that someone may have a serious and dangerous accident that could very well be a child.

Mr. Lockard said there is a La Tijera CIP project, but Los Angeles is the one holding it up.

Mr. Lockard stated to Commissioner Gonzalez that he has plans in his office whereby he could illustrate more specifically the work that will be done in this area.

V. **Public Hearings:** None

VI. **Commissioner Initiatives**

a. 99th Street Parking

Commissioner Eldridge stated he is still waiting for something to be done about the people using the flower beds as restrooms.

Commissioner Eldridge would like to know about diagonal parking. He believes it would be a great help in solving the problem of parking.

Mr. Sweet said he will look at diagonal parking in this area, and will place this item back on the agenda.

Commissioner Turner said the three-quarter ton trucks are back parking there. He strongly believes the Police Department could do much more than what is being done now. He would like to see the Police Department represented at each of these Parking and Traffic Commission at least from the parking and traffic division.

Mr. Lockard said there has been a change in leadership at the Police Department.

Chairperson Benbow said he will try and contact the new chief of the Police.

Mr. Lockard said he will contact the Public Works Director to see the best way to proceed either by letter or a meeting.

Commissioner Turner said there are several issues still pending when Lt. Fried was in the meetings that still have not been done, and it has been 3 months.

Chairperson Benbow said he will see the Mayor and the police Chief on this matter.

Commissioner Turner said at Centinela Park that residents have told him the lights stay on all night and the bathrooms are open and the park is totally inoperative. He suggests closing the park. Transients are using the bathrooms and people are having parties on the weekend keeping residents up all night.

Commissioner Turner said he contacted the Park's director and he suggested contacting the Public Works Department.

Chairperson Benbow suggested that Commissioner Turner attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to address this problem.

Mr. Lockard said he will take these concerns back to the Public Works Director and see how best to follow up and report back to Commissioner Turner.

Commissioner Eldridge said a stop sign on Yukon cannot be seen by motorists because of the trees located there. The stop sign should be removed immediately to a safer place, as motorists are running the stop sign where it is located now.

Mr. Lockard said he will look into that right away.

Treasury Chief Wanda Brown came to inform the Commission about the trash on La Cienega near the new school.

Commissioner Gonzalez said that particularly jurisdiction does not belong to the City but to Caltrans, LA City or LA County.

Mr. Sweet suggested contacting Ladera Heights.

Commissioner Gonzalez said they have been contacted and they will not respond.

Mr. Sweet told Treasury Brown he will find out who is responsible and contact her by e-mail.

VII. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.