

CITY OF LOS BANOS
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2021

*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 2:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENT: Nichol Bowersox, Interim Public Works Director (Public Works Department); Stacy Elms, Community & Economic Development Director (Community & Economic Development Department); Mason Hurley, Fire Chief (Fire Department); Gary Brizzee, Police Chief (Police Department); Katherine Uhley (Planning Commission Representative).

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Elms, seconded by Uhley to approve the July 6, 2021 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. No one requested to speak and the public forum was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL MULTI-WAY STOP SIGNS ON FAIRMONT DRIVE AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF ROCKPORT DRIVE, CARDINAL STREET, AND DOVE STREET (CONTINUED FROM JULY 6, 2021). Police Chief Brizzee shared the location of the intersections on the screen. Officer Pricolo discussed each intersection, noted the last survey in the area was conducted in March/April 2021 and school was not in session so an updated survey was recently conducted this school year, Rockport Drive is the major roadway with Fairmont Drive being a minor street and both posted at a 25mph speed limit, in the last one year period there have been no major collisions reported at the intersection, Rockport Drive is currently open with no controls, the intersection is well under the required vehicle counts on both streets. Chief Brizzee stated that even though the stop sign warrants were not met, he would be inclined to approve an all-way stop at this intersection due to the proximity of the park and the school. Officer Pricolo noted that when he was conducting the survey, the park area in particular did have a lot of pedestrian activity.

Motion by Uhley, seconded by Elms, to install an all-way stop at the intersection of Rockport Drive and Fairmont Avenue and to allow Public Works to stripe the corners with red paint at their discretion in the event there is a sight distance issue. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present.

Police Chief Brizzee reported that none of the intersections in question met the standard warrants to install stop signs; however, in the interest of safety in the area he would be inclined to approve an all-way stop at the intersections of Rockport Drive and Cardinal Street and Rockport and Dove Street.

Motion by Hurley, seconded by Elms, to install an all-way stop at the intersections of Rockport Drive and Cardinal Street, and Rockport Drive and Dove Street, and to allow Public Works to stripe the corners with red paint at their discretion in the event there is a sight distance issue. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present.

Police Chief Brizzee reiterated that this is not a normal approval for the Traffic Safety Committee, but due to the park and school in the area safety is a concern and was the deciding factor in the approval.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REMOVAL OF THE MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK ON 7TH STREET BETWEEN M STREET AND PACHECO BOULEVARD.

Police Chief Brizzee stated a resident brought this to the attention of the City reporting they almost struck a student who stepped out in between vehicles in an attempt to cross 7th Street using the mid-block crosswalk. Officer Pricolo stated that a member of the school district told him the original intent of the crosswalk was to allow students to cross over from Los Banos Elementary School (LBE) to the old Junior High School (now Westside Elementary) when attending band class and that is no longer an issue.

Motion by Uhley, seconded by Brizzee, to remove the midblock crosswalk on 7th Street between M Street and Pacheco Boulevard. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL STOP SIGNS ON WEST I STREET AT THE INTERSECTION OF ILLINOIS AVENUE.

Police Chief Brizzee stated a resident brought this to the attention of the City reporting they were attempting to utilize the mid-block crosswalk on West I Street and was almost struck by a vehicle. Police Officer Pricolo stated that the mid-block crosswalk is used by mostly APEX Medical staff, he observed many of the medical staff and patients not utilizing the crosswalk and crossing West I Street a few feet from the mid-block crosswalk, if a pedestrian steps off of the sidewalk to cross West I Street there is a visibility issue for vehicles traveling east and west on West I Street when vehicles are parked next to the mid-block crosswalk, this is an offset intersection so the installation of a multi-way stop sign would create a difficulty for the Streets division to install. Committee Member Uhley, questioned if there could be a light up crosswalk installed to let people know that others are crossing just like the one at Mercey Springs Road and Scripps Drive. Police Chief Brizzee stated the concept would be more like the high visibility stop sign at the Henry Miller Plaza intersection of H Street and 6th Street. Committee Member Elms, stated this is a strange intersection with

a dog-leg going on and questioned if it would be just as efficient to paint the curb at the mid-block crosswalk to allow for better visibility to traffic traveling on West I Street, stated she's had near misses with APEX Medical staff crossing from APEX Medical Group and states she believes it is due to the visibility issue at the crosswalk. Interim Public Works Director Nichol Bowersox, stated it would be helpful to do a pedestrian count to see how many pedestrians are actually crossing the street at this location, wonders how many vehicles actually are traveling on Illinois Avenue from the north and actually crossing West I Street to continue on Illinois Avenue to the south or vice versa, has heard some good ideas from committee members and would like to continue this item to the next meeting to further discuss possible options for the area.

Motion by Elms, seconded by Uhley, to continue the item to the next Traffic Safety Committee meeting. The motion carried by the affirmative action of all committee members present.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS. Committee Member Uhley spoke about the recent discussion at a Council Meeting regarding the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Ortigalita Road and Pioneer Road and wonders why so many traffic lights are getting installed in town when they are not necessarily needed in the area, would like to see certain traffic lights begin to flash red after 9:30 p.m. at night in order to keep the traffic flow going instead of waiting for the light to turn green and having traffic back up unnecessarily.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

/ s / Gary Brizzee
Gary Brizzee, Chairman

ATTEST:

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