CALL TO ORDER: Interim Police Chief Knapp called the Traffic Safety Committee Meeting to order at the hour of 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENT: Mark Fachin, Public Works Director/City Engineer (Public Works Department); Chet Guintini, Fire Chief, (Fire Department); Mark Knapp, Interim Police Chief (Police Department); Paula Fitzgerald, Planning Director (Planning Department); Norm Donovan, Planning Commissioner.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Assistant City Clerk/HR Technician Sousa; Police Officer Warkentin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Fachin, seconded by Fitzgerald to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Donovan, seconded by Fitzgerald to approve the January 5, 2010 Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present.

PUBLIC FORUM: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON ANY ITEM OF PUBLIC INTEREST THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY; INCLUDES AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO A FIVE (5) MINUTE PRESENTATION. Robert Herin, Los Banos, spoke on agenda item 5d – Consideration of a Request to Install Stop Signs at the East and West ends of Willmott Road at Las Palmas Street. Herin explained that he frequently observes vehicles traveling at high speeds down Las Palmas Street in order to avoid the westbound traffic light at East B Street and Mercey Springs Road, he lives on the corner of East B Street and Las Palmas Street and there are no speed limit signs on Las Palmas, would like a solution on the issue.

No one else came forward to speak and the public forum was closed. Chairman Knapp requested that agenda item 5d be discussed at this time.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL STOP SIGNS AT THE EAST AND WEST ENDS OF WILLMOTT ROAD AT LAS PALMAS STREET. Interim Police Chief Knapp explained stop sign warrants and how this request would not meet those standards. Knapp stated that a speed survey is not required due to the fact that this area is not technically considered residential because of the limited amount of homes facing Las Palmas Street. Knapp explained that a speed survey could be conducted;
however, it may indicate the need for a higher speed in that area, he suggested placing a temporary 25mph speed sign on Las Palmas 40ft from East B Street. Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin disagreed with regards to placing signage stating that the Public Works Department will not get into the business of posting speed limit signs on local streets. Interim Police Chief Knapp requested that Police Officer Warkentin place a speed trailer, posted at 25mph, on the first block of Las Palmas Street and also that motorcycle officers begin monitoring the area. Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin stated that the new high school which is currently being built down the street from this location may generate enough traffic to justify stop signs at this location in the future. No further action was taken on this item.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TRAFFIC SAFETY AT TACO BELL RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 1236 E. PACHECO BOULEVARD. At the last Traffic Safety Meeting, Planning Commissioner Donovan requested that the committee review traffic safety at the western driveway of Taco Bell. Donovan suggested an extension of the median on Pacheco Boulevard to eliminate the issue of left-hand turns onto Pacheco from the western driveway. Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin stated that there were always two driveways being proposed and that CalTrans did see the improvement plans and also obtained an encroachment permit for a water main. Fachin noted that an extension of the median on Pacheco Boulevard was never shown on the plans. Planning Commissioner Donovan stated that he was aware there would be two driveways; however, he remains concerned about traffic safety with regards to the western driveway. It was suggested that the City meet with the owners of Taco Bell to discuss on-site signage, such as a “right-hand turn only” sign that could be located at the western driveway, to assist with the situation.

Motion by Fachin, seconded by Donovan to have the Traffic Safety Committee Chairman draft a letter to CalTrans explaining that there is a concern for eastbound left-hand turns onto Pacheco Boulevard from the western driveway of Taco Bell. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL ONE (1) HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE ON 6TH STREET BETWEEN I STREET AND J STREET IN FRONT OF PEARSON’S JEWELERS LOCATED AT 928 6TH STREET AND ONE (1) HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE ON 6TH STREET BETWEEN J STREET AND K STREET IN FRONT OF SOARES OPTOMETRY LOCATED AT 1028 6TH STREET.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin stated that once a handicap space is installed there is a need for a path of travel, both of these locations are adjacent to alley-ways and an alley-way is not a good path of travel. Fachin noted that the current grading on the street is above the standard percentage and these requests would require major street work which is not in the City’s budget.

Motion by Fachin, seconded by Guintini to deny the request for one (1) handicapped parking space on 6th Street between I Street and J Street in front of Pearson’s Jewelers and one (1) handicapped parking space on 6th Street between J Street and K Street in front of Soares Optometry. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present.
DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT ALLEYWAY INTERSECTIONS. Chairman Knapp stated that this concern came from a citizen who stated he was nearly hit by a vehicle in the alley-way adjacent to the Sixth Street Diner Restaurant. Police Officer Warkentin noted that there have been no pedestrian traffic collisions on record at this location. There was committee member discussion regarding the possibility of inserting traffic signs in the area; however it was stated that major signage would be necessary and it would be difficult to enforce. No action was taken on this item.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS. None.

ADJOURNMENT. The Traffic Safety Committee meeting was adjourned at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

/ s / Mark B. Knapp
Mark B. Knapp, Chairman

ATTEST:

/ s / Jana R. Sousa
Jana R. Sousa, Secretary