

MINUTES

CITY OF SAN JOSE

TRAFFIC APPEALS COMMISSION - February 19, 2009

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Traffic Appeals Commission (TAC) was called to order by Chair Gary Pelton at 7:00 p.m.
QUORUM - Yes

Commissioners present: Edwin, Pelton, Collen, Ferguson, Flynn, Daulton, Sgt. Woo

Commissioner not present:

Staff present Sam Koosha, Veronica Kortright, Belinda Torres, Salvador Lopez (student intern)

Guests Dustin Williamson, Jerome Harvey, Jarvis Gross, Kevin Griffith, Stephanie Fong, Anne Huberman, Greg Goodhue,

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

The minutes were approved as written.

C. APPEAL FOR Salt Lake Drive and Reece Way

Commissioner Pelton announced the roll call for the commissioners. All commissioners were present.

Commissioner Pelton asked that all staff introduce themselves. Commissioner Pelton stated that Dustin Williamson would be the speaker on behalf of the appeal. He turned the meeting over to Senior Engineer Sam Koosha from the Department of Transportation.

Engineer Veronica Kortright explained and showed in a presentation how the intersection of Salt Lake Drive and Reece Way was analyzed. Council Policy 8-1 was explained before the presentation to the Commissioners and attendants.

The criteria is as follows:

- Crash History
- Conflicting Traffic Volumes
- Presence of Schools
- Unusual Conditions

Engineer Kortright proceeded to explain and give an example of assigning points using the above-mentioned criteria. The history of the intersection was explained and how many points it received. The intersection of Salt Lake Drive and Reece Way came out to 6 points. Twenty points are needed to qualify for a stop sign.

The Department of Transportation added the following safety enhancements:

- Deployed radar trailer on Salt Lake Drive to increase motorists' awareness of the speed limit
- Requested the San Jose Police Department 's Traffic Enforcement Unit to provide additional enforcement in the neighborhood.
- Installed one way stop control on Glen Firth Drive at Salt Lake Drive on February 29, 2008
- Installed double yellow centerlines with reflective pavement markers between Mabury Road and Vista Creek Drive on April 24, 2008. This measure was supported by a majority of the neighborhood through a petition process
- The red curb was installed on the southeast side on Salt Lake Drive to improve sight distance visibility
- The bushes on the southeast corner were trimmed in December 2008 to increase visibility at the intersection

In addition, both State and Federal guidelines were recommended against using stop signs for speed control. Stop signs are to establish right of way between motorists and pedestrians, reduce delay and enhance safety for all roadway users.

Public comments:

Mr. Dusty Williamson, a resident, on Salt Lake Drive for the last 30 years expressed concern about people bypassing the light at White Rd. and Mabury Rd. The problem they have started with a high flow of traffic as major speed. He stated that the people they have problems with are the high speeders, and they do not care. He requested to install speed bumps.

Kevin Griffith, a resident, stated he lives in a cul-de-sac and goes for walks with his family, and fears that someone will be killed due to the excessive speeding on Salt Lake Drive.

Anne Huberman, a resident, stated that she lives on Salt Lake Drive. She recommended that if people would just lower their speed by 10 mph, this would be a benefit to all. She added that even a greater benefit, would be to curve the road back and forth and make it narrower or install a traffic circle that would make people slow down. It would be a one time expense, and not put any undue process on police officers to maintain. Speed bumps were also recommended.

Jarvis Gross, a resident, commented that he has lived in his house for 25 years, and notices the speeders zooming by. He recommended that the volume counter be left out there at all times.

Jerry Harvey, a resident, stated that his neighborhood has a lot of highly intelligent people; and those are the ones who speed.

Commissioners decision:

A motion to deny an all-way stop at the intersection of Salt Lake Drive and Reece Way was made by Commissioners Pelton, Collen, Ferguson, Daulton, Edwin. Commissioner Flynn was for the all-way stop sign. The vote was 5 to 1 to deny.

Commissioner Flynn voted “Yes”. Commissioners Daulton, Pelton, Ferguson, Collen, and Edwin voted “NO”. A total of 6 commissioners were present.

Outcome: Denied

Possible Action Items:

A parking edgeline was recommended by Senior engineer Koosha. The DOT will still re-visit the situation to see if a solution can be found. Secondly, the SJPD will go out and ticket people on a rotational basis. Another option, is to go back to the drawing board and see what else is available. The Street Smarts program was also recommended as an option.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Belinda Torres
Traffic Appeals Commission Secretary

Commissioner Gary G. Pelton
Chair