

**CITY OF LOS BANOS
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2016**

*ACTION MINUTES – These minutes are prepared to depict action taken
for agenda items presented to the Traffic Safety Committee.*

CALL TO ORDER: Police Chief Brizzee called the Traffic Safety Committee Meeting to order at the hour of 2:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENT: Tim Marrison, Fire Chief (Fire Department); Mark Fachin, Public Works Director/City Engineer (Public Works Department); Gary Brizzee, Police Chief (Police Department); **Absent:** Stacy Elms, Senior Planner (Community & Economic Development Department), Palmer McCoy (Planning Commission Representative).

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Assistant City Clerk/Human Resources Technician Sousa, Police Officer Pricolo.

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

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. ANTHONY PARREIRA, Los Banos, President of the Board of the Los Banos Unified School District, the district and City recently held a 2x3 meeting where there was discussion regarding safety concerns with students walking to school, the 11th Street and Pacheco Boulevard crosswalk is horrible and vehicles do not stop for the students, he understands that Pacheco Boulevard is a State Highway and the City does not have jurisdiction but just wants everyone to be aware of these concerns, another issue is actually on today's agenda today and that is the proposed crosswalk on Page Avenue, that area is a disaster because kids are not paying attention to what they're doing when crossing the street, Creekside students are crossing over to the Target parking lot and aren't paying attention, kids are going crazy across that street and there is no crosswalk, this is a danger to our students and we're very concerned; CHAIRMAN BRIZZEE stated that he saw a security guard from Target helping children cross the street and suggested that maybe the solution is to have that person direct students to the crosswalk instead of allowing them to cross the street midblock; PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER FACHIN stated there needs to be some school supervision in the area and maybe the issue needs to be addressed by the school district; COLLEEN CRAWFORD, Los Banos, thanked everyone for going above and beyond on the speed cushion issue, how she's been trying to get speed cushions on the 1300 block of Quail Street and wants to know where the speed cushions would be installed first, would like to see Quail Street be the first to have the cushions installed; BRANDON CRAWFORD, Los Banos, stated he is the head of the neighborhood watch for Lakeshore Village and lives on Quail Street, read a brief

statement from the Neighborhood Watch that spoke of safety concerns, has kept a written log of all police calls he has personally made and it's everything from running the stop signs, drag racing and excessive speeding, Neighborhood Watch has requested that residents park in their driveways and stay off the street which has caused vehicles to speed more, speed cushions would help drivers to slow down; JOHN SARAMAGO, Los Banos, lives on Chukar Street and has heard that speed bumps would be installed in the area for years but nothing has been done, has seen rolling humps in other major cities and it does slow people down, being that Quail Street is such a wide street everyone wants to use it to travel through the neighborhood, he understands that because he uses side streets to travel through neighborhoods too and also understands that the area will just continue to get more traffic, how the first night he put up his Neighborhood Watch sign someone stole a large rock off his lawn, a few nights ago someone stole the gas cap from his vehicle, a few weeks ago a neighbor informed him that they found a hypodermic needle in his bushes, has safety concerns and has lived in the area for 73 years. No one else came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL A CROSSWALK ON PAGE AVENUE AT THE EXIT OF THE CANAL TRAIL LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE LOS BANOS HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT. Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin explained there are several issues involved, what Public Works is recommending is that a midblock crosswalk be installed with the proper signage, there would also need to be a curb cut installed, looked at a lot of different solutions including striping the whole area and that isn't in any kind of standard, consulted a traffic engineer on this and met with the Superintendent of Schools as well, does believe there should be something done although it may not stop the kids from crossing outside the crosswalk.

Motion by Fachin, seconded by Marrision to install a crosswalk, along with appropriate signage, on Page Avenue at the exit of the canal trail located across from the Los Banos High School parking lot. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE STREET PARKING IN FRONT OF BBQ-PROS, LOCATED AT 720 I STREET, TO INCLUDE ADDING GREEN CURB AND DIAGONAL PARKING SPACES. Fire Chief Marrision stated he had to step away from the discussion on this item due to the fact that the co-owner of the business is an employee of the Los Banos Fire Department; however, there would be no quorum if he stepped down so he would like to request that the item be continued to the next meeting.

Motion by Marrision, seconded by Brizzee, to continue the item to the January 3, 2017 Traffic Safety Committee meeting. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL A STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF MILLS DRIVE AND DE ANZA WAY. Police Officer Pricolo stated he spoke with residents in the area and their main concern was making a left turn onto De Anza Way from Mills Drive, there have been no recorded accidents at this

intersection in the last year, the request does not meet the stop sign warrants under the CalTrans standards.

Motion by Marrison, seconded by Fachin to deny the request. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL A 4-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF STONEWOOD DRIVE AND VINEYARD STREET. Police Officer Pricolo spoke about a traffic survey he conducted and according to the CalTrans requirements the traffic volume standard was not met; pedestrian traffic was minor and mostly in the morning hours.

Motion by Brizzee, seconded by Marrison to deny the request. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL A 4-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF WEST I STREET AND CARDOZA ROAD. Police Officer Pricolo stated this was his third time surveying the intersection and the first time since Creekside Junior High opened its doors, one non-injury accident was reported in the last year, there hasn't been much change since the prior surveys other than a small increase in vehicle volume on Cardoza Road, the increase is just enough to meet the CalTrans requirements; Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin stated it was promised the City would look at this intersection again once the new Junior High School was opened, this has been requested several times and this is the first time that it met a warrant for traffic control.

Motion by Fachin, seconded by Fachin to install stop signs on West I Street at the intersection of Cardoza Road to create a 4-way stop. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO PAINT A RED CURB IN FRONT OF THE CITY'S PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE YARD, LOCATED AT 645 SAN JUAN, DUE TO A SIGHT DISTANCE ISSUE. It was stated that a concerned employee brought this to the Police Department's attention stating that vehicles parked on the street are obstructing the vision of Public Works vehicles leaving the San Juan maintenance yard.

Motion by Marrison, seconded by Brizzee to approve painting a red curb on F Street at the Public Works maintenance yard to extend between 50 and 100 feet in each direction (east/west) of the existing driveway. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

DISCUSSION OF SURVEY RESULTS FOR A STOP SIGN STUDY CONDUCTED AT PLACE ROAD AND PALERMO DRIVE AND CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE TRAFFIC MODIFICATIONS IN THE AREA. Police Officer Pricolo stated there have been no reported traffic collisions at the intersection, counted a lot of vehicles and it was difficult to keep up with the amount of traffic in the morning hours, there was a large number of pedestrians walking on Place Road heading south toward the Junior High

School, noticed several vehicles attempting a left turn onto Place Road from Palermo Drive, there were a lot of vehicles taking their children to school and coming home meaning it was possible that he was counting the same vehicles twice within the hour, noticed vehicles traveling on Place Road faster than he expected; Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin stated this intersection presents a problem because it meets warrants, how Ward Road was meant to be the main traffic carrier for the school but it is not built out yet, Place Road is a major carrier of traffic and it was designed that way, this may be one of those cases that doing what the study suggests may not be the solution, if this intersection is made to be a 3-way stop then later there may need to be a petition to remove the 3-way stop; Fire Chief Marrison spoke about how this is a unique problem because the streets that were designed to lessen the impact on this area have not been built out yet, he supports that not creating a temporary solution to the problem, suggested extending the median on Place Road to eliminate left turns from Palermo Drive onto Place Road; Police Chief Brizzee stated that the person who brought this to his attention was specifically not interested in her left turn onto Place Road from Palermo Drive being eliminated; Fire Chief Marrison stated that with this survey the committee cannot deny there is a problem at this intersection.

Motion by Marrison, seconded by Fachin to deny the request, have staff continue to discuss other options for this intersection and bring the item back at a later date once all options have been looked at. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

CONSIDERATION OF SURVEY RESULTS REGARDING THE INTERSECTION OF WEST I STREET AND TEXAS AVENUE AND CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE TRAFFIC MODIFICATIONS IN THE AREA.

Police Officer Pricolo stated there were a total of three accidents at the intersection within the last year, the vehicle count on West I Street was above the CalTrans requirements, noticed a 12-14 second delay for vehicles turning onto West I Street from Texas Avenue, there was considerable pedestrian traffic in the area heading toward West J Street and/or accessing the Circle K Store; Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin stated this first came in as a request for a midblock crosswalk on Texas Avenue between West I Street and Pine Street, the committee decided to study the intersection of West I Street and Texas Avenue, there is a bit of an issue with this intersection because the driveway of the Circle K Store would be in the intersection of a 3-way stop, there are a lot of crosswalks in this area already; BERNARD BORQUE, Memorial Hospital Los Banos, spoke about how a few months ago the dialogue began with the City of Los Banos because some of the hospital employees were concerned for their safety when crossing Texas Avenue, notices the vehicles turning onto Texas Avenue from West I Street are doing so at a higher rate of speed.

Motion by Marrison, seconded by Fachin to approve the installation of stop signs on West I Street at Texas Avenue to create an all-way stop; including existing driveways near the new signs. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

DISCUSSION REGARDING A SPEED CUSHION POLICY FOR THE CITY OF LOS BANOS AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

Police Chief Brizzee spoke about how staff has been working on a draft policy and recently visited another community to learn about the different calming devices for traffic including speed bumps, humps, cushions, and many others, the policy will address things like who will pay for speed cushions and what the criteria will be for installing them including how they are installed, how long the roadway should be, if they can be installed around curbs, the posted speed limit on the road, school routes, etc., there will be requirements for the minimum standard, how a certain number of residents on the street will need to agree to the placement of speed cushions, there even needs to be some discussion of speed cushion removal just in case that should need to happen, we are much further than we were a few years ago, asking that the committee approve of the concept of speed cushions and moving forward with a policy to bring forth to the committee for a stamp of approval and recommendation to the City Council for final approval; Fire Chief Marrison spoke about the law requiring that the final approval of any of these devices be approved of by the Fire Chief and how the first few years that the neighborhood of Quail Street was requesting these devices there was a different Fire Chief in place, a change in opinion has occurred with the committee, there has been much research conducted and the committee is close to proposing a policy for adoption, asking for everyone's patience because sometimes it appears that things may be moving slow but there has definitely been a change in direction, should the Council choose to adopt this policy the committee will be able to move forward with regards to looking into areas that are proposing speed cushions, wants to do this right and not make a mistake that everyone would regret, there is a lot of attention being paid to the next subdivision that is being built in the area of Quail Street in order to ensure that traffic is diverted from the existing neighborhood.

Motion by Fachin, seconded by Marrison to approve the process and present a policy at the January 3, 2017 Traffic Safety meeting for approval and recommendation to the City Council for final approval. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present; Absent: Elms, McCoy

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS. None.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 2:31 p.m.

APPROVED:

/ s / Gary Brizzee
Gary Brizzee, Chairman

ATTEST:

/ s / Jana R. Sousa
Jana R. Sousa, Assistant City Clerk