

LA JOLLA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Regular Meeting, July 21, 2026

The Riford Library

7555 Draper Ave La Jolla, CA

Members Present:

David Abrams, (Acting Chair) LJCPA

Patrick Ryan, BRCC

Ross Rudolph, LJSA

Fatmeh Muhareb, LJVMA

John Bauer, LJTC

Mike McCormick, LJSA

Approve May 2026 Minutes:

First: Patrick Ryan

Second: Ross Rudolph

Abstain: Fatmeh Muhareb, LJVMA – Recently joined, Dave Abrams, LJCPA, not at last meeting

Vote: 4-0-2 Minutes approved

Absent:

Erik Gantzel (Chair), BRCC,

Jason Peasley, LJVMA,

Tom Brady, LJCPA

Mary Soriano, LJTC

Chairperson's Report:

Torrey Pines Road Guardrail Project

The City has awarded the construction contract to Palm Engineering. Crews are expected to begin work in late summer or early fall 2026.

Prestwick Drive and Calle de Oro Traffic Calming

Residents of Prestwick Drive and Calle de Oro have continued to request traffic-calming measures in response to ongoing speeding concerns. Joaquin Quintero, representing City Council President Joe LaCava's office, has agreed to request formal evaluation of speed bumps on Prestwick Drive between 8549 and 8559 Prestwick Drive, and evaluation of traffic-calming signage near 2533 Calle de Oro (northbound and southbound). The report noted that traffic-calming signage previously approved for Prestwick Drive remains installed on hold, pending City budget availability.

Torrey Pines Road / Coast Walk Signage

The City has relocated wayfinding signage at the intersection of Torrey Pines Road and Coast Walk to more clearly direct visitors to La Jolla Cove via Prospect Street rather than Coast Walk.

Fay Avenue Bike Path Improvements

Debbie Adams has been pursuing a set of improvements to the Fay Avenue bike path, reported as follows:

1. A stop sign will be reinstalled on the bike path (southbound) at its intersection with Via Del Norte.
2. The unpaved segment of the path between La Cañada and Calle de la Costa (near Alta Way) will be de-designated as a Class I bike path, as it does not meet Class I standards; the existing green crosswalk and bike-route signage at Calle de la Costa will be removed accordingly.
3. A warning sign will be installed where the bike path passes Gravilla Place, near the base of the steep hill and bridge; further detail on the sign was not available at this time.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items):

Hillside Drive Yield Sign Placement

A resident raised concern regarding the placement of a yield sign on Hillside Drive (near its intersection with Amalfi Street, (in the Three Heights / Sierra Meadows area), stating the sign's location approximately three-quarters of the way up the hill creates a visibility hazard. The Board discussed the matter informally but reached no resolution. Vice Chair Abrams agreed to raise the item with Erik Ganzel for possible discussion with the City Traffic people.

Torrey Pines Road / Little Street Intersection

The same resident additionally requested installation of a no-left-turn sign at the intersection of Little Street and Torrey Pines Road, citing a serious traffic accident approximately one week prior and describing left turns from Little Street onto Torrey Pines Road as hazardous given cross-traffic volume. Board members noted the intersection carries significant through-traffic to and from La Jolla Shores and agreed the request warranted further review, including outreach to affected neighbors. Vice Chair Abrams agreed to refer the matter to Chair Gantzel for the August 18, 2026, agenda.

San Diego E-Bike Ordinance

Board member Mike McCormick summarized the City of San Diego's e-bike ordinance for the Board's information: three e-bike classes are recognized (Class 1, pedal-assist only; Class 2, throttle-assisted; Class 3, high-speed pedal-assist), each generally limited to 20 mph; riders must be at least 16 years of age, with no rider under 12 permitted; passengers are not allowed unless the bicycle has a permanent passenger seat; helmets are required for all riders under 18; and violations are subject to a \$25 fine. E-bikes are otherwise subject to standard rules of the road.

Torrey Pines Road Guardrail Project — Construction Coordination

Kathleen Neil made a request that the Board ask the City and Palm Construction and Engineering to send a representative to a future T&T meeting prior to construction kickoff, to brief the Board and community on the traffic control plan and to establish a point of contact for issues arising during construction. Ms. Neil also reported that she has requested a flyer from the City's Engineering & Capital Projects division for distribution to bicyclists and bike rental operators in the area, and that Council District 1 has agreed to produce the flyer if the City department does not. This item was informational; no motion was made.

ACTION ITEM: Curebound Cancer Challenge – Request for temporary street and parking closures for cycling and running/walking events scheduled for August 1, 2026.

Requestor: Kyle Harker

Kyle Harker presented on behalf of the Curebound Cancer Challenge, a charitable athletic fundraising event including 5K and 10K cycling routes. Mr. Harker advised that the only La Jolla traffic impact is associated with the 10K route on August 1, 2026, departing from UCSD at Northport Drive; event signage will be posted 72 hours in advance.

Vice Chair Abrams noted that the City had already issued the event permit prior to this meeting. Several Board members questioned why the item was being presented only 11 days before the event and whether affected neighbors had been consulted; Mr. Harker acknowledged neighbors had not been contacted directly, and Board members speculated the item may have been delayed from a cancelled earlier (June) agenda.

As the City permit was already approved, the Board determined no vote was required on this item.

ACTION ITEM: La Jolla Art & Wine Festival – Request for temporary street and parking closures for annual festival scheduled for October 9-11, 2026

Requestors: Kevin McFarlane

Kevin McFarland presented on behalf of the La Jolla Art & Wine Festival, a recurring annual event. Mr. McFarland confirmed the event footprint, layout, and street closures are unchanged from prior years. Streets will close Friday, October 9, 2026, and reopen Sunday, October 11, 2026, with traffic control in place throughout the event; signage will be posted 72 hours in advance (October 6).

Mr. McFarland reported no significant issues from the prior year's event. Board members discussed the potential indirect impact of nighttime lane closures associated with the Torrey Pines Road guardrail project, and the impact on vendor and foot traffic, concluding the effect would be minimal since the event is primarily pedestrian in nature.

First: Ross Rudolph

Second: Patrick Ryan

Vote: 6-0 Motion Passed

ACTION ITEM: Provide a letter to the City that states that Traffic and Transportation support permanent public access to Coast Walk and trail and recommends removal of signage or inference that access to the public road is subject to the permission of the private property owners.

Requestors: Kristen Churchill

Kristen Churchill presented a proposal to support permanent public access to Coast Walk Street and Trail by recommending removal of signage stating or inferring that access is subject to permission of private property owners. Ms. Churchill described ongoing litigation involving a private property owner who controls multiple contiguous parcels along Coast Walk and asserts ownership to the high-tide line. The property owner's representatives have posted signage — both along the fence line near the bluff edge and as plaques embedded directly in the roadway — stating a "right to pass by permission" of the property owner. Ms. Churchill noted the signage had initially been placed in front of her own residence and was relocated following press coverage and reported that in the pending litigation the property owner concedes public status only as to the existing paved roadway, which does not meet current fire-access width standards in places.

Board members discussed at length the distinction between the roadway plaques — which directly concern a road the City has previously identified as public — and the bluff-area fencing signage, which several members felt fell outside the Board's traffic and transportation purview and was more appropriately addressed through the pending litigation or by referral to the La Jolla Community Planning Association. Member Kathleen Neil noted that the City's continued trash collection service on Coast Walk supports its status as a public road, and that a parallel negotiation between the Beach and Tennis Club and the California Coastal Commission over beach-adjacent signage may be instructive. The Board discussed and revised the language of the proposed motion to focus specifically on signage affecting the public roadway.

Motion: That the Traffic & Transportation Board supports permanent public access to Coast Walk Street and Trail and recommends removal of signage stating or inferring that access to the public road is subject to permission of private property owners.

First: Patrick Ryan

Seconded by: Dave Abrams

Vote: Approved 6-0 motion approved

The Board directed that a letter reflecting this recommendation be sent to the City.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Pedestrian Scramble at Girard & Torrey Pines Road – Proposal to add diagonal crosswalks at Girard Ave. and Torrey Pines Rd.

Requestors: Ann Dynes

Ann presented a concept for a diagonal (scramble-style) crosswalk at the intersection of Girard Avenue and Torrey Pines Road, noting that the existing signal already permits an informal all-way pedestrian crossing when both crossing buttons are activated. Ms. Dynes proposed exploring a more visually distinctive, purpose-built scramble crossing at this location.

Board members raised concerns regarding the intersection's configuration — a three-way (T) intersection rather than a standard four-way crossing, with two right-turn lanes from Torrey Pines Road that would require a no-right-turn-on-red restriction if a scramble phase were implemented. Several members suggested that Girard Avenue at Pearl Street or at Coast Boulevard might be better suited to this treatment. Members generally supported additional roadway markings or paint at the Girard/Torrey Pines crossing as a lower-cost interim safety measure, given the intersection's history (including a reported incident of a pedestrian injury near the location approximately six to eight months prior). No motion was made; the Board agreed informally that the concept could be raised with the City for initial feedback.

Ms. Dynes also provided a status update on her previously supported proposal for a decorative ("piano") mid-block crosswalk on Fay Avenue. She reported that a resubmitted pedestrian crossing study — conducted in September 2025 after an initial June count was disqualified due to weather conditions — has now met the City's volume and speed prerequisites for consideration. Ms. Dynes indicated she still intends to submit a formal request for an exception to the City's ordinance prohibiting mid-block decorative crosswalks.

No Board action was taken.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Nomination of Officers- Nominations from the floor for positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Election of officers to take place at the meeting in August.

Requestor: Erik Gantzel

Consistent with the Board's bylaws, nominations for officer positions were opened at this meeting; the election will be held at the August 18, 2026, meeting. The following nominations were made and closed with no further nominations offered for each office:

- **Chairperson:** Erik Gantzel (nominated by Dave Abrams)
- **Vice Chairperson:** Dave Abrams (nominated by Ross Rudolph)
- **Secretary:** Fatmeh Muhareb (nominated by Patrick Ryan)

Meeting adjourned at: 5:10pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 4pm — La Jolla Library

Respectfully submitted: John Bauer