

LA JOLLA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Monthly Meeting: May 20th, 2025

The Riford Library – Seminar Room - 7555 Draper Avenue

Members Present:

Erik Gantzel BRCC
Bill Podway LJVMA
Dave Abrams LJCPA
Tom Brady LJCPA
Jason Peasely, LJMA
John Bauer LJTC
Ross Rudolph LJSA
Mary Soriano, LJTC
Mike McCormick, LJSA
Patrick Ryan BRCC

Members Absent:

Approve Minutes of March 18, 2025:

First: Bill Podway

Second: Ross Rudolph

Not present for the minutes vote

Patrick Ryan BRCC
Mike McCormick, LJSA

Vote: 8-0

Chairperson Report:

Why we are here

Just for those of you who aren't familiar with our board, we consider proposals affecting La Jolla streets, traffic, parking, generally such as stop signs, traffic calming, time limits for parking, valets, special events involving road closures or parking closures or restrictions. Our board votes on action items.

Our recommendations are sent to the CPA for ratification, or not. And from there, they go to the city for implementation, or not, depending on what the city chooses to do.

Self-service markings update

At the last meeting, which was in March, there was a discussion about self-service markings on Park Row. Specifically, the city allowing residents to hire qualified contractors to paint L markings on the street to indicate where the beginning and the end of a parking area is between driveway aprons or curb cuts.

That has, unfortunately, in the past two months, bounced between the Traffic Engineering Department and the Development Services Department over who should really look at that. And both of them seem not enthusiastic about the idea.

Red light cameras

The other thing is I've heard from some residents that they're interested in bringing red light cameras to La Jolla. And I reached out to Traffic Engineering to see if that's something they get involved in.

I don't know if it's feasible, even if it were to be supported, because of the history of red light cameras in San Diego, specifically the conflicts of interest that led to the removal of all the red light cameras many years ago. So I don't know if San Diego has any red light cameras or is interested in putting in any red-light cameras. I know other cities in San Diego County have them.

Public Comment:

John Bauer: I would just like to say thank you to you, Erik, and to the board, and to Traffic Engineering. Many months ago, you may or may not remember, we asked for a right-hand turn-only sign off Bishops Lane onto Pearl. Traffic Engineering came back, installed the sign. It is up. It's there. People can only turn right. I've only seen four cars turn left.

That's an improvement, but I'd like to thank everybody here, especially Erik, for taking it up, and it's a small step forward for all of us.

Mary Soriano: Back in November, La Jolla Town Council agreed to get on the shuttle, where it has an actual ADA ramp. Different from what Pacific Beach has with the golf cart downtown. This is an actual shuttle of about 14 or more people. It developed into meeting with SANDAG. And SANDAG was also looking at a forward movement on mobility.

What we're trying to do is figure out from employees, as well as just local, to kind of move people and eliminate as much as possible single-use vehicle. And also single-use vehicle. And I think just a matter of pollution and having to go around.

So hopefully we can continue to have you as well as planning group.

Action Item: Concerts by the Sea

Request for the use of six parking spaces on Coast Blvd., adjacent to Scripps Park for summer concert series beginning July 13, 2025.

Presented by: Suzanne Weiner

Suzanne Weiner from the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla is requesting approval for six reserved parking spots on Coast Boulevard for their "Concerts by the Sea" event series. The concerts will run for four consecutive Sundays from July 13th through August 3rd, with parking needed from 1 PM to 7 PM each day.

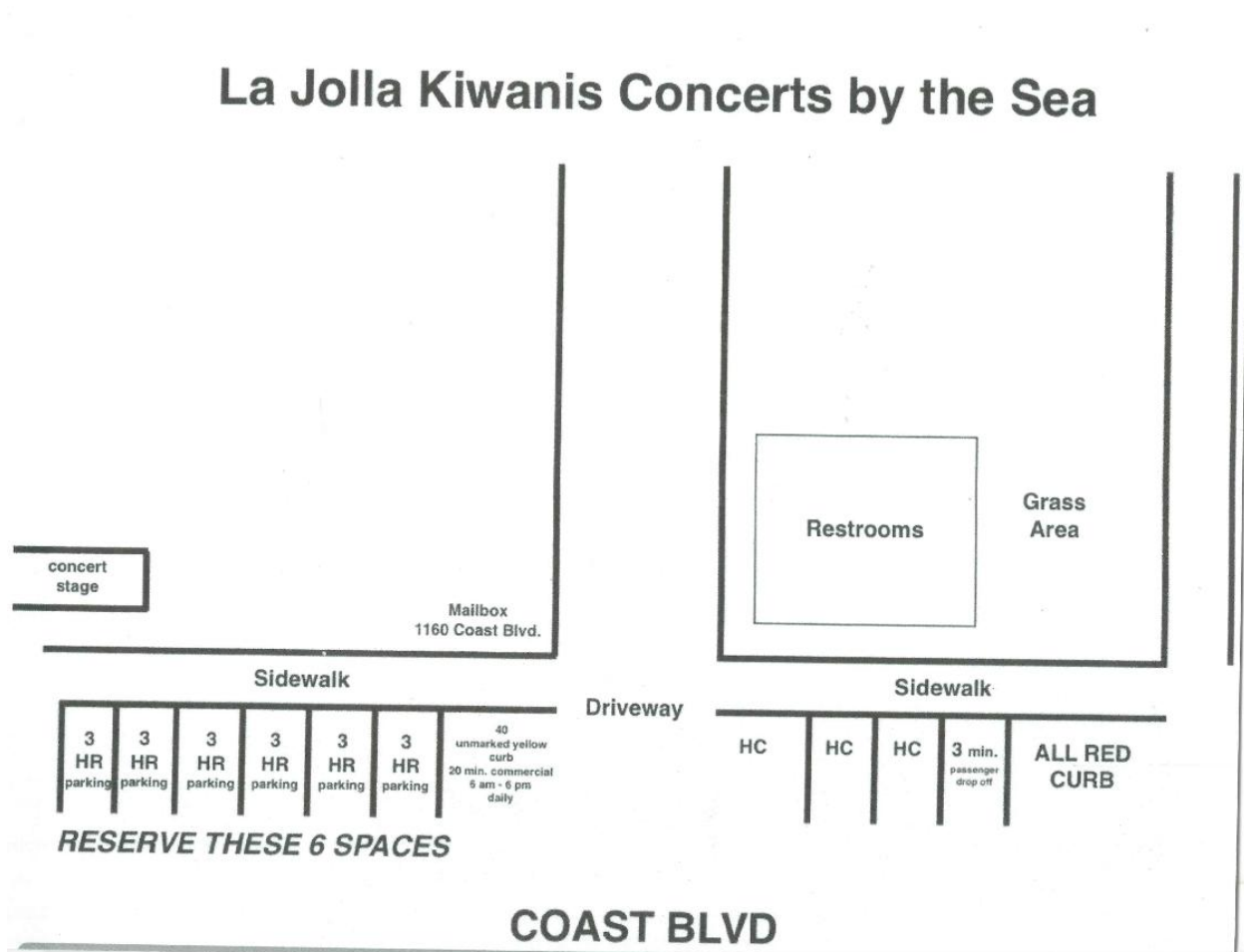
Concert Schedule:

- July 13: Big Time Operator (17-piece orchestra with vocalists)
- July 20: Abbey Road (Beatles tribute band - new this year)
- July 27: Jimmy's Buffet
- August 3: Full Strength (returning act)

Timeline each Sunday:

- 1-3 PM: Equipment setup (stage, generator, heavy equipment delivery)
- 3:30-5:30 PM: Free concerts open to the public
- 5:30-7 PM: Equipment breakdown and removal

The requested parking spots are the same six used in previous years, located near the bathrooms and close to the concert staging area.



Vote: To approve the request for the use of six parking spaces on Coast Blvd., adjacent to Scripps Park for summer concert series beginning July 13, 20, 27 and August 3 2025 - from 1pm to 7pm each day.

First: Bill Podway

Second: Dave Abrams

Vote: 10-0

Discussion Item: Speeding on La Jolla Scenic South

La Jolla Scenic South has a 25 MPH speed limit that is generally ignored by drivers. Discussion of traffic enforcement and calming options.

Presented by: Dierdre Elliott

The Problem: Deidre Elliott, a local physician, raised serious concerns about dangerous speeding on La Jolla Scenic Drive South from Veterans Memorial extending for several miles.

Key issues include:

- Speed limit is 25 mph, but drivers consistently travel 40-60 mph
- Heavy traffic from 7 AM onward due to construction and renovation projects
- Only 2-3 speed limit signs exist, and some are obscured by trees
- Three schools are located on this corridor (French American, All Hallows, Evans School)
- Safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists, elderly residents, and patients visiting Dr. Elliott's home practice

Current Status:

- Dr. Elliott filed a complaint with the city (Case #SN40300981944)
- City response time extended from 90 to 165 days due to budget constraints
- City engineer will conduct evaluation and contact her with results

Proposed Solutions Discussed:

1. **More speed limit signs** - considered easiest/cheapest option
2. **Electronic speed monitoring signs** - similar to those on Via Capri
3. **Speed bumps/road humps** - concerns about emergency vehicle access
4. **Additional stop signs**
5. **Roundabouts** - expensive, two already on unfunded approval list
6. **Police enforcement** - challenging due to California's 85th percentile rule

Key Challenge: California law prevents enforcement of speed limits when 85% of drivers exceed them by significant margins, making lower speed limits potentially unenforceable.

Next steps:

- Request traffic calming signs from the city
- Consider community funding for faster implementation
- Police representative will attend next meeting to discuss enforcement options
- The issue appears on the city's approved but unfunded project list

Discussion Item: City of San Diego Master Mobility Plan

Discussion regarding the City of San Diego's Master Mobility Plan, which was issued in April 2025 and is described as a "living document" that will evolve with the assistance of community engagement. One option is to establish a T&T working group to collect and submit ideas to improve the Master Mobility Plan.

Presented by: Erik Gantzel

Website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/sustainability-mobility/mobility/mobility-master-plan>

The Document:

- 200+ page Master Mobility Plan released in April 2025
- Described as a "living document" but lacks specific project details

Background & Current Status:

- Started in 2021 during COVID and the creation of a sustainability and mobility department
- City collected extensive data and survey results to identify areas with greatest need and highest accident rates
- In May 2025, the city eliminated the sustainability and mobility department due to budget cuts
- Most of the department's staff was reassigned to the transportation department, leaving the mobility plan essentially "stranded" without staff to update it

La Jolla's Exclusion:

- La Jolla is not included in any of the plan's focus areas

- The city prioritizes areas based on equity criteria - low income, underserved communities
- La Jolla is considered to have "high access to high-paying jobs" and "high educational resources"
- Closest focus area to La Jolla would be Pacific Beach and the corridor along Interstate 5

Community Concerns:

- Plan focuses more on alternatives to vehicle transport (pedestrian, bicycle, mass transit) rather than addressing speeding issues
- Even communities that qualify for focus areas lack funding for implementation
- La Jolla and other higher-income areas (like Carmel Mountain Ranch) consistently receive lower priority for city services and funding

Key Takeaway: While the plan represents significant investment, it's unlikely to benefit La Jolla in the foreseeable future due to the focus on equity-based criteria and the elimination of the department responsible for implementation.

Next Steps:

- Form a working group/subcommittee to review the plan and provide feedback
- Focus on traffic control technology solutions that could benefit the entire city
- Direct efforts toward the transportation department through existing channels
- Go "on record" with La Jolla's traffic concerns and potential solutions
- Explore community funding options for local traffic improvements

Adjournment: 5:23

Next Meeting – June 17, 2025

Respectfully Submitted: John Bauer, Secretary