

**MINUTES
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BOARD**

7:00 PM

Thursday

June 16, 2011

Vice-Chairperson Leppanen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Chiara, Leppanen, Reynolds, McGowan, DeCorte (ex-officio), Schulz
(ex-officio)

ABSENT: None

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Chiara, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2011. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Drake Road – “Hidden Driveway” Sign

The board has reviewed the request in detail. The sight line and vehicle speed on Drake Road does not support the need to place a “Hidden Driveway” sign at this time. In addition, there is no history of accidents at this location.

Mr. Chiara made a motion that the request be denied and was seconded by Mr. Reynolds. The motion carried.

B. Fleming and Freedom Road Stop Sign Location

The board has reviewed the complaint received in the city manager’s office. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) was reviewed for guidance as to the proper location. The MUTCD states the sign should be no farther than 50’ from the road edge. If the sign was moved to 50’, it would only be 2’ before the sidewalk/unmarked crosswalk. The MUTCD states a stop sign should be at least 4” from the sidewalk, therefore it would be too far from the road edge.

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Driver's approaching this crosswalk have a clear view of pedestrians at or near the crosswalk. Again, there is no history of accidents or complaints about the current stop sign location.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion that the stop sign location not be changed, seconded by Chiara. The motion carried.

C. State Street and Farmington Road – “No Left Turn”

The board was advised of the city council's concern that prohibiting left turns would cause problems for residents and visitors trying to go north on Farmington Road.

The board noted that two alternate routes exist. Drivers can go south to Alta Loma and Farmington Road and turn left at the traffic light or take Liberty Street to Oakland and then left at Farmington Road. In addition, the director will be video taping the intersection to get a count on the number of vehicles turning left and the time. Mr. DeCorte will also be reviewing counts from OHM and accident data. The information will be forwarded to city council.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Downtown Pedestrian/Driveway Crossing

The board discussed an email received by the director that was sent by Director Knowles of the DDA. The email asked about placing mirrors on buildings as a safety factor for sidewalk/driveway crossings in downtown. The board found that the mirrors would have to be convex and the view would be distorted. In addition, drivers and pedestrians should be looking where they are going and not up at a mirror.

Mr. Chiara made a motion to not support the placement of mirrors, seconded by Mr. Leppanen. The motion carried.

B. Alta Loma and Gill Road Possible Vision Obstruction

This situation was reviewed and at this time no formal action will be taken by the board. The director will speak with the homeowner about trimming the tree.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Chiara commented that he observed several near accidents during Art on the Grand at Grand River and Farmington Road. Eastbound vehicles would turn right at the last minute from the through lane as the intersection is posted “No Left Turn.” As a result, next year the “No Left Turn” sign will be covered or the through lane coned off forcing vehicles into the right turn lane.

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Mr. DeCorte informed the board that there will be valet parking on the north side of Grand River on Friday and Saturday's from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. This is a four week trial period.

In addition, there is discussion to add parking on Oakland Street between Grand River and Farmington Road. The plan is to look at removing the "No Parking" signs on the south side from Grand River to the west edge of the Masonic Lodge parking lot. Also, there is talk about moving the parking on the west side of Liberty Street from Grand River to State Street to the east side. During a brief discussion, there were no immediate concerns with these plans.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Leppanen and seconded by Chiara to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting concluded at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Schulz
Public Safety Director