MINUTES-DRAFT
Traffic Committee of the City of Mission Viejo
Planning and Transportation Commission
September 21, 2020

Due to COVID-19 and the “Stay at Home” Order for the State of California and the Social Distance Guidelines issued by Federal, State, and Local Authorities this Traffic Committee Meeting was conducted via Video Teleconferencing for all Commissioners and Staff. All public comments that were emailed to City staff were read during the meeting.

A regular Meeting of the Traffic Committee of the City of Mission Viejo Planning and Transportation Commission was called to order at 3:06 p.m., Monday, September 21, 2020, via WebEx Teleconference.

A complete copy of the agenda for the meeting containing all items as shown herein was posted by 5:00 p.m. on September 14, 2020, on the outdoor bulletin board at City Hall. Copies were also posted at the Montanoso Recreation and Fitness Center, 25800 Montanoso Drive, and the Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center, 24932 Veterans Way.

Present: Commissioner Leckness
Commissioner Knauerhaze

Staff Present: Rich Schlesinger, City Engineer
Philip Nitollama, Traffic Engineer
Brett Canedy, Transportation Analyst
Paul Coleman, Orange County Sheriff’s Department

Absent: None

Agenda Items:

1) Approve July 20, 2020 Committee Minutes

The minutes were approved by the Committee.

2) Pedestrian Safety at the Intersection of La Paz Road and Olympiad Road/Felipe Road

Staff presented a request to review pedestrian safety at the intersection of La Paz Road and Olympiad Road/Felipe Road. The request came from a resident who feels that the northerly crosswalk at this intersection is unsafe because motorists making an eastbound left turn to go north on Olympiad Road don’t check the crosswalk for pedestrians when they have the green light. Staff noted that the signal has a permissive left turn, not a protected left turn meaning the
motorists must yield the right of way to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Staff presented an option for installing a “Turning Vehicles Yield to Pedestrians” sign on the signal mast arm. No additional public comments were received on this item. The Committee directed staff to leave the intersection as it is.

3) Marked Crosswalk and Signage on Valpariso Drive at Palo Lane

Staff presented a request for a marked crosswalk on Valpariso Drive at Palo Lane. The request came from a resident who anticipates an increase in pedestrian traffic in the area from people accessing the recently renovated Christopher Park. Two public comments were received about the item, one in support of the marked crosswalk and one in opposition to it. There was a discussion about providing ADA ramps at the intersection to improve the accessibility of the park to pedestrians. The Committee denied the request for a marked crosswalk and staff noted that the request for curb ramps would be forwarded to the City’s Public Services Department.

4) Playground Signs on Doria Avenue

Staff presented a request for playground warning signs on Doria Avenue near Doria Park. The request comes from a resident who is concerned about safety on Doria Avenue. Staff noted that the initial request also included speed humps. A speed hump information packet including a petition was sent to the resident and the signature collection process is ongoing. Staff proposed placing two playground warning signs on Doria Avenue in advance of the park, and one on Gloriosa Drive. The Committee expressed concern about considering the request for playground signage separate from the pending speed hump request. The Committee directed staff to hold the request for the playground warning signs and include it with the request for speed humps when the petition is returned.

5) Stop Sign on Montilla at Papagayo

Staff presented a request for a stop sign on Montilla at the intersection with Papagayo. Staff noted that the intersection would likely not meet the warrants found in the California Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices and that a Yield sign would be more appropriate. The request was made by a resident due to the lack of existing traffic control. One resident comment was received in support of a stop sign. Resident cited the proximity of the intersection to the park and to Montevideo Elementary School as reasons why additional traffic control may be appropriate. The Committee directed staff to install a yield sign and limit line on Montilla at Papagayo.

6) Curve Warning Sign on Pavion at Lorente

Staff presented a request from a resident for curve warning signs on Pavion for the curve near Lorente. Staff provided an overview of other traffic control signs in the area including school area warning signs for Reilly Elementary School. No other residents provided comments about the request. The Committee expressed concern about adding more signage to the area and denied the request.

7) Parking Restrictions for Fire Hydrant at 24251 Barquero Drive
Staff presented a request for a red curb parking restriction next to the fire hydrant located at 24251 Barquero Drive. Staff presented the results of a parking study that was conducted on Barquero Drive to determine existing on-street parking demands. No additional comments were received from residents. The Committee expressed concern about adding parking restrictions and signs to the neighborhood. The Committee denied the request for a parking restriction.

8) Remove Centerline on De La Luna Drive

City staff is currently resurfacing De La Luna Drive and other adjacent streets in the south end of Mission Viejo. Resurfacing projects include the removal and replacement of all pavement markings on the street. During the resurfacing project, multiple calls were received from residents on De La Luna Drive asking for the centerline to be removed as part of the project. Staff received three comments in opposition to keeping the centerline and one comment in support of keeping it. The Committee noted that many of the other adjacent roads have centerline stripes around curves and expressed concern about keeping the neighborhood consistent. The Committee directed staff to keep the centerline stripe on De La Luna Drive.

9) Updates

The Committee requested a review of the collision history at the intersection of Alicia Parkway and Jeronimo Road.

ADJOURNMENT

At the hour of 5:23 p.m., with no further business to come before the Committee at this session, the Committee adjourned the meeting.

Brett Canedy, Transportation Analyst