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LA MESA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

AGENDA

A Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

9:00 a.m.

City Council Chambers

The purpose of a Traffic Commission meeting is to accomplish the public's business as productively, efficiently and professionally as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the La Mesa Traffic Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office located in La Mesa City Hall, 8130 Allison Avenue during normal business hours.

Citizens who wish to make an audio/visual presentation pertaining to an item on the agenda, or during Public Comments, should contact Noemi Becerra at 619.667.1143, no later than 12:00 noon, one business day prior to the start of the meeting. Advance notification will ensure compatibility with City equipment and allow Council meeting presentations to progress smoothly and in a consistent and equitable manner. Please note that all presentations/digital materials are considered part of the maximum time limit provided to speakers.

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Hearing assisted devices are available for the hearing impaired. A City staff member is available to provide these devices upon entry to City Council meetings, commission meetings or public hearings held in the City Council Chambers. A photo I.D. or signature will be required to secure a device for the meeting.

AGENDA

July 11, 2018

9:00 A.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

INVOCATION – COMMISSIONER PADEN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. TRAFFIC ACTION ITEMS SINCE PREVIOUS TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING (ATTACHMENT)**
- 2. TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE (ATTACHMENT)**

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

NOTE: In accordance with state law, an item not scheduled on the agenda may be brought forward by the general public for discussion; however, the Traffic Commission will not be able to take any action at this meeting. If appropriate, the item will be referred to Staff or placed on a future agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION)

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 6 2018 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING (ATTACHMENT)**
- 4. VISION SAFETY PARKING ZONE POLICY (ATTACHMENT)**

COMMISSION INITIATED ITEMS

STAFF COMMENTS

FUTURE ITEMS – (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PERMIT POLICY

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING IS AUGUST 1, 2018

Traffic Work Order Log 2018

Approved or completed since last Traffic Commission Meeting, June 6, 2018

Project Action/Description	Location	Status
Striping Modifications at Sacramento Drive "Keep Clear"	Intersection of Sacramento Drive and High Street	Preparing Work Order, Awaiting Approval
Request for red curbs along Southern Rd curb radius	Southern Road and Veemac Avenue	Preparing Work Order, Awaiting Approval

Traffic Calming Status: Update 07-3-18

Street	Status	Neighborhood Meeting Date	Conceptual Design Date	Final Design Date	Neighborhood Design Notification and Survey
Howell Drive	Phase II Design	3/15/2018 - No Residents attended; City re-issued letters to all residents, Design Attached	4/18/2018	TBD	July 18th Meeting
Guava Ave	Phase II Design	TBD - No contact with Point of Contact through calls; Letter to Point of Contact mailed 4/16, no response	TBD	TBD	TBD
Stanford Ave	Phase II Design	4/3/2018; On hold per City staff	TBD	TBD	TBD
Glen Street	Phase I Design and Implementation	Acquiring updated Traffic and Volume Counts, expected in August 2018	TBD	TBD	TBD
Violet Street	Phase I Design and Implementation	Prepared Staff Recommendation, presentation to Traffic Commission in August 2018	7/2/2018	TBD	TBD
Cresthaven Drive	Phase I Design and Implementation	Prepared Staff Recommendation, presentation to Traffic Commission in August 2018	7/2/2018	TBD	TBD
Harbinson Ave	Preparing for studies				
Lois Street	Preparing for studies				
Lemon Avenue	Preparing for studies				

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa Traffic Commission
Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, California

The Agenda for this meeting was posted on June 6, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL: TRAFFIC COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Calandra; Vice Chair Krulikowski; Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice.

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Director of Public Works/City Engineer Richard Leja; Engineering Project Manager Jeffrey Manchester; Police Traffic Sergeant Hildebrand; Fire Chief Manns; Administrative Coordinator Noemi Becerra; Administrative Assistant Daniela Rodriguez

INVOCATION – COMMISSIONER ORTEGA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Director Leja suggested the Commission hear item 6 before items 3 & 4.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. TRAFFIC ACTION ITEMS SINCE PREVIOUS TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

Mr. Manchester reported on the two items on the Traffic Work Order Log that were approved or completed since the May 2, 2018 Traffic Commission meeting. (See agenda attachment – Traffic Work Order Log 2018)

2. TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

Mr. Manchester gave an update on the status of the traffic calming as of May 31, 2018. (See agenda attachment – Traffic Calming Status: Update 05-31-18)

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

Dorcas Hermsmeier, 4827 Beaumont Drive

Mrs. Hermsmeier stated that La Mesa's 50 percent approval requirement for speed humps and speed tables is too low. She would like the residential approval percentage increased to 75 percent for speed humps and speed tables to be installed on any future traffic calming agenda item.

S Skinner, 8064 Alison Ave

Mr. Skinner spoke about traffic noise throughout the City and County and the negative effects on public health. He also spoke about the effects of the traffic calming efforts on Sacramento Drive. He believes the efforts have only increased profits for the City but have done little to calm traffic.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 2, 2018 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

ACTION: Chair Calandra moved to approve the minutes with additional language stating, considerable discussion on item 6 occurred. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion which carried 5-0.

AYES: Chair Calandra, Vice Chair Krulikowski, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

4. REQUEST FOR ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACE AT 7482 MOHAWK STREET.

Mr. Manchester stated that staff is currently gathering information on the request. Vice Chair Krulikowski suggested noticing the apartment property owner and neighbors who may be affected.

ACTION: Vice Chair Krulikowski moved to defer the item pending more information. Chair Calandra seconded the motion which carried 5-0.

AYES: Vice Chair Krulikowski, Chair Calandra, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

5. REQUEST FOR ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACE ACROSS FROM 4444 BEVERLY DRIVE.

Mr. Manchester stated that staff is currently gathering information on the request. Vice Chair Krulikowski suggested noticing the property owners who may be affected.

ACTION: Vice Chair Krulikowski moved to defer the item pending more information. Chair Calandra seconded the motion which carried 5-0.

AYES: Vice Chair Krulikowski, Chair Calandra, Commissioners Ortega, Paden, Justice

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

6. RED CURB POLICY DISCUSSION (ATTACHMENT) – *Heard before Items 4&5*

Director Leja presented the Street Parking Safety Signage & Marking Policy and the Guidelines for Designation of Disabled Persons Parking Spaces within the Public Right-of-Way for Residential Uses. He provided information on how requests are evaluated by staff using the existing policies. He also provided the background information as it relates to the Vision Safety Zone. Director Leja stated the Street Parking Safety & Signage Marking Policy applies to the public right of way and is not meant to apply to private property. Police Traffic Sergeant Hildebrand stated that the red and blue curbs on private property are enforceable. Director Leja clarified that fees are not collected for Parking Safety Zone requests except for the reconsideration. Discussion followed about streets built to a previous standard and previous to the American Disabilities Act.

Chair Calandra suggested language be added to the Application for Disabled Persons On-Street Parking in Residential Areas, stating the applicant understands that if approved for a blue curb, any handicapped eligible vehicle can park in the spot.

COMMISSION INITIATED ITEMS

Vice Chair Krulikowski suggested the Commission should attend a traffic engineering training class for public officials, conducted by ITE and SANTEC. He and Chair Calandra will gather more information.

STAFF COMMENTS

None

FUTURE ITEMS – (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

PROVIDE TRAFFIC CALMING DESIGN FOR HOWELL DRIVE

THE VISION SAFETY PARKING ZONE POLICY

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PERMIT POLICY

RED CURB POLICY

REQUEST FOR ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES AT 4444 BEVERLY DRIVE AND
7842 MOHAWK STREET

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING IS July 11, 2018

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.



VISION SAFETY ZONES POLICY

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT / ENGINEERING DIVISION
8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942

REVISION DATE: July 11, 2018

SUBJECT: Policy for the Evaluation and Implementation of Vision Safety Zones

PURPOSE: The purpose of the policy is to:

- Provide guidelines for the evaluation and implementation of vision safety zones within the public right of way.
- Protect public health and safety by providing parking prohibitions in areas where parked oversize vehicles could affect the drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- Maximize the availability of public parking for the use of residents and businesses.
- Minimize the maintenance costs for traffic control devices.
- Comply with with the applicable portions of the California Vehicle Code and La Mesa Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND:

Public parking is a component of most streets within the City. Due to the topography and other site conditions, parked vehicles can sometimes conflict with the safe use of the public roadways by drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. In cases where safety concerns cannot be solved by implementation of Safety Curbs (Red Zones), Vision Safety Zones are appropriate. Vision Safety Zones have been part of The La Mesa Municipal Code (Section 12.40.115)¹ since 1978. This code states that:

(a) Vision safety parking zones, not in excess of one hundred feet from point of intersection of curb lines extended or on narrow streets with curves that create limited sight distance may be established by the traffic committee.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any vehicle, except passenger vehicles (including station wagons) less than five feet in height with windows on all sides that are transparent and unobstructed, to park in an area designated as a safety parking zone.

(c) The City Traffic Committee shall provide for the placement of signs which give notice that: "Passenger vehicles (including station wagons) less than five feet in height with windows on all sides that are transparent and unobstructed may park in the signed areas. All other vehicles are prohibited."

The purpose of Vision Safety Zones is to improve sight distance by restricting large and obstructive vehicles from parking there.

The La Mesa Municipal Code (Sections 12.16.010, 12.40.030, 12.40.110, and 12.48.020)² authorizes the City Engineer the power and duty to place and maintain official traffic control devices, such as signs or curb markings where the parking or stopping of a vehicle would constitute a traffic hazard or that would endanger life or property. Members of the public frequently request changes to the existing parking restrictions, some of which can be classified as vision safety related requests.

SCOPE:

This policy shall apply to all vision safety related parking restrictions to the maximum extent practicable. This policy does not include parking restrictions on private property, those designated by the City Council for general needs (Section 12.50.040.d)³, Permit Parking preferential parking reasons (Chapter 12.42)⁴, or other reasons not related to safety of the travelling public.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Every request for a Vision Safety Zone involves a different set of circumstances. As such, each request will require a unique analysis that takes into account the particular set of circumstances involved. Some of the common issues involved in evaluating a curb marking request are discussed below:

Is the street classification non-residential? If not, then the request should not be considered under this policy.

Is the volume significant? The zone in question must be either an intersection of two public streets or a high volume private driveway as defined by the Parking Safety Policy (serving more than 10 individual properties, etc.).

Is sight distance limited? Sight distance can be limited by a number of things including curves, hills, or similar factors that can be dangerous if large vehicles are parked in a certain zone.

Do vehicles drive at a high speed in this area? To qualify as a Vision Safety Zone, measured speed in the area must be more than 35 miles per hour.

Is there significant accident history? When considering the designation of a Vision Safety Zone, accident history may be the most important aspect.

Is a Safety Curb (Red Zone) more appropriate? If yes, then the request should not be considered under this policy. When any vehicle parked at the curb can be considered a sight obstruction, a Safety Curb (Red Zone) should be warranted. However, if large vehicles (trucks, RVs, buses, vans, SUVs) are often parked at the corner causing sight distance issues, a Vision Safety Zone may be a more viable option.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Initiation

Vision Safety Zones in accordance with this policy can be requested by the public by submitting a request on the City's public request application (YourGov) at <https://yourgov.cartograph.com/> or on the City's website or by contacting the Public Works Department Traffic Hotline at 619-667-1450. The requestor must provide a detailed description of the request with pictures of the location and support from at least five adjacent property owners. Incomplete requests will be delayed until the requestor provides the missing information.

Fees

No fees are associated with the Vision Safety Zone process except when making an appeal (see Evaluation Process 4.) However, if the amount of requests increases significantly, then a fee may need to be associated with requesting a Vision Safety Zone, in order to recover costs.

Evaluation Process

When the Public Works Department receives a completed parking safety zone request, City staff will process the request on a first-come first-serve basis along with other City business and citizen requests. Listed below are the steps involved in evaluating a request.

1. **Prioritization** – If multiple requests are received, critical Vision Safety Zone requests shall be a priority above other types of requests. Critical Vision Safety Zone areas shall be defined per the Evaluation Criteria that was discussed earlier.
2. **Data Collection** – If necessary, City staff will conduct a field visit to verify the sight distance issue and determine the extent of the Vision Safety Zone (up to 100 feet). Additional data may be necessary to review certain safety zone requests and to assess the impact on parking in the area when parking activity is high, or to determine if the parking activity in the area is high enough to warrant installation.
3. **Review and Validation** – Following the field visit and data collection, staff will evaluate the circumstances of the particular request and make a determination regarding the feasibility of the requested curb marking. If a request is validated by the City Engineer, then it will be submitted to the Traffic Commission for approval. Notices of Traffic Commission meeting shall be sent to residents within 300 feet of the

proposed Safety Zone.

4. Traffic Commission Decision – Based on evidence and residents’ concerns, Traffic Commission will make the determination. This decision is final, unless appealed (with a \$100 fee paid) within sixty days of the Traffic Commission meeting in which the decision is made.
5. Installation – A signage and curbing marking standard will be developed by the City Engineer. Public Works will install these signs and curb markings, once approved by the Traffic Commission.
6. Removal of Vision Safety Zone – The Traffic Commission will reconsider their original decision if requested by the City Engineer, or if a public request is made after at least two years of the original installation. Such a request shall follow the same evaluation and approval process. If it is determined that the existing zone marking serves no purpose, the zone marking will be removed at no cost to the individual making the removal request.

Maintenance Considerations for Vision Safety Zones

Signage and markings require maintenance. The costs of this maintenance can be substantial costs, when considered city-wide. Therefore, implementation of excessive numbers of Vision Safety Zones should be discouraged.

APPROVAL:

Richard B. Leja
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

REFERENCES:

1. Section 12.40.115 of the City of La Mesa Municipal Code
2. Sections 12.16.010, 12.40.030, 12.40.110, and 12.48.020 of the City of La Mesa Municipal Code
3. Section 12.50.040.d of the City of La Mesa Municipal Code
4. Chapter 12.42 of the City of La Mesa Municipal Code
5. Section 12.16.090 of the City of La Mesa Municipal Code