

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING - MINUTES**

April 13, 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 6:01 p.m. Public Works Office Specialist, Elizabeth Salazar, called the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT: Commissioner Cesar Cano (Veres) –Left the meeting at 6:10 p.m.
Commissioner Phillip Ballin (S. Ballin)
Commissioner David Mendoza (Lopez)
Commissioner Ralph Perez (Esqueda)
Commissioner Angel Zobel-Rodríguez (De La Torre)

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

ABSENT:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Perez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez motioned to approve the Transportation & Safety Commission agenda for April 13, 2011. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Perez. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez motioned to approve and add as an item to the agenda the minutes for the March 16, 2011, and the March 24, 2011, Transportation & Safety Commission meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cano. The motioned carried unanimously.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Oath of Office, New Commissioner’s Phillip Ballin and David Mendoza-** Oath of Office was administered to Mr. Phillip Ballin and Mr. David Mendoza by Mr. Ron Ruiz, Public Works Director.
2. **700 and 753 San Fernando Road-** Mr. Ruiz provided the Commission with a packet which included; a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for Gateway San Fernando Commercial Development for 700 and 753 San Fernando Road and a Traffic Impact Analysis and a copy of a map of the proposed Gateway San Fernando Street Improvements

Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that the provided Initial Study packet is currently in the review process, and that it is scheduled for consideration in the Planning Commission for Tuesday April, 26th.

Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission of the presence of Community Development Assistant Planner, Edgar Arroyo, the City’s Environmental Consultant, Marc Bladgett, and Ian Fitzsimmons from Aszkenazy Development, and that they will be answering any questions the Commission might have on the Initial Study packet.

Mr. Ruiz is hoping to collect any comments that the Commission may have with respect to possible traffic impacts associated with the project as a Commissioner or as a resident. Mr. Ruiz asked the Commission to refer to Section 3.16, Transportation and Circulation, page 85, of the Draft Initial Study, which includes an analysis and description of traffic mitigation recommendations.

Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that the project involves the redevelopment of a former automotive dealership and the construction of either a 92,560 square foot single-story or a 105,623 square foot two-story commercial development with 446 parking spaces located on-site and on-street. The proposed uses for the project include retail, service commercial, medical, and office occupancies. The project site is comprised of 12 parcels totaling approximately 5.58 acres of land that span three city blocks. The properties identified as part of the project are located on: Truman Street and San Fernando Road, between Kittridge Street and Wolfskill Street; San Fernando Road and Celis Street, between Chatsworth Drive and Wolfskill Street; and Celis Street and Pico Street, between Chatsworth Drive and Wolfskill Street.

In addition, Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that as part of the project, street improvements are proposed for Truman Street, San Fernando Road, and Celis Street, between Chatsworth Drive and Wolfskill Street. Also, a reduction of vehicular lanes along the affected San Fernando Road segment from four lanes to two lanes is proposed.

Mr. Ruiz also advised the Commission to review the Study Area Intersections; Section 3, pg. 108. Mr. Ruiz explained to the Commission of the plans to construct a two-way-left-turn-median along Truman Street, the review of a sight distance at the project that should be reviewed with respect to California Department of Transportation, an on-site traffic signing

**TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – April 13, 2011**

Page 3

and striping, and of the periodical review of the of the traffic operations in the vicinity of the project once the project is constructed to assure that the traffic operations are satisfactory.

The assistant City Planner, Edgar Arroyo introduced him self to the Commission and made him self available to answer any questions that the Commissioners might have in regards to the 700 and 753 San Fernando Road project. Mr. Arroyo also informed the Commission that the necessary traffic calming measures will be taken as well.

Mr. Arroyo explained to the Commission that the conversion of the 4 lane to a 2 lane street will be the same design as the San Fernando Mall. Mr. Arroyo informed the Commission that there will be a mid walk crossing signal in order to enhance pedestrian safety as well.

However, the Commission is concerned about the traffic flow and safety hazards that the conversion of the 4 lane street to a 2 lane street might cause for vehicles and pedestrians, as well as for the blind intersection on Kittridge, North bound from the parking structure, and additional lighting on the lots.

Mr. Fitzsimmons clarified the parking intent on Celis Street to the Commission.

Mr. Ruiz suggests having staff look into accident reports in the proposed project area. Item to be continued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Nueva Esperanza Charter School-** Mr. Ruiz notified the Commission that Nueva Esperanza Charter School has already submitted their traffic plan to the City, and that it is in fact being reviewed by the traffic engineer.

Mr. Ruiz provided the Commission with a Traffic Control Condition of Approval for Nueva Esperanza Charter School handout. In the handout it specifies that Nueva Esperanza Charter School must implement as necessary to avoid adverse impact to the existing traffic flow on the abutting streets: a) Traffic Management Plan, b) Staggering of School Hours, c) Prohibitive Stopping of Vehicles, d) Street Signage, e) Crosswalk Painting, f) Off-site and Off-street Parking, g) Parking Lot Signage, h) Parking Lot Usage, i) Playground Usage, and j) School Liaison.

Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that Nueva Esperanza Charter School will not open its doors until they comply with all the requirements on their traffic management plan. Mr. Ruiz also emphasized to the Commission that the school is making the parents sign an agreement stating that they will comply with the school's drop off and pick up plan, and if they don't, then the students can be dismissed from the program.

The Commission questioned the installation of a gate in the playground area. The Commission is concerned with the safety of the children with passing vehicles through the area, and they hope that the installation of a gate will prevent any accidents. However, the Commission is also concerned with the staggering of the school hours in order to accommodate traffic with Morningside Elementary School and San Fernando Middle School.

**TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – April 13, 2011**

Page 4

Mr. Arroyo informed the Commission that there is a gate proposition which is currently being reviewed to make sure that it complies with the City requirements.

Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that he will gather and research more information about the staggering of the hours for the school, and he will bring that information to the next meeting. Item to be continued.

2. **Park Avenue Design Updates-** Mr. Ruiz provided the Commission with a copy of the Public Works Park Avenue Landscape Design Comments for March 28, 2011, and he also went over through some of the concerns that the Commission previously had made comments on at the last meeting. Mr. Ruiz informed the Commission that the installation of bulbouts will enhance pedestrian safety and will also reduce speed, as well as the installation of about 60 lights for pedestrian safety. Mr. Ruiz presented the Commission with a piece of material of the litho crete that will be used for the sidewalks. Mr. Ruiz also informed the Commission that graffiti will be very easily removed from the litho crete being used for the sidewalks.

However, the Commission is concerned with the texture of the litho crete. The Commission is concerned with the pedestrian safety, and is afraid that if an accident occur the litho crete might be dangerous. Item to be continued.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Cano hopes that the New Commissioners enjoy their time in the Commission as much as he did, and also wished them good luck.

Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez welcomed the New Commissioners, and hopes for a productive year.

Commissioner Perez welcomed the New Commissioners, and hopes for a productive year as well. Commissioner Perez also expressed his concern of vehicle speed on Maclay between First and Fourth Street.

Commissioner Mendoza thanked the Commission for the opportunity to contribute to the City, and also expressed his concern with the proposed loading zone for Morningside Elementary School.

Commissioner Ballin thanked the Commission for the opportunity to contribute to the City, and hopes for a positive outcome.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Ruiz thanked Commissioner Cano for opening the special meeting, and also thanked him for his time in the Commission.

Mr. Ruiz gave the Commission a brief update on the proposed loading zone for Morningside Elementary School, and also informed Commissioner Mendoza that he will add his comments of

**TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – April 13, 2011**

Page 5

the proposed loading zone for Morningside Elementary School to staff's list of comments. Mr. Ruiz also informed the Commission that one of the traffic counters installed on Maclay broke, but that the information that was able to be collected will be sent to the traffic engineer for review.

Sergeant Hanchett welcomed the New Commissioner's, and updated the Commission on the traffic collision for the City as well as for a planned check point on March 25, 2011, at Del Sur/ San Fernando Road.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.