

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO  
TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**March 16, 2011**

\*\*\*THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY COMMISSION.\*\*\*

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Cesar Cano called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Public Works Office Specialist, Elizabeth Salazar, called the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT: Commissioner Cesar Cano (Veres)  
Commissioner Angel Zobel-Rodríguez (De La Torre)  
Commissioner José Ruelas (E. Hernández)

ALSO PRESENT: PW Director, Ron Ruiz  
Police Sergeant, Nichole Hanchett  
Public Works Office Specialist, Elizabeth Salazar

ABSENT: Commissioner Ralph Perez (Esqueda)  
Commissioner Sylvia Ballin (M. Hernández)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez motioned to approve the Transportation & Safety Commission agenda for February 23, 2011. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruelas. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Commissioner Ruelas motioned to approve the minutes for the March 16, 2011, Transportation & Safety Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

Teresa Rowan, the daughter of small retail owners; Alice Marie and Joseph Rowan, which own "Marie's Party Palace", located at 602 N. Maclay Avenue (Unit A) and a single-family rental (Unit B), expressed her concerns on the proposed Morningside Elementary School Loading Zone. In addition to her appearance to the Transportation & Safety Commission meeting,

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Ms. Rowan submitted a formal letter to the Public Works Department on March 16, 2011. The Commission was presented with a copy of the letter by the Public Works Department. Ms. Teresa Rowan informed the Commission that when Maclay Ave was redesigned, the two parking spaces directly in front of their store location were replaced by a sidewalk, potted plants and trees, and left them with just two spaces at the green painted curb adjacent to their building on the north side of Fifth Street. The store is open Monday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and occasionally for a period of six weeks from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ms. Rowan explained that due to the lack of parking availability often occupied by Morningside School traffic, their business has been affected in a negative way. Therefore, Ms. Rowan recommends that the loading zone be based on schools hours, and after hours that it can also be available to other businesses. She also requests two additional green curb parking spaces across the street from the existing green curb across the street. She hopes that this will help them retain or recover parking for their customers and guests during and after school hours. Commission welcomed Ms. Rowan to stay and listen to the rest of the discussion on the subject; in view that it is an item on the Agenda under “New Business”.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Morningside Elementary School Loading Zone-** The Commission approved to move Morningside Elementary School Loading Zone as the first item to be discussed, and move Nueva Esperanza Charter School to be item number two on the Agenda.

Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that Morningside Elementary School staff has asked to have a loading zone installed on Fifth Street. The Commission was presented with a map of the proposed loading zone, by Mr. Ruiz. Morningside Elementary School staff informed Mr. Ruiz, that they are having issues during pick-up and drop off times and school staff feels that by implementing the proposed loading zone on Fifth Street, that it will help the situation. Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that per the Municipal Code, that the existing green curb parking on Fifth Street allows for a 20 minute parking. Mr. Ruiz also informed the Commission that if the Morningside Elementary School Loading Zone is implemented the loading hours will be from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., with a two hour parking from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., during school days and not on holidays. Mr. Ruiz agrees with Ms. Rowan’s request to add two additional parking spaces on the green curb, he believes that this will help accommodate their concerns.

Mr. Ruiz notified Commission of flyers that were distributed on Thursday, March 10th to local businesses and residents, in order to inform them of the school’s proposal. The flyers encouraged local residents and business owners to attend the meeting or to call the Public Works Department with any concerns or comments.

However, the Commission does not feel comfortable making a decision, and has advised Mr. Ruiz to invite LAUSD staff to the next meeting. Item to be continued.

2. **Nueva Esperanza Charter School-** Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that Nueva Esperanza Charter School has not submitted or presented a traffic plan to the City. Therefore their opening date of March 22 will not be possible due to the fact that they need a Certificate

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of Occupancy from the City. Commission motioned to continue item to next months meeting or until a traffic plan is submitted by Nueva Esperanza Charter School. Item to be continued.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Alexander / DeGarmo Stop Sign Request** – Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that he has not heard back from the requestor, Mr. Kealy. Mr. Ruiz also informed the Commission that Mr. Kealy is aware that his request did not meet the stop sign criteria. Commission advised Mr. Ruiz that if he hears back from Mr. Kealy, then the item will be reinstated on the Agenda as new business. Item to be removed.
2. **Blue Curb Policy** – Ron Ruiz requested more time to revise the policy. Staff also requested more time for further research. Item to be continued.
3. **O'Melveny St. /Workman St. Stop Signs** – Mr. Ruiz requested more time to work on drafting up a revised plan to improve the area. Item to be continued.
4. **Las Palmas Park Disabled Parking**- Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that he has not been able to meet with the Senior Advisory Board, because their meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for March 24, 2011. Item to be continued.
5. **Las Palmas Park Parking Permits**- Mr. Ruiz also informed the Commission that this item has not been discussed with the Senior Advisory Board for the same reason as Las Palmas Park Disabled Parking. Item to be continued.
6. **Stop Sign Flashing Light at Huntington St. / Griffith St.** - Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that the stop sign flashing light at Huntington St. / Griffith St. does meet the criteria, based on the traffic count and speed study research. Mr. Ruiz also informed Commission that he has received many calls throughout the years of residents complaining about vehicles speeding through Huntington. However Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that the blocks on Huntington St. are too short, therefore we cannot place speed humps on that area. Mr. Ruiz recommends having staff draft up a policy and make recommendations on the criteria visibility and collision data. In spite of this, Mr. Ruiz is concerned about the cost of this project and the importance of being able to send notices or flyers to the local residents in order to receive feedback. Commission agrees with Mr. Ruiz, and has requested a run down of activities on that area. Item to be continued.
7. **Speed Limit Signs and Speed Humps on Celis St. between Mission Blvd. /Maclay Ave.** – Mr. Ruiz presented the Commission with a map of Celis St. between Brand Blvd and San Fernando Mission. Mr. Ron Ruiz informed the Commission that there are no speed limit signs on that area. Mr. Ruiz also informed the Commission that the traffic counters were put between Brand and Maclay, and the average speed limit was 23 mph.

Traffic counters that were put between San Fernando Mission and Maclay were broken, and staff was unable to collect any data. Commission asked Mr. Ruiz to install traffic counters on the affected area and bring new information to the next meeting. Mr. Ron Ruiz is concerned

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that if speed limit signs are installed, it will encourage the vehicles passing through the area to exceed the speed limit. Mr. Ruiz recommends installing additional pedestrian signage on the block between Maclay and San Fernando Mission. Commission recommends for staff to acquire more data and traffic analysis from that area. Item to be continued.

8. **Commission Task List** – Commissioners discussed the task list with staff.

### **COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez asked Sergeant Hanchett if the City would be implementing the same rules and regulations for unlicensed drivers as the City of Los Angeles. Sergeant Hanchett informed Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez that the City would continue to follow the state law accordingly.

Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez moreover wanted to express and thank Commissioner's Cano and Ruelas on the accomplishments they achieved while serving on the Transportation and Safety Commission.

Commissioner Ruelas shared his experiences while visiting China the week of February 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Ruelas also shared with the Commission a few interesting traffic situations he experienced in China.

Commissioner Ruelas also shared with the Commission that this would presumably be the last meeting that he attends, given that Councilmember Ernesto Hernández will no longer be part of Council. Commissioner Ruelas is very thankful with everyone on the Commission, and he is grateful of the opportunity he was given to participate on the Commission.

Commissioner Cano informed the Commission that this would probably be the last meeting he attends due to the fact that Councilmember Steven Veres will no longer be part of the Council. Commissioner Cano also expressed his gratitude with the Commission, and hopes that the future elected Commissioners feel the same way too.

Commissioner Cano also expressed his congratulations to Sylvia Ballin for her victory as a newly elected Councilmember for the City of San Fernando.

### **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Ron Ruiz informed the Commission about a parent's concern in regards to traffic and safety at San Fernando Elementary School. Mr. Ruiz also informed the Commission that the City Council was informed about the concern. Mr. Ruiz recommends reviewing speed limit signage in the area, and placing the signs at a better location in order to not confuse drivers.

Ron Ruiz also informed the Commission that there might be a special meeting on March 24, 2011 to discuss Morningside Elementary School Loading Zone and the 50% drawings for Park Avenue. Mr. Ruiz hopes that if the meeting takes place, that the current Commissioners will still be able to attend.

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Sergeant Hanchett informed the Commission of the San Fernando Police Department upcoming check point on Del Sur and San Fernando Road, Friday March 18, 2011. Sergeant Hanchett hopes for it to be a very productive evening, given that due to the rain these last days the police had difficulty doing so.

**ADJOURNMENT**

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.