

EL DORADO COUNTY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEST SLOPE Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

Meeting Location: Zoom Conference Call

VOTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Rafael Martinez, Director of Transportation – Present
Brian Mullens, Deputy Director of Maintenance and Operations – Absent
Commander Rick Hatfield, California Highway Patrol (Placerville Office) – Present
Sergeant Kevin Pebley, El Dorado County Sheriff's Department – Present
Amanda Magnuson, County's Risk Management Office – Present

STAFF:

Darryl Brown, Department of Transportation, Traffic Superintendent – Present
Jim Hunnicutt, Department of Transportation, Sr Engineering Technician – Present
Michael Bastian, Department of Transportation, Sr Engineering Technician – Present

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:

A total of two (2) attendees of the public and four (4) panelists were in attendance via the Zoom video conferencing application at this Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting.

Supervisor John Hidahl
Cindy Munt – District 1 Assistant
Karen Feathers – District 3 Assistant
Albert Romvari – Salmon Falls resident
Fred Ott – Holiday Lake resident
Christine Parker – El Dorado Transit Pearl Place

MINUTES

Chairman Rafael Martinez called the meeting of the Traffic Advisory Committee to order at 9:04 a.m. with Commander Rick Hatfield, Sergeant Kevin Pebley and Amanda Magnuson present via Zoom conference.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Chairman Rafael Martinez motioned to adopt the agenda and consent calendar which was seconded by Amanda Magnuson. Motion passed by voting members unanimously.

OPEN FORUM:

Fred Ott had technical difficulty with Zoom audio, Michael Bastian was able to summarize Mr. Ott's concerns of vehicles passing on the right at the intersection of Mother Lode Drive at Holiday Lake Drive. The Department of Transportation had met with CHP to explore the combination of signs and enforcement along with the recent changes to school start times.

There is also a TIFF safety fund/CIP program analysis of this location which could potentially assist in making pedestrian and roadway improvements. The funds will be determined in January 2024 at the Board of Supervisor's meeting.

"ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC SURVEYS" ON CONSENT CALENDAR:

The Committee may approve any or all the following "Engineering and Traffic Surveys" in an omnibus approval. Items not approved in the omnibus Consent Calendar will be addressed separately by the Committee. Chairman Rafael Martinez motioned to approve the consent calendar, seconded by Amanda Magnuson.

- 1. Speed Zone Survey on Francisco Drive from Green Valley Road to Guadalupe Drive (Study Length 1.78 Miles):**
Staff recommendation to retain the existing "40, and 30 mile per hour" speed limits with radar enforcement.
- 2. Speed Zone Survey on Harvard Way from El Dorado Hills Boulevard to Silva Valley Parkway (Study Length 0.41 Miles):**
Staff recommendation to retain the existing "35 MPH" speed limit with radar enforcement.
- 3. New Zone Survey on Meder Road from Cameron Park Drive to Ponderosa Road (Study Length 2.44 Miles):**
Staff recommendation to retain the existing "40 MPH" speed limit with radar enforcement.

4. Speed Zone Survey on Product Drive from Durock Road to End (Study Length of 0.58 Miles):

Staff recommendation to retain the existing “35 MPH” speed limits with radar enforcement.

5. Speed Zone Survey on North Shingle Road/Green Valley Road/Lotus Road from a point 1500 feet south of Green Valley Road on North Shingle Road to a point 1500 feet north of Green Valley Road on Lotus Road (Study Length Approx. 1.14 Miles):

Staff recommendation to retain the existing “45 MPH” speed limit with radar-enforcement.

6. Speed Zone Survey on Green Valley Road from White Oak Drive, 0.71 miles West of Deer Valley Road (East) to North Shingle Road (Study Length 1.63 Miles):

Staff recommendation to retain the existing “40 MPH” speed limit with radar-enforcement.

7. Speed Zone Survey on Business Drive (Study Length 0.56 Miles):

Staff recommendation to retain the existing “35 MPH” speed limit with radar enforcement.

COUNTY TRAFFIC ITEMS:

N/A

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- 1. Discussion of traffic signal red light violations county wide, especially in Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills; namely on El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Latrobe Road. Discussion on enforcement, past enforcement, and other measures to decrease the running of red lights by vehicles. (Rafael Martinez, Director of Transportation)**

Rafael summarized this item was brought to our attention a few months ago due to motorists running the southbound left turn red light delay at Latrobe and Town Center. Vehicles waiting for the northbound Latrobe have to wait up to four seconds for vehicles to stop making left turns. DOT did make modifications to the signal timing to a full second of all red clearance instead of ½ second.

Commander Rick Hatfield spoke on CHP’s observations and enforcement. It appears majority of vehicles want to be in the number 1 left turn lane to access the through and left turn lanes once inside Town Center. Between the signal modifications and CHP enforcement, there has been an improvement for both safety and the motoring public behavior.

Supervisor Hidahl expressed concern for capacity in the left turn lanes and way finding signs to help drivers know which lane to be in. DOT staff is tasked to determine what the capacity is of the left turn pocket, specifically the number one left turn lane. Also, evaluate the green light timing is optimal.

Red light camera is not an option at this location due to administrative action, red tape and coordination between El Dorado County Counsel and CHP. Legal actions have also limited other Counties and Cities through California when developing and enforcing red light camera programs.

2. Discussion concerning large truck length limits on various rural roadways in El Dorado County. Roads recently requested for truck length limit regulatory signage are Snows Road, Salmon Falls Road and Bucks Bar Road. (California Highway Patrol and Traffic Unit).

Darryl Brown summarized the history of logging throughout El Dorado County and roads such as Mosquito Road were main access routes during that time. Since then, DOT has installed 5 truck limit signs on Mosquito Road including one with flashing beacons. There are 3 roads to discuss: Snows Road requested by CHP, Salmon Falls Road requested by Albert Romvari and Bucks Bar requested by numerous residents.

Commander Rick Hatfield discussed Snows Road, which currently has a warning sign for trucks over 35 feet. The signage and public messages via the CHP Facebook page have been most effective; overlength trucks continue to be an issue but there has been some improvement compared to a few years ago.

Darryl Brown believes we can continue to warn for Snows Road and there is no need to place an official weight limit. Michel Bastian has reviewed recent CHP reports which mention driver error as the primary factor. California law tends to only allow prohibitions on roadways if it is physically impossible for trucks to access. DOT will continue to monitor Snows Road.

Darryl Brown reviewed a few exhibits showing the Vehicle Classifications and counts for Snows Road, Bucks Bar and Salmon Falls Road. Buck Bar has the largest curve radius and DOT along with CHP will continue to monitor.

Albert Romvari concluded the discussion his encounters and observations of truck traffic on Salmon Falls Road. He recommends a warning sign advising “no trucks longer than 40-45 feet” and/or “tight turns ahead” from Safari Lane to Hwy 49. DOT will evaluate the vertical rock wall within this segment near Safari Lane and evaluate the curves for advisory signs.

3. Parking Restrictions on Pearl Place roadway at the El Dorado Transit bus stop. Local vehicles are parking at the bus stop and blocking bus access to the El Dorado Transit Bus Stop location. (Scott Ousley - ED Transit Request)

Darryl Brown summarized the request from El Dorado Transit Scotty Ousley to place additional signs on Pearl Place. DOT observed the condition of vehicles parking within the bus stop limits. Christine Parker from EDC Transit expressed concerns of passengers accessing the stop safely. Rafael Martinez directed staff to work with EDC Transit to conduct an Engineering and Traffic Study to determine a length and create a “No Parking” zone on Pearl Place.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further questions or matters for the Committee’s attention, Chairman Rafael Martinez motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Amanda Magnuson at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes Approved By:  on 11/06/23
Chairman Rafael Martinez Date

JH:db