

LA JOLLA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Regular Meeting: November 15, 2017

Members Present: Dave Abrams (Chairperson) LJCPA, Tom Brady LJCPA, Donna Aprea LJTC, Nancy Warwick LJTC, Brian Earley LJSA, Darryl Tschirn LJSA, Corey Bailey LJVMA, Aaron Goulding LJVMA, Erik Gantzel BRCC, Patrick Ryan BRCC

Members Absent: None

Approve Minutes of August 16, 2017 Motion to Approve: Brady, Second: Earley 9-0-1 (Warwick)

Public Comments on Non-Agenda La Jolla Traffic and Transportation Matters:

Dave announced that due to a lack of agenda items and the upcoming holidays there will be no LJT&T Meeting scheduled for December. The next LJT&T Meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2018.

No further public comments

Agenda Item 1: Speed Lumps on Draper Avenue between Westbourne and Genter Streets:

Resident request for City installation of six speed lumps to deter speeding. (Andrea Russell)

Action Item

Dave provided some background history. Ms. Russell appeared at the June 21, 2017 Traffic and Transportation meeting with a 4-way stop sign request per Council Policy 200-08. The proposed intersection of Draper Avenue and Arenas Street failed the necessary warrants to qualify for a 4-way stop sign and Ms. Russell appealed to the LJT&T Board utilizing Council Policy 200-08. The Board voted not to approve the stop sign:

Agenda Item 3: Stop Sign request per Council Policy 200-08. Motion: that lacking supportive information to warrant a four-way stop sign installation at Draper Ave and Arenas Street intersection, but recognizing a speeding problem on Draper, we request the City investigate and implement traffic calming measures at this location: Warwick, Second: Earley 6-0-1 (Tschirn).

Ms. Russell took the results of our Motion back to the City and the City Traffic Engineer she spoke to evaluated Draper Ave for traffic calming measures and recommended six speed lumps for Draper Ave between Westbourne and Genter Streets. Oscar Cortes, City Traffic Engineering, produced a conceptual placement design of the six speed lumps which was approved by the Fire Department. Ms. Russell was asked to circulate a petition showing 75% support for the speed lumps from the affected properties adjacent to and facing Draper Ave from Westbourne to Genter Streets. She reported that neighbors along Draper between Westbourne and Genter Streets were happy to sign her Petition and excited that something was finally going to be done to calm the traffic down. Several neighbors had told her that they tried to get something done

in the past but were not successful and she was easily able to secure the 75% that was needed to show support for the speed lumps. The City verified the signatures on her Petitions. She mentioned that the City had put the Speed Lumps in the Budget so it is funded but the City has not yet approved the Budget.

Dave responded that the City Fiscal Year begins July 1 and asked Mauricio Medina (District 1 Council Representative Barbara Bry) if the speed lumps would be in the current budget or the next Budget. Mauricio does not know the individual department budgets so is uncertain when the speed lumps will be funded; neither does Ms. Russell who explained this was something that a City staff member mentioned to her. Mauricio will look into it and follow up with the Board.

Erik asked if they were the traditional short speed bumps or were they the spread out wide speed humps that will be used. Ms. Russell replied that the City was referring to them as speed lumps. Speed Lumps have grooves cut that are designed to accommodate the wheels of a fire engine.

Darryl asked Ms. Russell if there was any opposition anywhere on the affected streets that were opposed to the speed lumps and Ms. Russell replied that she had not spoken to anyone who was opposed to them. Darryl asked her what percentage of the people did she speak to and Ms. Russell responded it must have been 75% because the City verified it.

Tom asked if the City verified that 75% of the property owners approved the speed lumps because on the Petitions sent to the Board several pages had duplications. Ms. Russell explained that she did not want to disturb neighbors by banging on their doors at 6:00 pm so she left packets at their doors. These packets contained a cover letter she wrote, the conceptual design map, the engineering proposal, and the Petition and asked them to drop it off to her if they wanted to show support. Residents ended up emailing them to her as well as dropping them off which resulted in duplicate pages. Tom noted that her Name is on 3 pages and Ms. Russell said she signed the Petition as an example to show how it is done but although her Name is on three pages she was only counted as one vote.

Dave received notification from City Staff that they verified the Petitions and the Fire Department had approved the six speed lumps.

Sharon Province is here to show support for the speed lumps. She lives on Arenas Street and spoke to the difficulty of exiting Arenas via the alley way. Cars are parked on both sides of the street and drivers are racing down that street. Arenas Street residents exit the alley way very tentatively because of the blocked views from parked cars and the racing vehicles, any measures to slow the traffic down on Draper would be very useful to them as well.

No further public comments.

Motion to Approve Six Speed Lumps on Draper Avenue between Westbourne and Genter Streets: Gantzel, Second: Ryan 10-0-0

**Agenda Item 2: Pedestrian Crossing Controls on La Jolla Mesa at Skylark Drive: Resident request for City Installation of Controls to assist pedestrians in safe crossing (Antonio Sacido)
Action Item**

Dave provided some background history referring to a prior request from another Resident on La Jolla Mesa Drive for a 4-way stop sign that did not meet City criteria for a Stop Sign. That presentation was heard at the September 21, 2016 LJ&T Meeting:

Agenda Item 6: Creation of All-way Stop at La Jolla Mesa Blvd/ Skylark Drive Intersection. Request for support by La Jolla Mesa Vista Home Owners Assn. (Steve Johnston) Action Item In order to get a Stop Sign established the City has a checklist of features and characteristics for the intersection and traffic engineers assign points, called warrants, to these various characteristics. An Intersection needs 20 points to warrant a Stop Sign. The intersection at La Jolla Mesa Blvd and Skylark Drive warranted just 9 points, far short of the 20 points they needed for their stop sign. They are appealing for help from LJ&T. Their goal is to have the Board recommend that the City install the stop sign. The City has already denied the sign but they believe with LJ&T recommendation they can have the District 1 office (Councilwoman Sherri Lightner) formally request the installation of the stop sign due to extenuating circumstances.

Motion to deny creation of an all-way stop at the intersection of La Jolla Mesa Blvd. and Skylark Drive. City evaluation yields only 9 of the minimum-required 20 warrant points is indicative that an all-way stop is not appropriate for this location. Suggestion is made that the requesting homeowners association pursue a controlled pedestrian crossing at the intersection: Brady, Second: Earley 8-1-0 (Warwick)

Mr. Sacido is now formally requesting installation of pedestrian crossing controls at the intersection of La Jolla Mesa Blvd and Skylark Drive. La Jolla Mesa Blvd continues to be a dangerous street to cross. The boulevard is very wide, cars are very fast, and there is just one sidewalk on the west side. There are no sidewalks on the east side. Residents on the east side of the boulevard must run very fast across the street to the sidewalk on the west side with drivers travelling over 40 mph on both sides of the street. His family crosses that street every day and something needs to be done. He submitted multiple pages of accident reports documenting the hazardous conditions and noted that Residents of his HOA appeared before the Board in 2016 to discuss slowing the traffic down.

Dave spoke to Gary Pence, City Traffic Engineer, who started an evaluation of the Street but wanted input from our Group.

Brian and Patrick noted that LJ&T voted to approve a Traffic Circle at La Jolla Mesa Blvd and Cottontail Lane. That presentation was heard at the March 15, 2017 Meeting:

*Agenda item 3: Stacy Canan, a resident of La Jolla Mesa Drive, first appeared before LJ&T at the August 17 2016 Board Meeting to discuss the heavy speeding on La Jolla Mesa Drive. Residents on the Street held a Neighborhood Association Meeting and between 12-15 people attended to discuss the traffic conditions. The speed of traffic has never abated despite the fact that the City installed a Stop Sign at La Jolla Scenic South and there was a fatality at the end of La Jolla Mesa Drive by Turquoise St. Neighbors were all in agreement that something had to be done to calm the traffic down and a roundabout was discussed for the intersection of La Jolla Mesa Drive and Cottontail Lane. At the Meeting Dave had advised Ms. Canan that he would notify Gary Pence about the traffic conditions at La Jolla Mesa Drive and explained that City Staff will do some investigative work to determine what will calm the traffic down. Ms. Canan received an email from Noor Paulos with the results of that evaluation:
We have evaluated your request for a traffic circle at La Jolla Mesa Drive & Cottontail Lane intersection. After ordering the necessary studies and a field investigation, we recommend installing a traffic circle at this intersection. We have a conceptual design of the traffic circle and we are currently working with the Fire Department on obtaining their approval. In order for us to proceed with the installation, we need you to circulate the petition to have the affected resident's signatures approving the installation. Motion to Approve the installation of a Roundabout on Cottontail Lane at La Jolla Mesa Drive: Brady, Second: Gantzel 7-0-0*

The board has no updated information on the status of the roundabout for Cottontail but it would change the dynamics of La Jolla Mesa Drive if it is installed. Patrick noted that there was a lot of work done near the end of La Jolla Mesa at Van Nuys Street to choke the traffic down and there is a potential roundabout that may be installed several blocks up on Cottontail; adding a striped crosswalk the next block over from Cottontail at Skylark may cause additional problems. Dave advised that Gary Pence is evaluating the traffic conditions.

Tom mentioned that Torrey Pines Rd is also a high speed road and a Hawk Beacon Light (High Intensity Activated Crosswalk) hung on a mast arm over the Street will be installed as part of a Torrey Pines Road Renovation project. (Pedestrians will be able to press a button and lights will switch from yellow to red to stop the traffic so pedestrians can cross the Road. The beacon light will then switch back to green). Tom believes this may be a good option for La Jolla Mesa at Skylark Drive. Mr. Sacido responded that the intersection failed to meet the criteria for a stop sign.

A gentleman sitting in the audience is here to support the pedestrian crossing controls. He lives on Skylark Drive and he told the Board that exiting Skylark and making a U Turn to head North on La Jolla Mesa is dicey. Residents exiting Skylark and turning left have to make that turn very

fast. Something really has to be done because it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

Tom made a Motion to approve and encourage the City to complete its study for the pedestrian safety crossing at the intersection of La Jolla Mesa and Skylark. Erik seconded it.

Patrick requested an amendment to delete the word 'approve'.

Motion to encourage the City to complete their evaluation study regarding pedestrian crossing controls at the intersection of La Jolla Mesa and Skylark Drive: Brady, Second: Gantzel 10-0-0

Brian asked about the fate of the traffic circle at Cottontail. The Fire Department may have vetoed it due to inability of fire trucks to negotiate the circle safely. Dave will follow up with Gary Pence.

Agenda Item 3: 2-Hour Parking Restriction for East Side of 5500 Block of La Jolla Blvd. Business Owner request (Antonio Sacido) Action Item

The block of 5509 to 5575 La Jolla Blvd has rarely any parking spaces open. For some reason this block doesn't have the two hour limit parking restriction the other side of the street has and most blocks of La Jolla Blvd in Birdrock have a parking restriction. The lack of parking is caused by the cars being serviced at La Jolla BMW Independent, since they park them in the street for days at a time. As a business owner in this block, Mr. Sacido would like to propose a 2 hour parking limit to make his stretch of La Jolla Boulevard homogeneous with the rest of the Boulevard.

Dave drove around the area and noted that most of the area surrounding the 5500 block have a 2 hour parking restriction although some restrictions extend from 8:00am-6:00pm and others extend from 10:00am-6:00pm.

Mr. Sacido describes the various color curbs on his block; a handicapped parking space, two white 3 minute loading zone, a yellow commercial parking space and five unrestricted parking spaces that are always occupied by Independent BMW cars. It seems no one else can park in those spaces. Mr. Sacido's tenants asked him if he could do something about it.

Nancy asked him if he was interested in an 8:00am -6:00pm or a 10:00am-6:00pm restriction and he has no preference. Patrick asked about Independent BMW Inc. They have a large lot they should be able to fit 4 more cars in their parking lot. Mr. Sacido says their cars are sometimes tagged with parking warnings for being left on the street for long periods of time. Dave contacted and invited Carl Nelson, Owner of La Jolla Independent, to speak on the issue but he was non-committal and is not at the Meeting.

Nancy inquired about the City requiring a Petition to change time limits. Dave has to look into a Petition for changing unrestricted parking spaces to restricted parking. Patrick believes Mr. Sacido should start with asking to change the two 3 minute loading zones over to two hour restricted parking since the 3 minute parking is not currently affecting anyone and this is something the Board could Vote on now. Dave prefers to wait for more information on what may or may not be going on with the affected business entities.

Mr. Sacido asked if the business owners have a say with parking on the street or is that decision made more by the City. Dave responded that it is a combination of things. Usually businesses are supposed to provide parking offsite but if it's not possible then there are compromises.

Nancy notes that we can convert the parking spaces next to Mr. Sacido's location and if and when the site is ever rented the owners can request the parking restriction be changed.

Tom does not want to set the precedence of converting parking spaces without petitioning the property owners. He would feel more comfortable if the Board has a Petition to convert the whole east side of the 5500 block. The City will act on a Petition. Nancy responds that the Petitions are more for the business owners who represent the property owners. It would be so time consuming to try locating the property owners.

Dave is going to contact the City for advice on how the Board should pursue this issue. It may require a Petition and the Board will try to minimize any frustration Mr. Sacido may have with the petitioning process. The Board does not want to trample on others people rights and take away parking spaces where someone legitimately wants to have them. Nancy comments that the petition area is not a large area and should not be time consuming perhaps just taking an hour.

Mr. Sacido expresses some disappointment with the unfinished business of La Jolla Mesa and Skylark Dr as well as the parking spaces on La Jolla Boulevard. His work on these issues have been time consuming and there has been no resolutions. When he started the process with La Jolla Mesa and Skylark Dr his son was a newborn, now his son is six years old and nothing has been accomplished. He doesn't understand why his block of La Jolla Boulevard is considered an exception he is just trying to make it uniform with the rest of the Boulevard but he will wait for communication from Dave and then move forward.

Agenda Item is Continued.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm
Next Meeting will be January 17, 2018

Respectfully Submitted: Donna Aprea, Secretary