

LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

West LA Community Police Station

Roll Call Room

July 14, 2009

8:30am-10: 30am

Attendees

Robert A. Ringler, Chairman, President, Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Captain Nancy Lauer, LAPD WTD
Officer Mike Toth, LAPD WTD
Officer Chris Smythe, LAPD WTD
Lt. Sylvia Vasquez, LADOT WST
Sgt. Berdena Garrett, LADOT WST
Jim Horwitz, CD 11
Jay Greenstein, CD 5
Hilary Norton, FAST
Jay Handel, WLNC
Emile Levisetti, Santa Monica Civic Association
Debbie Nussbaum, WHPOA
Pauline Chan, LADOT
Annette Mercer, WNC
Walter Kaufman, WWHO
Allyn Rifkin, RTPG
Richard Cohen, Pacific Palisades Community Council
Steve Twining, RVA, BABCNC
Barbara Broide, WSSM, WNC
Nickie Miner, Benedict Canyon Association, BABCNC
Ernie Frankel, Mountaingate
Stan Arcader, Cheviot Hills
Thurston Reese, County Highway Safety Committee
Patricia Bell Hearst
David Espinoza, Transcribing Secretary, Executive Director BABCNC

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Robert A. Ringler at 8:50 a.m.

Item I – Introductions of Guests

Chair Robert A. Ringler welcomed the committee members and commented that the meeting was being audio taped.

Item II – Approval of April 14th Minutes

Motion to approve minutes. Ernie Frankel made motion. Steve Twining seconded. Motion approved.

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Item III – West Los Angeles Area Commanding Officer, Van Nathan

No report.

Item IV – West Los Angeles Area Patrol Captain, Capt. Ruben De La Torre, Sr.

Captain De La Torre commented on the recent power outage on Wednesday. He stated LADWP advised the outage could last from about 15 minutes to 15 hours. He began to prepare for the 15 hour outage calling resources to plan traffic support and other issues. The preparation for such an extensive outage should be considered by everyone.

Jay Handel asked how fast LADOT could respond to power outages to assist with directing traffic. Lt. Sylvia Vasquez stated it depends on the situation and the location of traffic officers. On the day of the outage, most of the officers were responding to the Getty Fire.

Chair Ringler stated there was discussion in the past to create an afterhour's team that would be deployed from West LA to assist in traffic control in a similar situation and should be considered as a possible resource.

Jim Horwitz asked if UCLA or other larger institutions can contact LAPD if they have an outage that could translate to a complete outage in the area. Chair Ringler stated it is hard to foresee an outage on the grids with blown transformers.

Item V – West Traffic Division Commanding Officer, Capitan Nancy Lauer

Captain Lauer acknowledged LADOT's staff and working with West Traffic Division in the recent activity.

She reported on an accident at Beverly Glen and Quito and the response time for LAPD, LAFD and LADOT. The call to 911 for the accident was received at 10:02 pm, a unit was dispatched at 10:04 pm and the unit at the scene was 10:20 pm. A community member originally reported a greater response time and suggested working with the Valley Division to respond to accidents in the hillsides. She stated West LA Division would investigate working with the Valley Division for such situations.

Ernie Frankel commented on the timely response time of West LA and thanked the Captain for their efforts.

Annette Mercer asked if GPS devices were used by LAPD. Chair Ringler stated they are not used due to budget issues.

Steve Twining asked if they would be used if donated. Captain Lauer stated they officers may use them if they had them in their vehicle. Officer Smyth stated several officers do use their own personal devices.

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Ernie Frankel asked how many would be needed. Captain Lauer stated a system would be needed to have the officers check them in and out of the station, so other officers could use them as well. She stated three or four would be sufficient to start with.

Captain Lauer stated the office is in dire need of new carpet and stated if anyone knew of a company that would be willing to donate the carpet, to please let her know.

Barbara Broide asked if she had the square footage of the area. Captain Lauer stated she had the dimensions and could give the information to whoever needs it.

Chair Ringler stated to contact him if anyone has or know someone who will donate carpet.

Captain Lauer stated if notice was given that several traffic lights would be out, a plan would be placed to deploy traffic officers with coordination with LADOT.

Ernie Frankel commented on the lack of communication during emergency situations and Montaingate is working with agencies to inform them of the procedures the community already has in place.

Captain Lauer stated total traffic collisions in West LA are down with traffic accidents with serious injuries down 14%, drunk driving accidents down 28%, hit and run accidents down 7% and pedestrians accidents down 24 %. There have been a total of 6 fatal accidents in the area.

Barbara Broide asked if bicycle accidents are tracked. Captain Lauer stated the reported accidents with serious injuries have involved 3 bicycles this year.

Nickie Miner asked about violations involving turns from the wrong lane. Officer Smyth stated those violations occur when drivers are inattentive.

Item VI – Police Department Reports

A. West L.A. Division – Officer Ward

Officer Smyth reported on his attendance a PCH Task Force meeting. Fatal accidents along the PCH are down this year, with one reported. There has been enforcement in the area to reduce fatalities.

He stated he the California Incline was addressed and his concern with what the City of Santa Monica and CalTrans with the Santa Monica Canyon that will be used as detour. As of now, this issue has not been addressed.

B. West Traffic Division – Sergeant Chris Kunz, et al

Officer Toth reported on traffic on the Canyon Roads. He stated Roscomare Rd has been reported having stop signs violations and speeding. A speed survey was conducted at the 1100 block of Roscomare Rd, with an average of 24.97 mph during the survey. A second 24 hr survey will be conducted at a later date.

Richard Cohen asked if signage for an emergency escape route out of the Palisades Highlands. Pauline Chan stated she would look into the possibility.

Officer Toth stated another traffic survey would take place Cherokee Lane and El Roble Lane off Coldwater Canyon.

Chair Ringler asked for a survey to be conducted at Beverly Glen between Sunset and Mulholland.

Barbara Broide commented on the Community Plans needing input from LAPR for traffic planning.

C. UCPD, University of California Police Department

No report.

D. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

No report.

Item VII – Department of Transportation Report (LADOT)

A. Community Programs Division – Pauline Chan

1. Community updates & reports

Pauline updated on LADOT's budget being reduced by 12% and there is no budget for new speed humps. Funding for new left turn signals has also been eliminated. Engineers have to take two furlough days.

She stated the Recovery Act had provided monies needed for the approved signals at La Cienega Ave and Packard, Mulholland and Woodcliff, Darlington and San Vicente. Left turn singles at Manning/ National at Santa Monica Highway west bound off ramp, Montana and Sepulveda, Barrington and Montana, Barrington and National, Centinela and Culver, Rose and Walgrove Ave all have funding.

Stan Arcader asked what the budget status was for metering (counting) cars, in particular on Motor from Manning. Pauline Chan stated those locations are the most counted in the City and recent numbers may exist.

Steve Twining asked on the status of the Sepulveda Improvement Project. Pauline Chan stated contract for the reversible Lane was awarded on May 29 and notice to proceed will be issued once some of the utility conversion is completed.

Barbara Broide asked how LADOT's budget affects the process of traffic mitigation from developers. Pauline Chan stated LADOT now prefers to address the neighborhood mitigation up front rather than having the developer provides a certain amount of funding for the mitigation.

Pauline Chan stated Santa Monica staff commented on the California Incline Project and its Federal funding. The Federal Government wants extra reinforcement of the rock/hillside added to the project, which would require additional EIR, review and more funding. Therefore, the project has been on hold. She will provide more information to the Committee.

B. Parking Enforcement Division – Captain LaTonya Allen, WST, et al.

Lt. Vasquez stated because of the litigation with the catering trucks, the enforcement has been relaxed; however, they are cited for other violations.

Item VIII – Mayors Office Report – West District Officer Jennifer Badger

No report.

Item IX – Council District Reports

A. Council District 11 – Jim Horwitz

No report.

B. Council District 5 – Jay Greenstein

Jay Greenstein stated he is now working with the new Councilman Paul Koretz. His position will be as Transportation Deputy and Senior Filed Deputy for West LA.

He stated Rich Louellen will be the Chief of Staff, Marian Jaffe will be working with the Councilman’s office working on Community Development and Lisa Trifiletti will be the Chief Panning Deputy.

Barbara Broide commented on Councilman Koretz’s attended and spoke at a ZA appeals hearing on the conversion of digital billboards on Westwood and Santa Monica Boulevards, prior to taking office as Councilman.

Stan Arcader asked what the Councilman’s position was on the Casden Project. Jay Greenstein stated the Councilman’s has some concerns and meetings are planned to discuss the project.

Item X – Metropolitan Transportation Authority Report (MTA) – Jody Litvak

Chair Ringler passed out information from the MTA regarding Measure R. The measure went into effect on July 1. Visit www.metro.net/measurer for more information. The Westside Subway Extension Draft EIS/EIR will have community update meetings beginning in August.

Information on the Long Range Transportation Plan will be posted on the web site after the Board’s meeting on July 23rd.

Notices for the 405 HOV Lane Project have begin to circulate. For questions please contact Olga Arroyo at 213-922-7439 or at arroyo@metro.net

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Barbara Broide passed out information regarding the Westside Subway Extension Draft EIS/EIR and asking to submit comments before the July 23rd meeting. She stated to suggest certain issues such as traffic congestion, lack of bus lines in the Westside, the benefits of the project and other Long Range Transportation issues.

Item XI – CALTRANS – Joe Brazil/ Otis Jackson

B. Update on local Projects

No report.

Item XII – Community Traffic Reports

Community Traffic Reports:

A. Benedict Canyon – Nickie Miner, Joanna Brody

No report.

B. Bel-Air Association – Paulette DuBey

No report.

C. Bel-Air Crest – Irene Sandler

No report.

D. Beverly Glen

No report

E. Comstock Hills Homeowners Association – Carol Spencer

No report.

F. Pacific Palisades – Patti Post & Paul Satenstein

No report

G. Brentwood - Raymond Klein, Brentwood Homeowners Association

No report

H. Brentwood Park – Larry and Anita Miller

No report

I. Crestview Neighborhood Association – Bill Clarkson

No report.

J. Glenridge, HOA -- Dan Weingart

No report

K. Holmby Hills

No report

L. Holmby/Westwood -- Paul Verdon

No report

M. Mountaingate – Ernie Frankel

No report.

N. Roscomare – Steve Twining

Steve commented on the traffic during the Getty fire and power outage.

He stated the Officer's Toth traffic survey was not during UCLA's session, hence the survey was low.

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O. Santa Monica Canyon/BOCA – Leslie Hope

No report

P. UCLA Government and Community Relations – Vincent Wong

No report

Q. Westwood Hills – Debbie Nussbaum

No report

R. Westwood Homeowners Association – Renee Korn

No report

S. Westwood South – Barbara Broide

Barbara stated the traffic study on Digital Billboards is out and will send a summary to the Chair if anyone would like to receive it. The study does state there is an impact of traffic and traffic safety.

She reported on three appeals and awaiting for the ZA Hearing Officer to render an opinion on issuing permit to convert traditional billboards to digital billboards on Westwood blvd and Santa Monica.

She stated the Convention Center Billboards issue was heard before the City Planning Commission last week and there is still a plan to put up as many as 50 signs and billboards around the Convention. The City does get revenue from the Billboards. The PLUM Committee will hear the case.

She stated there was a motion by Councilman Weiss to fund Pico/Olympic Project. However, Councilman Koretz asked that the issue be sent to a committee.

She reported on Century Plaza having a scoping meeting on Thursday. She encourage for comments to be submitted to the committee.

T. Wilshire Corridor – Marilyn Lewis

No report

Item XIII – Neighborhood/Community Council and other City's Reports

A. Bel-Air/Beverly Crest – Steve Twining & Robert A. Ringler

No report.

B. Brentwood Community Council – Chuck Kahn

No report

C. Pacific Palisades Community Council – Patti Post

No report.

D. South Robertson Neighborhood Council – Jon Liberman

No report

E. Westside Neighborhood Council – Annette Mercer/Barbara Broide

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Annette Mercer stated the City is updated the Bicycle Master Plan. Draft maps of routes are available in the plan. Streets have been identified for bike lanes, but some are infeasible. For comments visit www.labikeplan.com

She announced a joint Mobility Land Use Committee meeting on 7/29/09 at Westside Pavilion Room 1A at 7 pm.

F. WLA Neighborhood Council

No report

Item XV – Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 14, 2009 at 8:30 am, WLA Community Police Station.

Motion to end the meeting. Steve Twining made motion. Ernie Frankel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.