

MINUTES  
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 4, 2018  
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM  
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Chair Carol Randall; Vice Chair Chris Frost; and Commissioners Chris Hanson, Fred Roberts and Tracy Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Bob Brager, Public Works Director; Travis Hart, Senior Public Works Inspector; Nicole Benjamin, Assistant Civil Engineer; Jorge Rubalcava, Associate Civil Engineer; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Matt Myerhoff, Media Information Officer; Parker Davis, Media Technician; Lieutenant Jim Royal, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Assistant Civil Engineer Benyamin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Roberts moved and Vice Chair Frost seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on March 28, 2018.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Uhring stated protecting health and safety of residents is the most important job of municipal government. He questioned why the Malibu Beach Inn crosswalk project was not heard by the Planning Commission or City Council. He discussed the sequence of events and documents related to the Malibu Beach Inn. He stated the project would result in over 100 U-turns per day. He stated the project did not meet warrants for a crosswalk before it was approved.

ITEM 1.B. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

In response to Commissioner Wright, Public Works Director Brager stated his understanding was that there were no written responses from the City regarding the crosswalk. He stated he would have the Assistant Public Works Director report back to the Commission at its next meeting. Commissioner Wright stated the stairs at Surfrider were still not repaired. She expressed frustration that the stairs would probably not be fixed before the summer. She asked when Cross Creek Road and Civic Center Way road surfaces would be repaired. Public Works Director Brager stated the resurfacing work would begin in the next few weeks.

Vice Chair Frost discussed the 30 miles per hour (mph) speed zone near Latigo Canyon. He stated most motorists driving at that speed would be hit by vehicles traveling at the normal speeds. He stated signs posted in the area did not appear to be State-approved signage. He stated he had been discussing the problems with the California Highway Patrol (CHP). He reported a resident complaint about bicyclists riding in the wrong direction at the end of Malibu Road. He discussed dangers of pedestrians who texted and used cellphones while crossing the street. He suggested the City consider passing a law prohibiting the use of phones while crossing.

Commissioner Roberts stated the State of California is considering a law to prohibit the use of cellphones while crossing the street.

Senior Public Works Inspector Hart agreed with Vice Chair Frost that some of the speed signs near Latigo appeared to be installed incorrectly. He stated he was working with the Caltrans contractor to have the signs replaced.

Commissioner Roberts asked if there was any hope for a right turn lane on PCH at Trancas Canyon Road. Public Works Director Brager stated the turn lane had been discussed for many years. He stated there was not enough room for installation of a turn lane. Vice Chair Frost suggested the area be striped with red stripes to prevent illegal right turns.

Commissioner Hanson asked if the City could require construction to be scheduled during night hours or off-peak hours to avoid traffic impacts. Public Works Director Brager stated the City could control those hours on its own right-of-way, but not on PCH, which is a State highway under Caltrans jurisdiction. He stated the City asked the Malibu Beach Inn contractor to reschedule as much of its work as possible to be done at night to minimize the taking of lanes during day hours.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Media Information Officer Myerhoff confirmed that KNX 1070 learned of many work-related traffic issues in Malibu from the City's alerts and social media postings.

Chair Randall agreed with Vice Chair Frost that cellphone use while crossing the street should be prohibited. She questioned how much the Malibu Beach Inn crosswalk would actually improve safety, whether it would be pedestrian-activated, and whether it would be synchronized with other nearby traffic signals.

ITEM 2        CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION       Vice Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- A.     Previously Discussed Items  
None.
  
- B.     New Items
  - 1.     Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2018  
Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of March 7, 2018.

ITEM 3        OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4        NEW BUSINESS

- A.     Measure M Transportation Improvement Projects  
Recommended Action: Receive presentation and provide comments regarding the Measure M Transportation Improvement Projects.

Chair Randall stated she had requested that staff make this presentation since so few residents attended the public workshop on March 14, 2018 when it was originally presented.

Assistant Civil Engineer Benjamin presented the report.

In response to Vice Chair Frost, Assistant Civil Engineer Benjamin confirmed that Measure M funding was for infrastructure projects only and could not be used for the purchase of land.

Chair Randall expressed concern about the suggested improvements for pedestrians and cyclists on Malibu Canyon Road. She stated she did not think they should be encouraged to walk or ride on a road that was not safe for those modes of travel.

In response to Commissioner Wright, Assistant Civil Engineer Benjamin confirmed the Malibu Canyon Road improvements were only for the City portion of the road. Commissioner Wright asked if the funds had to be spent on the projects listed or if some of the funds could be banked for other projects. Assistant Civil Engineer Benjamin stated these were the City's highest priority projects that qualified for the funding.

Assistant Civil Engineer Benjamin presented Los Angeles County's projects near Malibu that were proposed for Measure M funding, including a beach shuttle and new bus stop infrastructure in Topanga, and road improvements and bridge replacement on the County portion of Malibu Canyon Road and Las Virgenes Road. In response to Commissioner Roberts, Assistant Civil Engineer Benjamin confirmed the County proposal ensured at least one lane in each direction would be open during construction.

- B. Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) Signal System Improvements Project  
Recommended Action: Receive and file status update on the PCH Signal System Improvements Project.

Associate Civil Engineer Rubalcava presented the report. He stated signal synchronization was the top priority project that came out of the PCH Safety Study. He stated the project limits of John Tyler Drive to Topanga Canyon Boulevard covered eight miles and 12 intersections on PCH. He stated the goals were to use modern technology to improve traffic flow and make the highway a smart corridor. He stated project features included signals that could communicate with one another, cameras installed at each intersection to improve accident response times, intersection ADA upgrades, and adaptive traffic control systems to detect and adjust signal timing to traffic volumes. He stated the project also included changeable message signs (CMS) to provide information and detours in advance of affected locations. He stated new, updated equipment would allow Caltrans to remotely monitor and adjust traffic signals from its main traffic control center.

Commissioner Roberts stated the Los Angeles Fire Department trucks had a switch they could flip to make all signals green when en route to an emergency.

Associate Civil Engineer Rubalcava discussed agreements between the City and Caltrans required to move forward with the project. He stated traffic data was collected in July and November to account for both peak and non-peak traffic flows. He stated the City met with, and would continue to meet with, other agency stakeholders, including Caltrans, Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's Departments, the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Metro, CHP, and the Santa Monica Police Department. He stated construction was tentatively scheduled to begin in early 2019 and would take approximately 18 months to complete.

In response to Commissioner Wright, Associate Civil Engineer Rubalcava confirmed the CMS would be permanent units, not movable.

Chair Randall expressed concern for vehicles entering the flow of traffic. Associate Civil Engineer Rubalcava stated there would be enough gaps in the traffic to break up the flow. Chair Randall stated she and her neighbors depended on gaps provided by red lights to safely exit their garages directly onto PCH.

Associate Civil Engineer Rubalcava announced that Assistant Civil Engineer Benjamin would be assuming management of the project.

C. Point Dume and Busch Drive Speed Advisory Sign Data

Recommended Action: Receive presentation on traffic data collected during the period of October 2017 through February 2018 from speed advisory signs installed in Point Dume and on Busch Drive.

Senior Public Works Inspector Hart presented the report. He discussed average speeds and the highest speed violations on each of the streets where the speed signs collected data.

In response to Vice Chair Frost, Senior Public Works Inspector Hart confirmed the 85th percentile was applied to determine if a speed limit change was warranted.

Senior Public Works Inspector Hart stated the overall data collected showed that most motorists were obeying the posted speed limits.

D. Update on Projects Affecting Traffic on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and City Streets

Recommended Action: 1) Receive and file status updates on projects affecting traffic on PCH and City streets, including: a) PCH at La Costa Pedestrian Improvements Project; b) Civic Center Wastewater Treatment Facility construction; c) Slope Stabilization Project (Caltrans); and d) Caltrans maintenance work; and 2) Provide feedback or questions for Caltrans staff.

Marianne Riggins discussed projects at Webb Way and Cross Creek Road. She asked if the City could publish what the intersections will look like after the projects were completed. She expressed concern about traffic disruptions when work on the PCH Signal Synchronization Project began.

Public Works Director Brager stated the Webb Way and Cross Creek Road projects included ADA improvements at the intersections and upgrades to the signal equipment. He stated there should not be any additional construction. He stated he would work with staff to publicize more information about the project.

Ms. Riggins stated it was very dangerous to cross PCH at Webb Way due to the changes in the signal timing. Senior Public Works Inspector Hart stated the intersection delays were the result of temporary changes made for construction safety. He stated some changes would be corrected next week.

Chair Randall questioned whether Caltrans recognized the disruptions to the community that resulted from these types of projects. Public Works Director Brager agreed that construction is disruptive by nature. He stated Caltrans determines what is done in its right-of-way and must meet established standards. He stated the contractor was pushing to finish before the Memorial Day moratorium.

Commissioner Wright stated the community would be more understanding if more information was made public about the projects.

Executive Assistant Linden stated additional project information could be added to traffic advisories when it was available.

Senior Public Works Inspector Hart presented the report. In response to Chair Randall, Senior Public Works Inspector Hart stated the La Costa crosswalk was estimated to take approximately 130 consecutive working days to complete. Public Works Director Brager stated it would not be as disruptive to PCH traffic as the Malibu Beach Inn crosswalk project. He stated most of the work would take place on the shoulders and much of the lead time was waiting for delivery of equipment.

Chair Randall expressed concern about traffic backing up on Civic Center Way if a traffic signal was installed at the intersection with Webb Way.

Senior Public Works Inspector Hart announced that Southern California Edison (SCE) had completed its Malibu Canyon Pole Replacement Project. In response to Chair Randall, Public Works Director Brager stated the City was working with SCE on upgrading the street lighting on PCH, but they were waiting to define any specific plans until the dark sky ordinance was adopted.

E. 2018 Summer Enforcement Team Proposal

Recommended Action: 1) Review the Sheriff's Department proposal for the 2018 Summer Enforcement Team deployment; and 2) Provide a recommendation to the City Council to approve the proposal as part of the Sheriff's Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Lt. Royal presented the report. He stated the proposed deployment was the same as in previous years. He clarified the deployment was weekends only from Memorial Day weekend to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, at which time additional personnel were added and all personnel went to a seven-day schedule through Labor Day weekend.

He stated one motor officer was traded for a patrol vehicle to deal with extreme traffic at Westward Beach and cars needing to be turned around at the intersection of Birdview Avenue and Westward Beach Road when the Point Dume pay lot is full. He stated the Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) augment the parking enforcement operations. He stated the budget for summer enforcement was under a separate contract from the standard law enforcement contract. He stated the cost to the City for the summer operations alone were approximately \$600,000.

In response to Chair Randall, Lt. Royal stated he would report back on how much of the parking citation fees come back to the City.

Commissioner Wright left the dais at 6:52 p.m.

Lt. Royal stated the County had provided a helicopter for the summer at no cost to the City for several years since originally requested by former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. He stated the helicopter was extremely valuable for assisting with finding lost children, as well as traffic and other crimes.

F. Public Safety Agency Activity

Recommended Action: Discuss recent Public Safety Agency activities and receive and file monthly activity reports from the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Fire Department and Lifeguards.

Lt. Royal presented the report.

Commissioner Wright returned to the dais at 6:55 p.m.

Lt. Royal stated crime rates had risen slightly or remained flat since 2000. He stated serious crime rates had remained stable, but lower level crimes had increased significantly over the same period. He stated that increase in minor crimes contributed to the public's misperception that crime is out of control.

In response to Chair Randall, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the City is working with the County to resolve logistical issues before homeless meals can be served at the vacant County courthouse. She stated they expected the meals to begin again by mid-May. Lt. Royal stated the approach toward the homeless situation had greatly improved in the past few months since the City began coordinating all the various agencies and organizations involved. He stated progress was being made in providing assistance to more homeless individuals.

In response to Chair Randall, Public Safety Manager Dueñas confirmed there are leaders within the homeless community, but they were often the earliest to be housed and move on. She stated the current focus was cleaning up and removing encampments. She explained the extensive process required for removal of

encampments. She stated she would provide a status report at the next Public Safety Commission meeting.

Commissioner Wright asked if the City's sanctuary city status impacted the number of homeless. Lt. Royal stated the sanctuary city process is an immigration issue. He stated it only affected the Sheriff's Department at the jails and was irrelevant to deputies in the field. He stated there is no way to measure unintended consequences, such as an increase in homeless individuals coming to Malibu specifically due to the sanctuary city status.

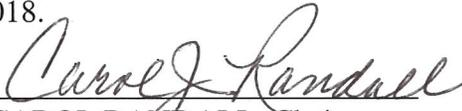
Vice Chair Frost commended the Homeless Advisory Group. He stated the meetings were run very well and all members were active participants. He stated he was very impressed with progress being made and further progress he expected in the future.

Chair Randall announced the next PCH Task Force meeting was scheduled next Wednesday, April 11, at the Malibu Library.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 7:10 p.m., Vice Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Hanson seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on May 2, 2018.

  
CAROL RANDALL, Chair

ATTEST:

  
MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant