

LA JOLLA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Regular Meeting, March 18, 2026

The Riford Library

7555 Draper Ave La Jolla, CA

Members Present:

Erik Gantzel (Chair), BRCC

Bill Podway, LJVMA

Dave Abrams, LJCPA

John Bauer, LJTC

Tom Brady, LJCPA

Ross Rudolph, LJSA

Mary Soriano LJTC

Mike McCormick, LJSA

Members Absent:

Patrick Ryan, BRCC (excused)

Jason Peasley, LJVMA (excused)

Approve February 2026 Minutes:

Motion to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes as distributed by the chair.

First: Dave Abrams

Second: Tom Brady

Vote: 7-0 (Mike McCormack not present)

Opposed: NA

Chairperson's Report:

Motorcycle Parking Spots in La Jolla: The City is reviewing motorcycle parking locations in downtown La Jolla. A local business raised a concern that a dedicated motorcycle spot in front of their storefront creates a disruption, as motorcyclists often idle for extended periods while gearing up — helmets, gloves, etc. — generating significant noise. The business requested the spot be relocated. The chair conducted a survey and identified approximately 14–15 dedicated motorcycle spots in the downtown La Jolla area. Motorcycles may legally park in any standard vehicle space in addition to dedicated spots. The outcome of the relocation request is pending.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items):

COMMENT 1: Kristen Churchill & Steve Jackson – Coast Walk: Unauthorized Private Ownership Signage

The Issue

Kristen Churchill, a resident of Coast Walk (1595 Coast Walk), brought to the board's attention that several signs have been installed along the Coast Walk trail and embedded in the asphalt of the roadway bearing language such as "right to pass by permission and subject to control of owners" with citations to civil code sections. These signs were not approved by the City of San Diego. A developer who controls six parcels on Coast Walk through multiple LLCs is believed to be responsible.

Nature of the Concern

The signs give the misleading impression that what is a publicly accessible right-of-way is accessible only by permission of a private owner. Residents are concerned this is an incremental effort to assert private control over the street and bluff. Specific concerns raised included:

- Signs are posted along the coastal trail which residents and Brenda (La Jolla Coastal Conservancy) consider particularly inappropriate.
- The developer has an active civil lawsuit against the City of San Diego asserting ownership of the road and bluff, all the way down to the high tide line.
- The developer is also pursuing a building permit (currently on appeal) that proposes to use a narrow Coast Walk driveway adjacent to Torrey Pines Road as the sole access to a new property.
- The signs were first installed approximately one year ago; additional signs have been placed more recently.
- All Coast Walk residents — with the exception of the developer — oppose the signs.
- No emergency vehicle or fire-safe access plan exists for the street, which is as narrow as 12–13 feet in sections.
- Promised directional signage (informing drivers that Coast Walk is a dead end, not a through route to the Cove) has not been installed despite being requested four months ago.

Board Discussion

Board members asked what specific action the resident wanted from the board. The primary requests were: (1) recommend removal of the unauthorized signs and embedded plaques; and (2) address the broader public access and fire safety issues on Coast Walk. A board member noted the cleverness of the signs — they contain a genuine public safety message (stay away from the bluff edge) combined with the misleading ownership language, making them harder to simply dismiss. Another suggested the board could request only the ownership/permission language be removed while leaving the safety messaging. The chair noted that the ownership dispute itself is in litigation. It was suggested that the board request a legal/educational brief on the issue before taking formal action, and that Coast Walk be placed on a future agenda. Board member Dave Abrams asked the presenter to be specific about what action the board was being asked to take.

Outcome

No formal motion was made at this meeting. The chair indicated the topic — specifically the public access and signage issues on Coast Walk — may be placed on a future agenda. A

request was also made by another resident (not Kristen) to add to a future agenda the question of a vehicle turnaround on Coast Walk, referencing an existing city design that had been developed but lost funding.

COMMENT 2: Brenda Fake – La Jolla Coastal Conservancy Annual Weed Pull

Brenda announced the Conservancy's annual coastal weed-pulling event scheduled for April 18. The event is open to the public and aims to remove approximately 5 tons of invasive vegetation from the high-fire-risk coastal zone. Sponsors include Ironclad (gloves), The Cottage (coffee and coffee cake), and local businesses (donuts). A goal of 75 volunteers has been set. Participants can register via a QR code sign-up system. Brenda emphasized the importance of the event given the area's high fire zone designation, particularly in the wake of the Pacific Palisades fires.

COMMENT 3: Mike McCormack – Speed Enforcement

Background

Mike provided an update on two state legislative tools relevant to the board's ongoing speed enforcement discussions:

- AB 43: Authorizes cities to reduce speed limits to 20 mph (and in some cases 15 mph) on qualifying streets, particularly in pedestrian-heavy and residential areas.
- AB 645: A pilot speed safety camera program that assesses an automated toll (not a moving violation or insurance-affecting ticket) to registered vehicle owners whose vehicles exceed the speed limit by more than 10 mph in designated corridors. Tolls are charged to the vehicle's registration, not the driver's record. Mike stated that San Diego is the only major California city that did not opt into the AB 645 pilot program.

Council President / Enforcement Gap

Mike reported attending a town hall hosted by Council Member Joe LaCava, during which Mike raised AB 645. LaCava was reportedly unfamiliar with the bill. Joaquin (a city representative) confirmed the barriers to implementation: a new privacy compliance policy is required under the Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology (TRUST) ordinance; funding for camera installation is needed; staff availability is constrained; and there would need to be public support for both the tolls and the surveillance technology. Mike noted that despite widespread speed reduction goals, enforcement has effectively declined since COVID, with speeds in some areas reportedly reaching 70 mph.

Board Discussion

Board members strongly seconded Mike's concern. One board member called for the board to formally write to the City Attorney, City Council President, and the Mayor to advocate for AB 645 adoption and enforcement. The board discussed the irony of reducing speed limits without enforcement capacity and agreed that camera-based tolling — specifically because it avoids insurance penalties and court processes — offers a more practical enforcement path. It was noted that AB 645 and the Flock camera system discussed at the February meeting are separate programs: Flock cameras are used for criminal investigation, while AB 645 cameras are strictly for speed management. A board member suggested this item be placed on a future agenda with a letter-writing action item.

Action Item – Agenda Item 1: Challenge Athletes Foundation Triathlon – Street Closures and No-Parking

Request for approval of street closures and no-parking zones for the annual Challenge Athletes Foundation (CAF) triathlon event.

Requestor: Jess Hill

Event Overview

The Challenge Athletes Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that hosts an annual triathlon at La Jolla Cove. The event supports athletes with physical challenges. The 2026 event runs Friday, October 23 through Sunday, October 25, with the main race on Sunday, October 25. Last year's event was successful despite a last-minute swim cancellation due to unsafe wave conditions; swim participants pivoted to a 5K run instead.

Event Schedule

- Friday, October 23: Vendor load-in — 10 reserved parking spots in front of Scripps Park (overnight Friday and Saturday)
- Saturday, October 24: Vendor load-in continues — same 10 parking spots; no road closures
- Sunday, October 25 (Race Day): Full no-parking and street closure on Coast Boulevard from Prospect Street to Girard Avenue; half-lane closure on Torrey Pines Road (southbound only)

New This Year: 5K Run Option and Associated Closure

To address the risk of a repeat swim cancellation, organizers are offering a simultaneous 5K run as an alternative to the swim at 8 AM (in addition to the existing bike and 8-mile run). The 5K run route travels along Coast Boulevard. Due to the street being too narrow to safely accommodate two-way participant traffic in one lane, organizers are requesting a small additional road closure on Coast Boulevard between the Casa de Mañana retirement home and the firehouse (near the junction of Coast Boulevard and Coast Boulevard South). The northbound lane on the rest of the route remains open to traffic.

The route consists of a loop: participants go down Coast Boulevard to the turnaround at the far end of Scripps Park and repeat once, finishing at the finish line near Scripps Park. SDPD Officer Perry reviewed the route and confirmed it can be managed safely with appropriate communication to Casa de Mañana and fire lane access maintained.

Guardrail Project Interaction

Pulbic raised the issue of the Torrey Pines Road guardrail project, which is expected to kick off between July and September 2026 (Q3). She noted that even when workers are not on-site, construction signage will remain in place, reducing lane availability and eliminating the extra turn lane in the Coast Walk area. They advised the race organizers to contact the project team (CIP) immediately once a contractor is selected to coordinate signage and lane access for the race weekend. No contractor has been selected yet; the project is fully funded and the bid is active.

Vote

First: Ross Rudolph

Second: Bill Podway

Vote: 8-0 in favor of requested street closures and no-parking zones.

Action Item – Agenda Item 2: La Jolla Kiwanis Half Marathon – Street Closures and No-Parking

Request for approval of street closures and no-parking zones for the annual La Jolla Half Marathon.

Requestor: Bart Palame

Event Overview

The La Jolla Half Marathon is a 501(c)(3) community fundraising event that has run for over 40 years. Proceeds benefit La Jolla area schools and community organizations. The Kiwanis Club distributed approximately \$100,000 in grants to local schools at recent meetings, and the event is expected to gross \$1–1.1 million, with \$400,000–\$500,000 available for charitable giving after costs — up significantly from approximately \$200,000 pre-pandemic. The 2026 event dates are Thursday, May 14 through Saturday, May 16.

Event Schedule

- Thursday, May 14: Exhibitor setup at La Jolla Cove / Scripps Park area
- Friday, May 15: Race expo (bib and swag bag pickup) — 9 AM to 7 PM
- Saturday, May 16 (Race Day): 6:30 AM start for all three races; course estimated clear by 10:30 AM.

Changes from Prior Years

The primary addition is a new 10K race. The 10K uses the existing half-marathon course — positioned after the Torrey Pines hill — and starts from a staging area on a short spur off Torrey Pines Road near the National University starting line. This allows runners to skip the hill through Torrey Pines Park (a key marketing point). Approximately 800 runners are pre-registered for the 10K. No new road closures are required; the 10K uses the existing course infrastructure. Total expected participation is approximately 10,000 runners (up from 8,600 in 2025). No other material changes to road closures, parking impacts, or course routing. Minor adjustments were made to the Del Mar Fairgrounds bus turnaround section only.

Safety Notes

The race director acknowledged a fatality at a separate running event in January 2026 and noted a plan to increase water stations given potential warm weather. The race operates with a full ambulance, sag wagons, and caboose crew behind the final runner. No runner is left unaccounted for. The race director noted the course has not changed in 40 years and indicated he may move the start time to 6:00 AM in future years to reduce morning village congestion.

Guardrail Project Note

The race director noted awareness of the Torrey Pines Road guardrail project (Q3 2026 start) and indicated he monitors the course weekly. As the project currently has no selected contractor or confirmed start date, no conflicts are anticipated for the May event.

Vote

First: Dave Abrams

Second: Bill Podway

Vote: 8-0 in favor of requested street closures and no-parking zones.

Action Item – Agenda Item 3: La Jolla Shores Association – Tides of Creativity Art Event

Request for approval of a temporary street closure and no-parking zone for the second annual Tides of Creativity arts and culture event.

Requestor: Janie Emerson

Event Overview

Tides of Creativity is an annual arts and culture street festival hosted by the La Jolla Shores Association as part of its 60th anniversary celebrations. The event is in its second year. It features art displays, activities for children, food, and community vendors. Last year's event — including a bouncy house and popcorn machine — was well received with no significant traffic disruptions reported.

Event Details

- Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 (scheduled to avoid conflict with the La Jolla Half Marathon on May 16)
- Event hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Setup: 7:30 AM
- Street closure: 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Closure Area

The event wraps around Laureate Park on Avenida de la Playa in La Jolla Shores, one block east of the pedestrian promenade. The parking closure is limited to 6–8 angled parking spaces on the west side of Laureate Park. Vehicle access to adjacent businesses is maintained via parallel named streets that run north and south of Avenue de la Playa. Parking structure entrances remain outside the closure zone. A handicap parking space is retained at the far east end of the closure area; one space near the west end is displaced.

Public Access and Traffic Impact

The event organizer reported that last year's event caused no observable traffic disruption — vehicles had full access via the parallel service streets on both sides of Avenue de la Playa, which is an unusual feature of this section of La Jolla Shores. The kayak shop at the corner loads and unloads from behind the building and is not affected. Police and lifeguard attendance is included in the event plan.

Vote

First: Ross Rudolph

Second: Tom Brady

Vote: 8-0 in favor of the requested street closure and no-parking zone.

Other Business

White Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival: The representative for the White Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival was unable to attend this meeting. This item will be carried forward to the April 2026 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at: 5:00 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2026 — Same location, same time

Respectfully submitted: John Bauer