

**MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL,
8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Warren.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
Commissioner Horvath led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Reminder to Speak Clearly Into Microphone and to Turn Off All Cellular Phones and Pagers

The Commissioners and public were reminded to speak clearly into their microphones to accommodate the public record tapes and the hearing-impaired.

C. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

David Eichman, Steven Greene, Lindsey Horvath, Scott Schmidt, Leon Shparaga, David Warren, Steve Wayland

Commissioners absent:

None

Staff present:

Melissa Antol, Long Range and Mobility Planning Manager

Oscar Delgado, Department of Public Works Director

Jackie Rocco, Parking Operations Manager

Don Norte, Parking Services Officer

Walter Davis, Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Specialist

Chris Corrao, Assistant Planner

Danny Casillas, Administrative Specialist III

- D. Approval of the Agenda of September 19, 2012, Transportation Commission meeting.

Motion: Eichman Second: Wayland
All ayes.

Motion passed.

- E. Approval of Minutes as amended:
Page 1: Correct Commissioner Shparaga's attendance.
Page 2: Determine if there were abstentions to motion.
Correct spelling of "towing".
Page 5: Change Commissioner Warren's comment to "asked if staff had concerns."
Page 6: Include failed motions and votes
Page 7: Clarify Commissioner Horvath's item.

Motion: Approve minutes, Commission meeting of August 15, 2012

Moved: Horvath Second: Green
All Ayes:

Motion passed.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

No items.

III. ITEMS FROM PUBLIC

Sam Borelli, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about disaster preparedness.
Donald Elmlad, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about red bagged meters for ZipCar.

Cathy Blaivas, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about Vista Street traffic.
Randall Derrick, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about proposed parking meter changes.

Stephanie Harker, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about the crosswalk at Gardner Street and Lexington Avenue and Vista Street traffic.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Cynthia Street / Larrabee Avenue permanent traffic circle.

Staff report from Walter Davis

Commissioner Eichman asked if there will be landscaping on the traffic circle.

Walter Davis said that there will be.

Commissioner Eichman asked if anything could be done about hedges on private property.

Walter Davis suggested that Code Enforcement could help with that.

Commissioner Horvath asked out of how many units came the 120 signatures.

Walter Davis replied that there are 300 units.

Commissioner Horvath asked if there was any public discussion on the proposed medians.

Walter Davis said that there were a few one on one discussions, but nothing organized.

Commissioner Wayland asked how the proposed medians came about.

Walter Davis explained.

Commissioner Schmidt asked if there was any monitoring of how much traffic was displaced onto Sunset Boulevard or Santa Monica Boulevard.

Walter Davis said that there was no monitoring of that since the goal is to keep traffic on arterial streets.

Steve LeGand, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke IN FAVOR of Staff report recommendations.

Richard Grossi, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke WITH CONCERNS REGARDING Staff report recommendations.

Ruth Murphy, LOS ANGELES, spoke AGAINST Staff report recommendations.

Commissioner Greene stated that there seems to be adequate community support for the project.

Commissioner Wayland asked if the traffic circle could be moved south.

Walter Davis said that the circle would be examined and adjusted.

Commissioner Wayland said that he is looking forward to the report on how concerns were addressed.

Commissioner Horvath thanked the members of the public and Staff. She asked if there is signage to explain the use of the traffic circle.

Walter Davis replied that Staff is looking at more signage and larger markings.

Commissioner Horvath suggested that staff be mindful of enforcement of parking regulations, specifically double parking. She asked how public safety organizations were notified of the traffic circle.

Walter Davis said that he had discussions with the Fire Department and Sheriff's Department and that they have input in the final design.

Commissioner Warren stated that, from his own experience, the traffic circle is effective. He asked if bike lanes could be used in place of the proposed medians.

Walter Davis replied that it would be considered.

Motion: Recommend that City Council approve installation of a permanent traffic circle at the Cynthia Street and Larrabee Avenue intersection.

Moved: Eichman Second: Wayland

All Ayes.

Motion passed

Motion: Recommend that City Council approve installation test medians on Larrabee Street between Cynthia Street and Sunset Boulevard for 9 months.

Moved: Eichman Second: Wayland

Ayes: 5
Noes: 2

Motion passed.

V. COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

A. Citywide Parking Meter Management Plan

Staff report from Don Norte and Mott Smith

Commissioner Eichman commented on expired parking meters being used by employees and asked how they would be affected.

Mott Smith explained the program's positive aspects for employees.

Commissioner Eichman asked about the different hours of enforcement across the city.

Mott Smith explained the reasoning.

Commissioner Eichman asked if it is easier to sell the idea of extended hour if the revenue goes back into the neighborhood.

Mott Smith that it helps, but it is really about managing the demand for parking.

Commissioner Greene asked if the current meters have the capability to change time limits throughout the day.

Jackie Rocco said that they do.

Commissioner Schmidt expressed concern for signage.

Mott Smith said that signage will be simplified as much as possible in each location.

Oscar Delgado added that the only real change would be the addition of Sunday hours.

Commissioner Schmidt asked why Sundays hours are different.

Mott Smith replied that there is less demand on Sundays.

Commissioner Schmidt asked if the new revenue could be considered a fee.

Oscar Delgado explained why it would not be considered a fee.

Commissioner Shparaga asked what the boundaries for the study were on Sunset Boulevard.

Mott Smith replied they boundaries went from Beverly Hills to San Vicente.

Sam Borelli, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke WITH CONCERNS REGARDING Staff report recommendations.

Donald Elmlad, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke AGAINST Staff report recommendations.

Stephanie Harker, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke AGAINST Staff report recommendations.

Cathy Blaivas, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke AGAINST Staff report recommendations.

Mary Ann McClintock, LOS ANGELES, spoke WITH CONCERNS REGARDING Staff report recommendations.

Commissioner Eichman asked how much the "M" Pass costs.

Oscar Delgado said it is about a dollar a day. He added that Staff is looking into the creation of more creative permits.

Commissioner Shparaga stated that, as a business owner and resident, he does not know where displaced people would go.

Mott Smith explained that the program is a way of keeping spaces open for intended users.

Commissioner Shparaga said that the meters are not needed after 6:00 PM.

Oscar Delgado used Bar Lubitsch and Winston's as examples of patron and employee parking.

Mott Smith further explained creating pockets of free parking.

Commissioner Shparaga responded that parking in his area is taken by fire department employees and transport vans with placards that do not move often.

Oscar Delgado said that there are spaces in the area that turn over.

Commissioner Shparaga said that they a very few.

Commissioner Schmidt reported that he spoke with business owners, employees, as well as residents, and no one was for the change in hours. He added that he feels that the assumptions of Staff are not in touch with the realities of West Hollywood. He asked that the employee program be separated from the extension of hours.

Commissioner Greene stated that he has seen a comparable program work on 3rd Street, but he doesn't think that the concept is fully formed. It seems that it is the wrong solution for multiple problems. He likes the idea for implementation where there is demand.

Commissioner Wayland stated that there are different needs for different areas of the city. He mentioned a bait & switch on the east side concerning wrap around meters that were supposed to be temporary but were made permanent. He feels the proposed plan makes sense for the west side.

Commissioner Eichman expressed concern for the impact on businesses and employees.

Commissioner Horvath thanked the public and Staff. She commented that the greater issue is the perception that available parking doesn't exist, although it does. The available parking should be identified to people. Show them where it is. She added that part of the perception of parking availability is confusion based on signage. The proposed changes should be more uniform and less imposing across the board to reduce confusion.

Commissioner Warren asked if residential permits can be used at parking meters.

Oscar Delgado said they cannot.

Commissioner Warren asked if the Director has the authority to create "M" permits and give residential parking permit holders access to meters.

Oscar Delgado said that he could include it in the resolution.

Commissioner Warren asked if the same studies were done throughout the city.

Oscar Delgado said that there was a cursory review done.

Commissioner Warren asked what percentage of the city has permit parking.

Oscar Delgado said that it was about 75%.

Commissioner Warren asked if the other 25% was eligible for an expedited permit parking process.

Oscar Delgado said that it is.

Commissioner Warren asked for a breakdown of the expected revenue impact.

Oscar Delgado gave a rough breakdown.

Commissioner Warren stated that it feels like the east side is less ready for change and asked if the process could be split. He asked how much expected revenue would be lost if the east side was implemented later.

Oscar Delgado had a graph to explain.

Commissioner Eichman asked for a review of what happened in 1997.

Oscar Delgado gave a history of the wrap around parking meters.

Commissioner Schmidt mentioned an attempted meter hour increase in 1997.

Oscar Delgado did not recall that instance.

Motion: Oppose Staff recommendation

Moved: Schmidt Second: Shparaga

Ayes: 3
Noes: 4

Motion fails.

Motion: Change the following sections of the resolution;

Section 2: throughout the city, parking meters will operate every day from 8:00AM to 8:00PM excluding holidays; excluding Sunset Boulevard.

Section 6: Change the maximum of 2 hours, instead of 4, excluding Sunset Boulevard.

Add a Section – Give the Director the Department of Public Works the authority to create “M” Permits after 6:00 PM.

Create a “Park WeHo” campaign to educate the public and community about parking opportunities.

Moved: Horvath Second: Eichman

Commissioner Greene stated that he doesn't feel that changing all of the hours to 8:00Am to 8:00PM solves the problems for either side of the city.

Commissioner Horvath explained her thinking.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: Table item and direct staff to do more outreach to businesses and residents.

Moved: Eichman Second: Wayland

Ayes: Eichman, Greene, Horvath, Shparaga, Wayland
Noes: Schmidt, Warren

Motion passed.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Wayland gave a summary of the September 19, 2012 Pedestrian and Bicycle Subcommittee meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

No items.

VIII. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR: Items removed from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion are considered at this time.

IX. LIAISON REPORT

No report.

X. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. Avenues Update

Report from Chris Corrao

Commissioner Schmidt suggested staff consider reserving space for a bike share program.

Commissioner Greene asked about the funding status.

Chris Corrao replied that there is funding for planning, but not for building the project, yet. Staff is applying for grants in the upcoming Call for Projects.

Commissioner Horvath asked what are the impacts of widening the road.

Chris Corrao said that it would mostly be improvements, namely congestion eased at the Pacific Design Center.

Commissioner Horvath asked impacts on car traffic getting to businesses.

Chris Corrao studies show businesses would be more accessible and the area more appealing.

Commissioner Eichman mentioned a Community Outreach event on October 13, 2012.

Chris Corrao described the event.

Commissioner Eichman mentioned an issue with signage preferences at the gateway.

Commissioner Warren expressed concerns about intentionally reducing traffic capacity.

Chris Corrao explained how the segments are prioritized.

Melissa Antol

- LRMP Work plan at City Council

Danny Casillas

- Distribution of draft City Council minutes

XI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION

Warren

- November Transportation Commission meeting

XII. ITEMS FROM PUBLIC

No items

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

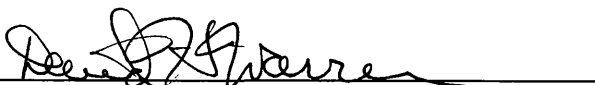
Action: The Transportation Commission adjourned at 9:47 p.m. until the next meeting on October 17, 2012, 7:00 p.m., at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA. 90069

Moved: Second:

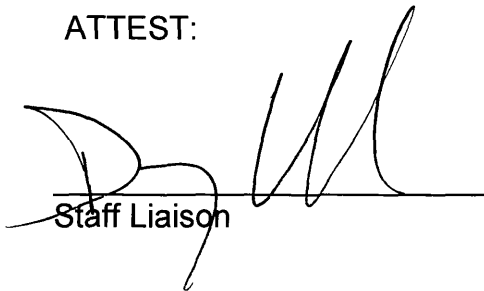
All ayes.

Motion passed.

APPROVED BY MOTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION THIS
24TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2012.


Chair

ATTEST:



Staff Liaison