

LA JOLLA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Meeting: May 16, 2023

La Jolla Riford Library

Members Present: Brian Earley Chairperson LJSA, Dave Abrams Vice Chairperson LJCPA, Donna Aprea LJTC, Bill Podway LJVMA, Erik Gantzel BRCC

Members Absent: Tom Brady LJCPA, Ross Rudolph LJSA, Patrick Ryan BRCC, Nancy Warwick LJTC, Dusty Bowder LJVMA

Approve Minutes of April 18 2023: No Quorum Minutes could not be Approved

Chairperson Report: We do not have a Quorum so the Action Items cannot be Voted on. The two Action Items on the Agenda will become Discussion Items. Next Month is our Annual Meeting to elect Board Officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. We were supposed to be welcoming Dusty Bowder the new LJVMA Representative but he has not yet been able to attend a Meeting.

Public Comments:

Bill Robbins- All of the Events that have to put Signs out he wishes the Board would adopt a simple policy that the No Parking signs for Events has the Name of the Provider of the Signs i.e., Acme or whomever, name, date, and phone number for the Event. There should be a little more writing on these Signs. Drivers see them by the parking spaces but do not understand why they are there. Event organizers put them out 72 hours in advance of the Event but they end up getting scattered and someone has to reset them every morning because drivers remove them to free up a parking space.

Brian responded that it is up to the City to properly Label the Signs or the Event Organizers. **Bill** requested that when Event Organizers file their Application for the Event, we ask that they put additional information on these Signs other than just the date and time to inform the Drivers why it is there and to let us know who will be picking them up after the Event. He has been finding them and picking up these little signs everywhere after an Event but this is not sustainable.

Fred Duvall- new to La Jolla moved here from Arizona about two years ago. He lives on Virginia Way. Virginia Way is a high-speed freeway between 7am and 8:30am particularly going South from Prospect down to Torrey Pines. It is going to end badly if we do not think through some strategy to get drivers to pay attention to the 25mph speed limit. If you do not anticipate a driver turning south off of Prospect to get around Torrey Pines you cannot get across the street fast enough without running to avoid being hit; the Street is frightening.

Brian informed Mr. Duvall that Residents of Virginia Way have been before this Board to discuss traffic calming measures and two traffic circle are currently on the unfunded needs list waiting for funding: one for Virginia Way at Ivanhoe and the other at Virginia Way and Exchange:

January 19 2022 Agenda Item 1: Traffic Circle at Ivanhoe and Virginia Way: Originally requested in 2017 this proposal never made it to the LJ&T Board for consideration but made its way through Traffic Engineering for design feasibility and required petition signatures which has been previously met. June 2017 – City informs that there is actually significant speeding on Virginia Way and request that the La Jolla Traffic and Transportation Board approve the roundabout at Virginia Way and Ivanhoe Ave.

Consider possible other future amendments, including approval of a Second roundabout at Virginia Way and High, assuming resident approval is gained. Many residents on Virginia Way attended the Meeting and made comments. A road rage incident was captured on video at Ivanhoe. Vehicles were captured passing on Virginia Way at highway speeds. Hazardous to cross street at street crossings, hazardous to bicycles from large cracks and ridges on the concrete street. The Street is being abused.
Motion to Approve Traffic Circle at Ivanhoe and Virginia Way.

Brian would like to see SDPD set up radar there. He encouraged Mr. Duvall to write to Council Member Joe LaCava and request it.

Catharine Douglass- she has asked the Police multiple times to set up Radar but right now Motors; the entire division of the Motorcycle Police, are working regular patrol in black and white patrol cruisers because of the shortage right now.

The Team who did the Slurry work on Torrey Pines and throughout the Village did an amazing job particularly the intersection of Torrey Pines and Ivanhoe Ave East. They did the striping on Torrey Pines, Ivanhoe Ave East, and Ivanhoe Ave East coming in on a curve. We have never had a Keep Clear in that intersection and who would she go to see if they can get a Keep Clear put down for it. Drivers who come from that angle on Ivanhoe Ave East to turn left on Torrey Pines to go towards the Throat when the Light changes for drivers coming from Ivanhoe between Virginia Way and Torrey Pines they cannot go through the Light because all of the previous drivers are blocking the intersection. She asked Brian where should she go to get a Keep Clear put down. **Brian** asked if it was a three- way intersection. **Catharine** responded four- way but one of the four is on an angle. Those drivers are coming out of the Village in droves and they want to make that Light so they go out into the intersection and then the drivers coming from Ivanhoe Ave East or even the ones coming from Pavilions are bottlenecked and cannot get through the Light when it is their turn to go. **Brian** asked her to send him a request and he will forward it to traffic engineering and see what the requirements are for a do not block intersection sign. **Trace** added that there is a Keep Clear on Park Row and Exchange and **Dave** added there is one on Herschel at Torrey Pines.

Agenda Items 1 and 2 are Action Items but there is not yet a quorum. Agenda Item 3 Discussion Item was presented first to allow time for just one more Trustee to come into the Meeting, a quorum would be obtained, and then the Action Items could be voted on.

Agenda Item 3: Nautilus Median Beautification Project-Continuance from the April Meeting; update on the extent of cost to replace center median concrete between Fay Ave and W. Muirlands with materials that are aesthetically pleasing. (Trace Wilson, Materia Architecture) **Discussion Item**

April 18 2023 Agenda Item 3: Trace has been working on Nautilus St for the last 2-3 years thinking about how he can beautify it and reallocate this very large right of way, particularly because the Utilities are in there now tearing it up; they will be out of there in a couple of years, so why not do it better instead of just repaving it. It is an opportunity to slow traffic on Nautilus. Muirlands is also interested in calming traffic for their children so the timing is coming together. A lead donor approached them a couple of weeks ago, she wanted to give 10k towards the effort of beautifying Nautilus.

Brian asked about next steps. Trace can use the rendering to get a number just by asking some of the contractors that work in the public right of way around here. Brian wanted to know if that would cover island by island or the entire project. Trace is after a linear cost and then you take that linear cost and extrapolate it. He prefers to work from The Master Plan and then phase into it; get the numbers for the

entire project and then phase the islands into it. They need to work with the Council Members Office to figure out how the Right of Entry works and that can take some time. Steve clarified they would work with Development Services and they will try to push that through quickly so they don't spend a bunch of money in permitting. During the site visit Steve informed them that some of the cost will be used for traffic control for the construction because its right in the middle of the Street and near a School. He will try to help minimize those costs.

Trace would like to return to LJT&T next month with his project as an action Item so it can continue on to LCPA. He will have more information by then; his goal would be to be in the ground in the Fall.

There are seven Medians from Fay on the West and Muirlands West on the East. They were built in 1955, asphalt was put in the middle of them and they have not been improved since; it is time to improve these assets. Photographs show the terrible condition of the Medians currently on Nautilus vs the newly renovated Medians in the dedicated bike lanes that Sandag installed Downtown. For the Nautilus Medians he developed a hybrid scheme of cobblestone cemented in weed barrier and pockets for succulents that do not need a lot of water. They have an anonymous donation of \$10k as a lead donor.

Since the April meeting Trace has met with a Commercial Landscape Contractor and the Contractor agreed with the Numbers, he presented to the Board last Month. For all of them, and all of them should be done at the same time due to traffic control and all that that entails, is a 2–4-week effort anywhere from 50k-to 100k but around 75k. With a lead donor of \$10k and zero marketing to date he is confident he can fundraise for this initiative, there are 300-500 Residents who use Nautilus every day. The Contractor asked Trace for help from the Council Members Office to secure Traffic Control. Traffic Control is done with a Sub who obtains the permits and will run between \$400-\$1000. The Sub is a local Group, Urban Landcare, and they do really big projects in the Public Right of Way.

Catharine asked about the weeds that will grow over the succulents. **Trace** responded there will be weeds and ongoing maintenance will be required which is why the City does not always want landscaping in the prowl. The Contractor wants to bring in a water truck every three months for the first year and then once a year after that.

Bill- last month a question was asked about existing curbs that may need to be replaced if they were damaged by jacking out the asphalt. **Trace-** curb gutter looks pretty good- a good thing about not doing anything with the public infrastructure is that the asphalt that is in them now will probably disintegrate. What the Contractor will do is take all of that out and put a road base which helps with the weeds, put a weed barrier on top and then cement in the rock work.

Donna- Is Sandag covering the maintenance for the Medians that they installed on Fourth and Fifth St for the City; maybe we can just slide in if they are maintaining them. **Trace** does not know how the City will be maintaining their Medians. The bigger discussion is the Nautilus Plan and working with Sandag on either dedicated bike lanes or decreasing the roadway so drivers are not speeding as much. Bike advocates are already involved in the bike lane routes so that they can connect to via Capri, up to Mt Soledad, down to Windansea with Nautilus the main promenade to all of them.

As far as fundraising Trace believes he can meet the numbers he needs to fund the beautification of the medians; he just needs to establish a holding agent where the donations could be sent i.e., Friends of Nautilus St. He is going to reach out to the Community Foundation and see if they can help.

Sally Miller- came in Late to the Meeting and asked if there will be plantings in the Medians. Trace responded that the idea is to have some minimal succulents running down the center of them. **Sally**- who will maintain them- Trace responded that is something they are working on now. She was just in New Mexico and Arizona and they beautified their areas with gravel and stone and color so they are maintenance free. Trace- we may end up with cobble and rubble but right now we have a hybrid of two-thirds of cobble with one third of succulents that does not need a lot of water. She is concerned about the maintenance after what went on at the Throat; the Throat went to trash. Trace-The Throat went out of control because no one was keeping an eye on it; however, if people are donating money to beautify the Medians, they will probably keep an eye out for them.

Brian is ready to make this an Action Item for the June Meeting.

*The Board cannot obtain a quorum, **Agenda Item 1 Concerts by the Sea** will be Continued to the June Meeting.-Request for 6 Parking Space closures in front of the Scripps Cove venue for each of the Events scheduled for July 16, July 23, July 30, and August 6. This is the return of the free concert series by the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla. (Howard Zatkan, Event Chair)*

Agenda Item 2 will be heard as a Discussion Item

Agenda Item 2: Request for Temporary No Parking- Request for Temporary No Parking on a portion or block on the East Side between Westbourne St and Nautilus St due to Pedestrian Safety Issues. (Suzanne Baracchini, Preserve Windansea Beach Association) Discussion Item

From: Suzanne Baracchini

Subject: Re: April Agenda - Traffic Congestion at Windansea Beach

Brian

The construction associated with the Windansea failed storm drain, bluff and collapsed sidewalk will not start until after Labor Day and will take 9 months to complete as stated in this recent article. Therefore, we would be asking for temporary no-parking along East side of Neptune (Westbourne to Nautilus) for approximately 12 months.

“According to a city notice, that project involves repairing a corroded 18-inch pipe and “slope failure which has partially undermined the adjacent fence, sidewalk and road surface on the west side of Neptune Place”

The project includes 39’ of replacement piping, two new concrete inlet structures and 15’ of curb and gutter adjacent to the inlets on both sides of Neptune Place, plus 15’ of new fencing. After the work is completed, affected areas will be restored to their previous condition including revegetation on the coastal bluff.

Work has not yet started and isn’t expected to begin until after Labor day in September when the summer construction moratorium ends. Preserve Windansea Beach land use consultant Chandra Slaven said the project is expected to take nine months.”

Please send our request to the City traffic engineering and council. Ironically, the idea for temporary "no parking" was suggested to me by a City Employee who was working in the location of the failed storm drain and witnessed first- hand how dangerous the situation was. The narrowing of Neptune place, due to parked cars and barricades around the failed sidewalk, forces pedestrians to walk in the street and makes it impossible for 2-way traffic.

Suzanne presented the Board with a series of pictures of what is going on down at Windansea between the barricades around a failed storm drain, that caused a failed bluff and failed fence, that resulted in a failed sidewalk; and the pedestrians forced to walk in the street with drivers driving between parked cars on one side of Neptune and pedestrians on the other side that make it impossible for two-way traffic. A city employee mentioned to Suzanne how dangerous the situation is. The City did tag this as an Emergency Project.

The Bluff failure is between Westbourne and Nautilus along Neptune Place. The failure caused the sidewalk to collapse and it is now barricaded off. Pedestrians have been impacted by all of this because they are now walking into oncoming traffic to go from one section on the west sidewalk to the other side of the sidewalk to get past the barricades.

There are a lot of pedestrians in the area; walking, running, pushing strollers in the travel lane and there is parking on the East side of Neptune Place that is essentially making it a one lane road right now. A city employee working in the middle of so much congestion suggested to Suzanne there should be No Parking on the stretch of Neptune until the Bluff is repaired. She is bringing all of this to our attention and asking the City for temporary No Parking on that side of the street from Westbourne to Nautilus until the storm drain, bluff, fencing, and sidewalk is repaired.

Suzanne lives in the area and believes the whole section of the road will have to come up in order to repair the storm drain because they are going to have to go under the road and that will be a big project.

Brian- do you think it is necessary to close that entire stretch of Neptune; the most dangerous place is at Westbourne- that has two-way traffic plus parking and pedestrians in that section of the Street but if just half the Block was temporary No Parking it would satisfy both parties; there would still be some parking but it would be clear leading up to the point of failure. **Suzanne** asked for clarification on both parties and Brian was referring to City Staff and the California Coastal Commission who may not want to eliminate an entire Block of parking but the Board agrees we would have to create some room for pedestrians to walk. Suzanne believes the section that is directly in front of the bluff failure should be no parking; there are pockets of no parking on the street.

Bill- do the residents who live on that section of the Street need to know there would be no parking in front of their homes for a year. **Brian-** Construction will start after Labor Day and that will take quite a while, estimated around 9 months. **Suzanne** -the city should evaluate this. If you go down to the Beach at 7:00-8:00 am there are no cars but 7:00-8:00 in the evening it is jammed. The No Parking might not be required all day long, maybe within a certain timeline. That would be for Traffic Engineering at the City to make that determination.

Brian will look into it with Traffic Engineering but if we are asking for an entire Block that might slow things down. If it was just a portion of the Block right there at the apex where everyone is jammed together might be easier to get through. Suzanne informed there is a parking lot in the area.

There is a storm drain going from one side of the road to the other side and we do not know how long it will take to repair it. The City published a "Notice of Proposed Work for a Coastal Emergency"

This is to inform you that the Development Services Department Staff will make a decision to approve, conditionally approve, modify or deny an Emergency Coastal Development Permit and Site Development Permit application within the public right-of-way and City of San Diego Parks Department site in the 6900 block of Neptune Place within the Open Space Parks (OP-1-1) Base Zone and Coastal (Appealable) Overlay Zone of the La Jolla Community Plan and Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan area. The project is to replace storm drain infrastructure due to failure consisting of two stormwater inlets, 39-feet of 18-inch diameter storm drain pipe, 30 feet of curb and gutter, 15 feet of wooden bluff barrier fence, a new 20-foot-long, 6-foot-tall concrete retaining wall abutting the east side of the existing end wall, and backfill to correct bluff and slope erosion, as well as correct the underpinned barrier fence and sidewalk of the slope failure area (an area of approximately 32 x 12 feet). Following completion of work, all areas impacted by the emergency will be restored to their pre-impact condition, including revegetation on the coastal bluff. PROJECT NUMBER: 1088280 PROJECT NAME: Public Right-of-Way and Coastal Bluff Emergency PROJECT TYPE: Emergency CDP/SDP, Process One APPLICANT: Karl Lintvedt, City of San Diego Engineering and Capital Projects

Brian -based on this it would make sense for the city to create a no parking zone. **Suzanne** all it would take is one child in a Stroller to get hit by a car and everything will come to a screeching halt. She is trying to be pro-active and prevent a fatality. Suzanne had a second request of the Board that Brian referred her to the City. The City actually issued a permit to a film crew to come out and film in that exact area which made no sense. She was going to ask for a temporary suspension of special permits that bring Events to that area. That may not have been in the LJT&T purview and Brian referred her to the City, however, he will look into pedestrian safety on Neptune with the Traffic Engineers and find out how soon it could happen.

Donna- asked **Dave** who serves on the Coastal Access & Parking Board if this was going to be a coastal commission thing by eliminating parking. **Dave** responded that the city sent out that published notice of proposed work for a coastal emergency and will make a decision if they want to do that work on an emergency basis. You would think on an emergency basis they would get right on to it. The decision of city staff will be made without a public hearing no less than 48 hours from the date of the published notice so they may have already decided. The decision to approve an emergency coastal development agreement by the Development Services Department Staff cannot be appealed. There is no official community planning group review required. So, they are doing it as an emergency situation, which it is. They do not mention any of the street work but when they start it the street will be shut down, which would be a moot point for the temporary no parking request.

Dave asked Steve Hadley if there was any way to expedite this. Steve's understanding is that the emergency permit would only allow to address whatever it takes to fix what is broken and not do improvements that are possibly needed in that area. There is a discussion that is going on do they repair what they have to, to get by, or do they go the long route and get the coastal development permit and actually do some major repairs to the storm drain to prevent further occurrences.

Suzanne advised the Board that that " Notice of Proposed Work for Coastal Emergency" has been published so far every Month. The Storm Drain failed in March that Notice went out as an April Notice in April and now again as a May Notice in May. She told the Board that during the rainstorms, from the time the rain started until the time it ended the City hired a Contractor to babysit the storm drain all night long. He just sat in his Truck and watched it that is how concerned the City was that the whole thing could go. These Monthly Notices are appearing to be a stall tactic.

Suzanne is Meeting with Council Member La Cava about a different issue and Brian offered to email him regarding the temporary no parking in and around that area. She responded yes please but to copy La Jolla CPA President Harry Bubbins on it as well. **Brian** -we cannot take Action on it but we have discussed it and by next month we will have an idea on what Action will be taken by the City. We should know a lot more by next month.

Eliza McCall- She is a recent resident on La Jolla Blvd. As Suzanne mentioned there are 13 Storm Drains on that Block and she suggests looking into a blanket policy of no parking for future occurrences. There should be a blanket policy from the City for when projects affect the streets and pedestrians must walk elsewhere that there be automatic no parking in that area of work. If a Storm Drain fails on one side of the Street there should automatic No Parking on its opposite side. She listened to the Discussion and we would not have to have another discussion like this one if something was already in place to cover the parking issue; it would just be a blanket policy. The Council could issue a permanent policy for whenever construction is needed that shuts down a sidewalk then there is no parking in the general area. She is just trying to help find a permanent solution for what appears will be an ongoing problem with 13 aging storm drains that could fail at any time.

Adjournment: 5:06 pm

Next Meeting June 20 2023

Respectfully Submitted: Donna Aprea, Secretary