

LA JOLLA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Regular Meeting: December 19, 2023

Members Present: Brian Earley Chairperson LJSA, Dave Abrams LJCPA, Tom Brady LJCPA, Donna Aprea LJTC, Nancy Warwick LJTC, Patrick Ryan BRCC, Bill Podway LJVMA, Jason Peaslee LJVMA, Ross Rudolph LJSA

Members Absent: Erik Gantzel Vice Chairperson BRCC

Approve Minutes of October 17 2023: Podway, Second: Rudolph 7-0-2 (Abrams, Warwick)

Chairperson Report: Agenda Modifications- Agenda Item 4: Stop Sign on Via Capri at Via Siena- Request from La Jollans for a Safe Via Capri to install a Stop Sign at the intersection of Via Capri and Via Siena is pulled and will not be heard. La Jolla Shores Assn requested to hear the presentation first before LJ&T.

Agenda item 3: La Jolla Concours d'Elegance 2024: Laurel McFarlane, McFarlane Productions, is unable to attend the Meeting due to illness. Brian will present the Agenda on her behalf and will be recusing himself from the Board Discussion and Vote.

Jason Peaslee- Representing La Jolla Village Merchants Assn. He joined the LJVMA Board last month and is now looking to help La Jolla Traffic & Transportation because there are always people who need the kind of assistance this Board offers. He just recently dealt with the City to get the parking time limit changed on his block and going through that experience fits with his Interests in helping others.

Public Comments:

Kathleen Neal- Progress Report on the Torrey Pines Guardrail Replacement. There is currently a temporary Krail at the site and the city has funding to install a permanent one. They have done the base mapping, putting it on a computer for citywide use, to determine where utility lines are among other things. They expect that initial drafting of utility design and detailing of scope and services to be done fairly soon. That is an initial analysis, and they are using Nasland Engineering for this initial Analysis so it's good news because Nasland Engineering has a Contract with the City. They have not yet been assigned to the project because the project is still open for Bid but they are being used for the initial design stage. She will continue to follow up with the Board as this Project develops.

Massoud Karimi- Resident on via Capri for almost 8 years. There are a lot of traffic problems at the corner of via Capri and Hidden Valley Rd. Via Capri is taking up a lot of volume with vehicles and trucks.

He does not believe there has been a recent traffic study done on via Capri for the amount of cars that travel on the throughway. When he called the City Traffic Engineering Dept they told him the last traffic study done on Via Capri dates back 18 years ago, now it's almost 20 years that has gone by, without any recent Study. The sheer volume of cars frequenting that throughway with just two lanes is just a mess.

There are a lot of accidents. The signage is terrible-at the bottom of the Hill trucks do not observe the signage-18 wheelers and semi's always get stuck at that corner because they cannot make the turn. It requires emergency vehicles and tow trucks to come and unblock them and in the interim it causes chaos that creates a hazardous situation for traffic going up the Hill and coming down the Hill.

He is bringing it to our attention because he does not know what to do at this point. He needs some support from the Community, the City Engineering Department, and the Planning Department because traffic needs to be minimized and calmed. **Donna** asked him if he was familiar with the Group "La Jollans for a Safe via Capri." Mr. Karimi responded yes; he has been working with that Group for over two years but most of the focus for that Group has been via Capri at via Siena whereas his focus is at the intersection with Hidden Valley. If it's a matter of filing a petition with the City he will be more than happy to organize a Group of citizens that are willing to support this mission to try and do something. **Ross** asked what did he want to do and Mr. Karimi responded he wants to calm down the immense volume of traffic- the sheer volume of traffic on a neglected two-lane street. The traffic is not getting any better, it is becoming more dangerous. **Brian** reminded that Via Capri is under Construction right

now and will be for another two years and there are opportunities to have it restriped for traffic calming measures, however, reducing the number of cars on the street would be difficult because there are no plans for new roads and the City is not helping the traffic situation with their focus on creating density. The opportunity to address some of Mr. Karimi's concerns can be provided after the water main project is completed and just before the street is repaired.

Agenda Item 1: Torrey Pines Road Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Project- City of San Diego Engineering & Capital Projects Dept Power Point presentation of this 2024 project to be located on Torrey Pines Rd northeast of Ardath Lane in front of La Jolla Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (Brian Earley on behalf of Jason Gonzalez Asst Engineer City of San Diego) **Discussion Item**

This Torrey Pines Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon was heard as an Action Item at LJT&T June 17 2020 Meeting:

June 17 2020 Agenda Item 4: Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at 2552 Torrey Pines Rd- City request at location across from LJ Nursing and Rehab Center to enhance safety (Gary Pence) Action Item

The City is planning on installing a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at 2552 Torrey Pines Road where the La Jolla Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is located. There are pedestrians crossing the street in this general vicinity and this location is fairly centrally located between the two existing traffic signals. It will be basically identical to the one on Torrey Pines Road near Princess Street and will include sidewalk on the east side of the road from the new beacon location connecting the existing sidewalk at Ardath Lane.

This project is a high priority safety related project for the following reasons:

- 1) This is a 5-lane major street with the senior facilities adjacent to the location.*
- 2) There is a high demand for parking on both sides of the road which requires pedestrians to cross the street throughout the day. The nearest signalized crossings are several hundred feet away in both directions.*
- 3) The crosswalk evaluation done under Council Policy 200-07 recommends either a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon or a Traffic Signal. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons are more efficient at providing protected pedestrian crossings under congested conditions.*
- 4) We have received a significant number of complaints/concerns from citizens over past years regarding the safety of crossing the street in this vicinity.*
- 5) Not proceeding with this project may expose the City to liability in the event of a future pedestrian accident. The LJ Nursing and Rehab Center is on the west side of Torrey Pines but Visitors and Staff park on the East side and must cross Torrey Pines Rd in an area where vehicles are coming down the hill at high rates of speed. The City has received a significant amount of complaints and Dave verified that he has received them as well. The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at 2552 Torrey Pines Rd will operate much like the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon on Torrey Pines by Princess St. It is Pedestrian activated; light will turn red when activated forcing vehicles to stop until the pedestrian has safely crossed the street. Motion to Approve Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at 2552 Torrey Pines Rd across from the La Jolla Nursing and Rehab Center to enhance safety.*

The project is located on Torrey Pines Rd, northeast of Ardath Lane in front of the La Jolla Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Existing Conditions Northeast Bound: Currently there are no curb ramps, there are Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) with signs and a long crossing length to cross the street

Proposed Location of Improvements: Existing sidewalk will be shifted 35' northeast to accommodate bulb-out drainage.

Proposed Improvements: Project Scope- Removing existing signs and RRFB, relocating crosswalk, installing new bulb-outs with curb ramps, installing pedestrian hybrid beacon, adding accessible parking, and restriping street

Benefits: Signalized red light stop mid-block crossing, shorter crossing distance, and wheelchair access to sidewalk. The Torrey Pines Rd Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon across from the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will look and act just like the existing Hawk on Torrey Pines Rd near Hillside Dr.

Project Schedule & Budget & Schedule:

Start Construction: Spring 2024

End Construction: Spring 2025

Current Status: Final Design

Engineering & Capital Projects Department
Budget
Estimated Construction Cost: \$540,000

There is currently a crosswalk that was installed in 2018 at 2552 Torrey Pines Rd in front of the La Jolla Nursing & Rehabilitation Center; set up with 3 sets of double pedestrian activated flashing yellow lights. Last year there was a fatality in the crosswalk- a man activated the lights and attempted to cross the street in the crosswalk but was hit by a car. The City is moving forward with a Hawk set up for that location.

The project will be moved up 35' from where the existing crosswalk is now and the city will remove the existing signs and flashing beacons. They will install bulb outs with curb ramps, the Hawk beacon, add accessible parking and then restripe the Street. The Benefits from this is a mid-block crossing for a shorter crossing distance and a wheelchair access to the sidewalk.

The difference between the Hawk signal on Torrey Pines Rd by Hidden Valley and Torrey Pines Rd near Ardath lane will be bulb outs. There is no accessible parking on Torrey Pines at Hillside but there is accessible parking on Torrey Pines Rd near Ardath Lane. Patrick explained that you bulb out to get the pedestrian past the line of cars that are coming down the Hill so they are in the line of sight of Drivers coming down the Hill. You can actually move the cars closer to the pedestrian crossing with the pedestrian in the sight line of Drivers and shorten the distance of the crossing.

Kathleen pointed out that it looks like they are removing the median refuge because it will be a red light now and not the flashing yellow lights. That median refuge is a huge safety benefit for that stretch of roadway and if the Board has any recommendations for the City, it may be to keep that median refuge in place. Drivers do run the red lights at the Hawk on Torrey Pines at Hillside. There is a lot more pedestrian traffic on Torrey Pines near Ardath Lane with pedestrians running across the street for the Nursing Center they may not be paying attention to Drivers, whereas by Princess St they tend to be bike riders and pedestrians that are more cautious. If the pedestrian runs across Torrey Pines but a Driver does not stop for the red light where will they go- that median refuge offers safety. **Patrick** noted that the City may assume that all Drivers are obeying the Law that when the light turns Red the Driver stops; also, if they are choking down the traffic, they probably do not want to put something that a car coming down the Hill could hit.

Sally Miller- will there be a raised safety island in the middle and with the bulb outs what happens to the bike lanes. **Brian** responded it looks like the bike lanes will be narrowed down a little bit.

Brian will ask the City if it's possible to keep the median refuge in place.

Agenda Item 2: Street Closure La Jolla Open Aire Market -Request for street closure on Girard Ave in front of La Jolla Elementary School on Sundays. This is to extend the previous request through 2024 due to the LIES construction project (Julie McDonald & Sherry Ahern La Jolla Open Aire Market) **Action Item**

March 21 2023 Agenda Item 2 Street Closure La Jolla Open Aire Market – Request for street closure on Girard Ave. in front of La Jolla Elementary School on Sundays beginning in June to relocate market activity during school construction project. Sherry Ahern, Michelle Conway, Julie MacDonald, Sonal Patel are here to present the request for a mini street closure on Girard from Gillespie School to Genter Ave beginning June until November 2023.

Julie MacDonald, La Jolla Open Aire Market Manager,- they are currently working on extending their temporary street closure on Girard Ave at Genter St for the Open Aire Market due to continued construction on site at the La Jolla Elementary School. They expected to go back to the Campus in November but that did not happen. There is a high likelihood they can go back in August when School resumes but the City recommended they ask for the closure through the end of 2024. They had already been through the permit process twice and would run the risk of having to go through it a third time if the August move in date is delayed.

The Street is closed from Genter St to halfway down Girard not all the way to Pearl St. It is working out really well so they are keeping everything the same. They have been receiving positive feedback from the Community and in fact the Community wants them to stay out there. The ability to see their Market from Pearl St has increased their visibility with visitors wanting to know what is going on as they make their way down to the Market. They anticipated receiving some feedback about Parking but that has not happened. They have a golf cart that takes customers to their cars and that has been very helpful and appreciated.

Brian-what about the ongoing construction at the School were they notified of the delay. **Julie** responded they meet very regularly with the construction team and do on site visits with them and at one of the Meetings they were made aware that they would not be able to move back in November due to the construction team running into some difficulties that is causing the delay. Their target date of completion now is in August when students return to the School. The delays is not affecting just the Market; they are also affecting the students. They are not super confident of that August date and would not guarantee it; she asked the construction team if she should ask for the street closure through to the end of 2024 and they said yes. She spoke to Special Events, and they also advised her to extend it through the end of 2024; it would be a benefit if they have to pull it earlier but would protect them from having to go through the process again if that August date does not happen.

Sherry- they have been working on this construction project since before Covid and she does not understand the trouble they ran into. **Julie**- she was told apparently there was, at one time, a river that ran through the School way back when and they didn't know about it and that created some soil problems. **Sherry** asked Nancy when she attended the School was there a River that ran through it and **Nancy** responded No. **Julie** clarified that when you look at the Campus now you would think they are almost done, but in fact it is all being torn up again.

Brian asked if they had any emergency vehicles that had to make their way through the closure on a Sunday morning. **Julie** responded they have the mandated Fire Lane in place for them and they do hear ambulances, but the ambulances turn on Pearl. **Sherry** noted they do get the Fire Dept., but they are stopping by for food for the week.

Brian asked about the street north of the closure; which is Genter St. **Sherry** responded just a corner of Genter is closed; there is still a pass through for cars to drive past and make a U-turn at the cul-de-sac and a block away is Fay so it is really not inconveniencing anyone.

Motion to Approve Request for Street Closure Extension for the La Jolla Open Aire Market on Girard Ave in front of La Jolla Elementary School on Sundays through the end of 2024: Abrams, Second: Podway 9-0-0

Agenda Item 3: La Jolla Concours d' Elegance 2024- Request for Street Closure and No Parking on Portions of Coast Blvd between Cave St and Girard for the Annual Event scheduled for April 17-21 2024 (Laurel McFarlane, McFarlane Productions) **Action Item**

Laurel McFarlane cannot be here due to illness and Brian is Presenting the Event to the Board. In accordance with the Brown Act he is recusing himself from Board Discussion and Vote.

Brian noted that Laurel had presented this Event to LJT&T in January 2023 for the April 2023 Event and now it is coming back to LJT&T for the April 2024 Event.

Timeline:

Date: April 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st

Set up will begin in the park at 6:00 AM Wednesday, April 17, Thursday, April 18, Friday, April 19, Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21.

Friday, April 19 – La Jolla Concours d'Elegance Friday VIP Party from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Sunday, April 21 - La Jolla Concours d'Elegance from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Sunday, April 21 to Monday, April 22 - Breakdown from 4:00 PM to Noon on Monday.

Street Closures

Date: Sunday, April 21

Coast Blvd. will be closed between Prospect Street and Girard Avenue from 3:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Girard Avenue will be closed between Coast Blvd. and Prospect Street from 3:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Ivanhoe will be closed from Prospect Street to Cave Street from 4:00 AM to 9:00 AM

No Parks

Date: Wednesday, April 17th to Sunday, April 21st

Coast Blvd. from the Cove to Ocean Street (west side only) for production set up

No Park 6:00 AM Wednesday, April 17th to 10 PM Sunday, April 21st

No Parks

Date: Friday, April 19 to Sunday, April 21st

Cuvier Street between Prospect and the School from Friday, April 19 at 6:00 AM until Sunday, April 21 at 10:00 PM

No Parks

Date: Saturday, April 20

Herschel between Prospect and Wall St. (both sides) for Porsches

No park Prospect between Girard and Cave St (east side) for Porsches

No Parks

Date: Sunday, April 21

Coast Blvd. from the Cove to Ocean Street (east side only)

No park Coast Blvd. from Cave Street to the Cove

No park Girard Avenue between Coast Blvd and Prospect

No park Herschel Street on the South Side between Prospect and Wall Street for ADA Parking

The Above No Parks will be from 3:00 AM to 8:00 PM April 21

No Park Ivanhoe from Prospect Street to Cave Street Sunday, April 21 from 4:00 AM to 9:00 AM

McFarlane Productions hires a Signage Company to put out the No Parking and Street Closure Signage 72 hours in advance of the Event but it is unknown if she ever has to have cars towed.

There appears to be no change to their footprint from prior years. Map of the Event Layout has not changed from previous years.

Dave noted the dates are the 2023 dates and is somewhat confusing trying to match the dates to 2024 timeline. Brian will ask Laurel for a 2024 TimeLine.

Porches on Prospect is a series of Porches is parked on the street in the parking spaces. Traffic still travels by them.

Motion to Approve: La Jolla Concours d'Elegance 2024- Request for Street Closure and No Parking on Portions of Coast Blvd between Cave St and Girard for the 18th Annual Event scheduled for April 19-21 2024: Abrams, Second: Brady 8-0-0

Agenda Item 4: Stop Sign on Via Capri at Via Siena- Request from La Jollans for a Safe Via Capri to install a Stop Sign at the intersection of Via Capri and Via Siena. Concerned Community Members about the need for the Stop Sign. (Sven Zabka La Jollans for a Safe Via Capri) **Action Item PULLED**

Adjournment: 5:02pm

Next Meeting January 16 2024

Respectfully Submitted: Donna Aprea, Secretary