

Moraga Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

6:00 pm

Hacienda De Las Flores – Mosaic Room
2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

I. CALL TO ORDER 6:03 pm

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Committee Members: Members William Carman (arrived late), Richard Sauve, Luis Salvago-Toledo, and John Valentine.

Liaisons: Police Chief Robert Priebe, Town Engineer Jill Mercurio, Council Member Harpham (arrived late), and MOFD Battalion Chief Darrell Lee

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Review and approval of the February 2, 2011 action minutes by Committee Members.

ACTION: It was M/S (Valentine/Salvago-Toledo) to approve the February 2, 2011 minutes. Vote: 3-0.

V. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

ACTION: It was M/S (Valentine/Salvago-Toledo) to approve the May 4, 2011 meeting agenda. Vote: 3-0.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. CURRENT ISSUES

A. Discussion of stop sign request at Campolindo Dr. and Calle la Montana

Chris Maher revealed the outcome of the neighborhood petition to the committee:

Yes	41
No	10
Declined to Answer	10

Town Engineer Mercurio noted that this number exceeded the 75% requirement for abutting properties; however it did not meet the 70% requirement for affected area properties. Mrs. Maher stated her belief that this requirement is not fair because the area determined as affected properties is arbitrary and not in accordance with the Traffic Calming Guide. She suggested revisiting the distance requirements listed in the Guide as several residents claimed the situation does not affect them and refused to sign the petition. Member Valentine questioned the 300 foot rule and asked how that distance was determined. Town Engineer Mercurio was unaware as to the determination, but noted that the language states, "300 feet or more", and that while this allows for including people beyond that distance it should be based on residents who are directly affected.

Scott Bowhay, member of the audience, commented that the Traffic Calming Guide is a guide, not a law or ordinance, and feels that this effort meets the intent of the rule. Jonathan Clarke, member of the audience, commented that the stop sign should be installed.

Member Valentine commented that this vote could set a precedent of how the committee defines affected area and whether a refusal to vote or sign the petition is considered a 'yes' or 'no' vote. He then noted that the next step of the process is a recommendation to Town Council and asked if the committee is limited in their recommendation. Town Engineer Mercurio stated that if the committee feels the recommendation, as based on the Traffic Calming Guide, is unreasonable they can suggest approval to the Town Council regardless.

ACTION: It was M/S (Valentine/Sauve) to request from Town Council approval for two additional stop signs be installed at Campolindo Drive and Calle la Montana, and that it be placed in the Request for Action section and not on Consent. Vote: 3-0-1.

B. Discussion of Crosswalk Improvement Project

Town Engineer Mercurio began by informing the committee that this project, while listed as a Capital Improvement Project, is not fully funded by the Town. She also noted that, though this project is sponsored by the Town, it will be brought before the committee and, following Traffic Control Guide procedure, a public meeting will be held. She recommended that the 300 foot distance be kept, as opposed to increasing it, because the project does not affect traffic patterns.

Town Engineer Mercurio clarified that this project is for two intersections, Moraga Road at Corliss Drive and Moraga Road at Woodford Drive, and that the purpose is to modify existing crosswalks. Member Valentine asked about the possibility of moving the Corliss crosswalk north of its existing location, bringing it further up the hill, to which Town Engineer Mercurio informed him that no sidewalk exists on the Corliss side of the street past the existing crosswalk. Member Valentine also asked, based on page 14 of the Traffic Calming Guide, who is responsible for implementation of the traffic calming process on Town-sponsored projects. Town Engineer Mercurio replied that staff will be responsible.

Member Sauve asked if changes can be suggested by the committee, however, Town Engineer Mercurio described that the funding was based on approved plans and any whole scale changes could alter the funding source.

Jay Daniel, member of the audience, noted that he is in favor of this project, and that the flashing beacon will be important because it will be more noticeable to drivers. Jonathan Clarke, resident on Paseo Linares, agreed with the previous speaker, but expressed concern about light pollution from the beacons, to which Town Engineer Mercurio informed him that the light is directional, allowing the impact of the light into residences to be minimized. Scott Bowhay, audience member, commented that he is concerned with the costs of the project. In response, Town Engineer Mercurio noted that while the total cost of the project is roughly \$160,000, the Town is funding approximately \$30,000. Mr. Bowhay is also concerned that the flashing lights are too expensive and not a good enough solution, that they will have maintenance issues, and that the Town should instead find the money to install traffic lights.

Member Valentine asked about the next steps in the process, to which Town Engineer Mercurio stated that the next step is a public meeting. Even though one was held in October of 2009 the Town plans on hosting a second meeting. There is no request for action from the committee at this time as the Town Council has already approved the funding for this project. She also informed the committee that the funding for this project is a grant, and that if the money is not used it will disappear. It is not available for alternate uses.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Status of recruitment

Town Engineer Mercurio welcomed Member Carman and informed the committee that another applicant has applied and is waiting to be interviewed by the Town Council.

B. Election of new chair and vice chair

ACTION: It was M/S (Sauve/Salvago-Toledo) to elect Member Valentine as chair. Vote: 3-0-1.

Chair Valentine assumed the duties of Chair at this point.

ACTION: It was M/S (Carman/Salvago-Toledo) to elect Member Sauve as vice-chair. Vote: 3-0-1.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND LIAISONS

None.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

- A.** A request was received, through the Police website, showing interest in traffic calming devices on Donald Drive. Chief Priebe has responded with information on both the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and the Traffic Calming Guide. He has also advised the author on the next steps in the process.
- B.** Chief Priebe notified the committee of an e-mail regarding speeding on Rheem Blvd. The author suggested that the Town install speed bumps on Rheem Blvd. in order to discourage excessive speed from drivers. Town Engineer Mercurio notified the committee that this is a good example of how the Traffic Control Guide is designed to bring the public into the traffic calming process and to ensure a general public desire for any actions.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

BY ORDER OF THE CHAIR, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill A. Mercurio, Town Engineer