

MINUTES of MVCC Liaison/LADOT/CD11/LAPD Meeting, January 13, 2010

The bi-monthly meeting of the MVCC Transportation Committee's Liaison Sub-Committee for representatives of LADOT/CD11/LAPD was called to order at 10:07 a.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at the office of Councilman Bill Rosendahl, in Room 201 at 1645 Corinth Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025. The meeting was chaired by Linda Guagliano (MVCC Liaison) and attended by Mo Blorfroshan (LADOT Western District Transportation Engineer), Len Nguyen (CD11 Field Deputy), Christine Taylor, Chuck Ray, Marilyn Marble, Bill Pope and Raymond Beers. Officer Joe Pollack of the LAPD West Traffic Division was absent due to illness but LAPD Officers Steve Redd and Pete Cordero from Hollywood Traffic Division attended in his place to present his reports to the Committee and answer any questions.

Attendees were introduced and signed the attendance sheet. The Minutes of the November 12, 2009 meeting were approved after correction of the stated date for the next meeting from January 13, **2009** to January 13, **2010**. Agenda items were then discussed as follows.

Old Business

Item #1: Reporting on enforcement of posted truck weight limits on residential streets south of Venice Blvd., Officer Pollack has given tickets and warnings, but after a few weeks the same offenders are back on the same streets disobeying the signs. It will take continuous and repeated policing efforts to maintain enforcement of the posted weight limits. **[No further action by this Committee at this time, but LAPD enforcement will continue.]**

Item #2: Re: follow-up on possible locations for oversized and overnight vehicle parking restrictions on residential streets in Mar Vista, Len N. discussed this with the appropriate City personnel and advises that stakeholder requests are not sufficient to start the process – a Petition is required. Len will obtain the Permit process information and forms for a follow-up at the next meeting. **[Tabled for a further discussion at the next meeting.]**

Item #3: Len N. reported that he discussed CD11's service request to Special Street Services -- to remove parkway tree roots which have lifted the pavement on Barry and Sardis Aves. and make permanent repairs to the street, curb and sidewalk -- with Nazario at Street Services and Len suggested trying a patch repair. Nazario responded that removal of the tree roots are the responsibility of the homeowner. Len will review this response, which may be incorrect, and report back at the next meeting. **[Tabled for a further report at the next meeting.]**

Item #4: Reporting on follow-up re: monitoring and enforcement of speed limit violations on Beethoven St. north of Palms Blvd. and on Rose Ave. between Walgrove and Morningside Way, Officer Pollack has not found current violations of the speed limit on these streets. **[No further action by this Committee at this time.]**

Item #5: Officer Pollack reported that he issued warnings to drivers re: speeding and wrong-side driving on the Clarkson/Barry curve during afternoon commuter hours, rechecked in October and did not observe persistent or continuing violations. **[No further action by this Committee at this time.]**

Item #6: Officer Pollack reports that he has observed some speeding and other unsafe or dangerous driving activity where traffic merges into one lane on McLaughlin Ave. between Palms Blvd. and Woodbine St., but at present some roadwork is underway at the northeast corner of Palms and McLaughlin, precluding monitoring and enforcement under normal traffic conditions. He will monitor the location later after the construction work is completed. **[Tabled for an LAPD report at the next meeting.]**

Item #7: Re: a request for extension of time for the left-turn signal on westbound Venice Blvd. to southbound McLaughlin Ave., Mo B. said that he cannot extend the westbound signal timing without also changing the eastbound timing, and he repeated his earlier decision that no timing changes are feasible during rush-hour traffic. He thinks the problem is due in part to drivers bypassing the crowded left turn pocket at Sawtelle, then U-turning at McLaughlin to go back east and turn on s/b Sawtelle to the 405 Fwy. onramp. He has not heard back from Chris McKinnon about other times of day when extended left-turn time might benefit neighborhood traffic. **[Tabled for follow-up at the next meeting.]**

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Item #8: Updating re: the request by a homeowner at 11610 Clarkson Rd. for repairs to prevent water from collecting in a stagnant pool in the gutter in front of her house and driveway, Len N. has submitted Work Request #1002494 to Street Services, to determine if filling the depressed pavement, caused by parkway tree's roots pushing up the pavement, would solve the problem. **[Tabled for a further report at the next meeting.]**

Item #9: Officer Pollack reported that he has not yet had a chance to respond to a complaint about a safety problem due to alley cross-traffic failing to stop before exiting the alley onto Wasatch Ave. in the block between Venice Blvd. and Pacific Ave. but he will monitor the location and issue warnings or tickets as needed in the near future. **[Tabled for an LAPD report at the next meeting.]**

Item #10: Re: a study by the Signal Timing Section of LADOT to determine whether the pedestrian crossing time on Barrington at the Federal Ave. traffic signal is adequate or should be increased, Mo B. reported that the study is still in process, not completed yet. A 7-second Walk and 8-second Don't Walk is possible, but the study will continue when school is in session, as the primary concern is for school children crossing Barrington at this signal. If the timing change proves adequate and safe, it will be installed, but just during school hours, not at other times. **[Tabled for a further report at the next meeting.]**

Item #11: Mo B. reported that the request for STOP signs on the north and south sides of Rose Ave. at the Inglewood Blvd./Rose Ave. school crosswalk has been approved by the LADOT and the signs are scheduled to be installed within a month. **[Resolved.]**

Item #12: Mo B. reported that the request to extend left turn arrow time from eastbound Venice Blvd. to northbound Sawtelle Blvd. has been approved, with the time extended by 5 seconds, the longest time extension found to be feasible. **[Resolved]**

Item #13: Re: a request by a stakeholder to remove root-invasive parkway ficus trees located from 3347-3369 Redwood Ave. between Morningside Way and Psomas Way, where the trees' roots have caused extensive damage to the street, sidewalk, curbs and homes, Len N. requested that a root-trimming machine be sent to the location. Again, Street Services contends that removing the tree roots is a homeowner's responsibility. The requester, Carlos Girona, can apply for a Permit to allow him to prune the parkway tree roots (without killing the tree). Linda G. will provide Mr. Girona's e-mail address so Len N. can contact him and provide the Permit forms and instructions. **[No further action by this Committee.]**

New Business

Item #1: A homeowner on Moore St. in the block north of Venice Blvd. said that he thought red curbs recently painted from Venice to the other side of the alley which runs from Moore to Beethoven St., behind businesses that front on Venice Blvd., may have been painted illegally by the business owners. It has resulted in less available street parking and frequent blocking of homeowners' driveways. Mo B. had inspected the location before the meeting and he confirmed that the red curbs in question were requested by a phone call, were painted by the City and are legal. The homeowner also said that because the businesses on Venice park large vehicles and a boat on a trailer in the alley, other vehicles cannot safely drive through the alley, and that the pavement has been badly damaged by the heavy vehicles. Mo B. said that marked parking spaces on private property behind a business are permitted but parking in the alley itself is illegal. Len N. advised the homeowner to contact Captain Latonya Allen at Parking Enforcement about both the alley parking and parked vehicles blocking residents' driveways when these violations occur. Phone number is 310-312-3500, e-mail is Latonya.Allen@LACITY.org. Len N. will again pursue repairs for the alley paving which was patched recently. **[No further action by this Committee.]**

Non-Agenda Items Brought Up Under Public Comment

Item #1: Marilyn M. said that two ficus trees on Bundy Dr. just s/o Ocean Park Blvd. are heavily overgrown and should be pruned before they fall over as a nearby tree did recently. Len N. will contact Urban Forestry and request tree trimming. **[No further action by this Committee at this time.]**

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The meeting was adjourned at 11.15 a.m. The next bi-monthly MVCC Liaison/LADOT/CD11/LAPD meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Councilman Bill Rosendahl's office at 1645 Corinth Ave., Room 201. Los Angeles, CA 90025.

Submitted by Linda Guagliano,
MVCC Liaison/LADOT/CD11/LAPD Committee Chair
January 17, 2010