

MINUTES  
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010, 4:00 P.M.  
City Council Chamber, City Hall

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:           Edmundo Duvignau, Chair  
  Stephen Hall, Vice Chair  
  David Rizzo  
  Johnnie Simmons  
  Robert Duncan  
  Rob Hallstrom  
  Jay Park

STAFF PRESENT:                     Don Hoppe, Director of Engineering  
  Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer  
  Dave Langstaff, Traffic Engineering Analyst  
  Craig Brower, Police Lieutenant  
  Judy Peterson, Recreation Manager  
  Becky Stevens, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Chair Duvignau at 4:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one from the public wished to speak on any item not appearing on the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION made by Commissioner Simmons SECONDED by Commissioner Hall, and CARRIED by a 6-1 vote, with Commissioner Park abstaining, that the Minutes of the September 1, 2010 meeting be APPROVED as written.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**1. STAFF PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED FULLERTON COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT AND REVIEW OF THE BICYCLE USER'S SUB-COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Traffic Engineer Miller reported that in August of 2010, the Planning Commission approved a major development project involving the demolition of the existing Senior Center and Boys & Girls Club and construction of a new Community Center. In conjunction with the project, approximately 800 linear feet of Commonwealth Avenue will be reconstructed, from Highland Avenue west to Short Street. Various on-street improvements will include new curb & gutter, pavement, landscaped medians, a new sidewalk on both sides of Commonwealth Avenue, and a new mid-block signalized pedestrian crossing located between the Library and City Hall.

The existing signal at the Senior Center will be relocated back to Short Street. New parkway landscaping, signage, lighting improvements and parking Ts will be installed on Commonwealth. The Planning Commission expressed concern about bicycle safety on Commonwealth and asked if in the concept design consideration had been given to bicyclists. Mr. Miller answered affirmatively; adding that the raised median is proposed to be narrowed from 12 feet to 10 feet,

with 7-8 feet will be for parking and the remainder of the lane for bicyclists. Approximately 19,000-20,000 cars per day travel on Commonwealth Avenue and the speed limit is 35 mph. All existing left-turn pockets will remain.

The current General Plan bike element does not classify Commonwealth Avenue as a Class III Bike Route in this area. On September 15, 2010, the Bicycle Users Sub-Committee heard this item and members stated their concern regarding bicycle safety. Mr. Miller reminded them that bicyclists may ride on any road within the City of Fullerton, as long as they follow all the rules of the road, i.e. stopping at stop signs and signals. If a striped bike lane were added, all parking would have to be removed.

The BUSC then recommended installing “sharrows”. Traffic Engineer Miller said he was not opposed to the use of “sharrows”. However, after further discussion with city staff it was determined that installing sharrows would be premature on this short section of Commonwealth, because the new General Plan Circulation Element is showing Commonwealth as a “study corridor”. This means that bike experts have looked at all bike routes within the City and recommended this portion be studied further. The MUTCD does allow sharrows; however there are conditions that have to be met. Staff is recommending that Commonwealth remain as a study corridor and hopes the Transportation & Circulation Commission will support whatever roadway improvements staff deems appropriate on Commonwealth in front of the new community center.

Commissioner Simmons was unsure if the general public would know what sharrows are. Mr. Miller says sharrows do not have parallel lines on the roadway, and it is such a new symbol they want to educate the public on what it is.

Commissioner Hallstrom asked if there was a plan to implement this. Mark is concerned with number of reported bicycle accidents with the majority being caused by bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. Staff hopes to put information at bike shops. Commissioner Hallstrom indicated he did not favor the concept plan because it was difficult to read.

Traffic Engineer Miller added that at the proposed pedestrian signal there will also be bulb outs to extend into the roadway so pedestrian crossing time will be reduced. Because auxiliary parking will be available at the Library, people will use the crossing frequently.

Commissioner Hallstrom inquired if the flow of traffic would increase. Mr. Miller replied that a traffic study was conducted, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared indicating an insignificant increase because of existing uses already in place.

Chair Duvignau did not see need for sharrows for such a short portion of the street.

Commissioner Hallstrom wondered if sharrows could be pursued at a later date. Director Hoppe clarified that as the City moves forward with the Bicycle Element of the General Plan, staff will try to determine the best location for this type of roadway marking. If an appropriate location is agreed, the BUSC will hear the item and then the TCC. He stressed the importance of educating the public as to the purpose of sharrows – both bicyclists and motorists.

Commissioner Rizzo reported that this was the beginning of rideshare week and upon researching found that only ½ of 1% of commuters are bicyclists. For the most part, bicycling is considered a leisurely activity and not necessarily a means of travel.

MOTION by Commissioner Rizzo that the Commission support the accompanying street as recommended by staff for the Fullerton Community Center project. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hallstrom and passed unanimously.

#### COUNCIL ACTIONS

Director Hoppe reported that the permit parking process was approved by Council and decals and signs have been ordered. The fee will be waived for first the two months, and then users must renew in January. Postcards were sent out to see if neighborhoods were interested in permit parking, and at least 65% of each neighborhood must approve the concept.

#### COMMISSION/STAFF COMMUNICATION

Chairman Duvignau announced that because of personal commitments, he must take a hiatus from the BUSC and asked if any commissioner could take his place temporarily. Commissioner Duncan said that he would attend the BUSC meetings until further notice.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Transportation and Circulation Commission adjourned at 4:25 p.m. until the next regularly-scheduled meeting of November 1, 2010, at 4:00 p.m.

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Becky Stevens  
Administrative Assistant