

**MINUTES**

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**

**TRAFFIC APPEALS COMMISSION - March 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 & Sgt. Angel

**Commissioner not present:**

**Staff present** Sam Koosha, Len Ramilo & Elizabeth Larson

**Guests** Katrina Brinkman, Reg Thompson, Theresa Pagonico & John Curoll

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

The minutes were approved as written.

**C. APPEAL FOR HARWOOD DRIVE AND CLOVIS AVENUE**

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

Commissioner Pelton asked that all staff introduce themselves. Commissioner Pelton turned the meeting over to Senior Engineer Sam Koosha from the Department of Transportation.

Engineer Len Ramilo explained and showed in a presentation how the intersection of Harwood Drive and Clovis Avenue was analyzed.

The criteria is as follows:

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

Engineer Ramilo 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 Harwood Drive and Clovis Avenue came to 15 points out of 20 points needed to qualify for a stop sign.

The Department of Transportation added the following safety enhancements:

- All pavement markings were refreshed
- Edge of Pavement lines were installed on both sides of Harwood Road
- Deployed radar speed trailer on Harwood Road to increase motorists' awareness of the speed limit
- Requested the San Jose Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit to provide enforcement in the area
- City Arborist was asked to proceed with tree trimming process to improve visibility of signs

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:**

Ms. Katrina Brinkman, a resident, on Begonia Drive and spokesperson for the group, gave a lengthy well prepared speech.

She felt that the need for stop signs at Harwood Drive and Clovis Avenue intersection was necessary due to the proximity to Noddin Elementary School. The following were things she pointed out:

- Need better signage with school plate below existing school warning sign.
- Significant number of children come from Clovis Avenue
- Harwood and Clovis intersection is located at the bottom of hill – pedestrian not very visible
- Cars going north on Harwood may not see Pedestrian due to parked cars.
- Stop signs would clarify where pedestrians are.
- Kindergarteners have staggered start time 8:05 & 8:15 and 2:40 & 2:50 and staggered end time which only gave a total of 50 minutes a day of protected crossing time.
- Student activity on campus – Need to cross on unprotected time
- Cars stop when they are not supposed to stop – creating a possible accident
- She said that when she and other mothers walked their children to school, they are in fear of being hit by a car

Reg Thompson gave a visual presentation which showed how Clovis Avenue and Harwood intersection is not very visible from a certain point and especially when there are cars parked along on the side of the road on Harwood. He also stated that students cross the intersection 12 months of the year, if they wait, the statistic will probably happen to a child. He pointed to a play area right across Clovis.

**Commissioners decision:**

A motion to approve an all-way stop at the intersection of Harwood Drive and Clovis Avenue was made by Commissioners Pelton, Ferguson, Daulton & Edwin. Commissioners Collen & Ferguson were not for the all-way stop sign. The vote was 4 to 2 to approve.

**Outcome: Approved**

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Elizabeth Larson  
Traffic Appeals Commission Secretary

Commissioner Gary G. Pelton  
Chair