

GREATER TOLUCA LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING (includes TRAFFIC/PUBLIC WORKS)
MINUTES for: Monday, October 1, 2007
10116 Riverside Drive, Suite 200 Toluca Lake, CA 91602

1. Meeting Opening and Call to Order:

Start time: 7:05PM
Members Present: Jay Goldberg (Chairman) Frank Banyai, Betsy Mogul, Wendy Mogul, Julie Yanow
Members Absent: John Adair, Sol Ajalat, Craig Strong, Michael Weisler (excused)
Standing Guests Present: Pakzad (Paul) Meskin (DOT); James Quigley (Bureau of Street Lighting)
Other Guests: Marie Andros, Glenda Baskin, Christine Farnon, David Dresnick, Sharon Dresnick

2.1 On-Going Business –Public Input limited to 3-minutes

Local Crime: Update reported by Jay Goldberg since Senior Lead Officer was not present
Recent robbery at Vendome Wine & Spirits at Riverside and Cahuenga
Senior lead officers continue to work on Magnolia Blvd concentrating on auto thefts and gang activity

Gang Activity To report tagging or gang activity call Citywide Services Directory“311”. Discussion among present concluded that it was safer to call the city rather than for individuals to erase tagging since it could be perceived as a confrontation by the gang members.

Neighborhood Watch

Strohm-Otsego-Since Senior Lead Officer was not present we are uncertain if a Neighborhood Watch has been organized for this area.

2.2 Work In-Progress Status –Public Input limited to 3-minutes

Cahuenga Blvd. Improvements:

Pakzad (Paul) Meshkin, a Transportation Engineer from Dot reported on the latest planned improvements:

- 1. Widen the east side of Cahuenga Boulevard between Camarillo Street and Addison Street approximately 7ft. to provide a drop-off zone in front of Toluca Lake Elementary School and to eliminate an existing jut-out.
2. Install a northbound right-turn pocket on Cahuenga Boulevard south of Magnolia Boulevard by widening both sides of Cahuenga Boulevard approximately 5ft on each side from Magnolia Boulevard to the alley just south of Magnolia Boulevard.
3. Install left-turn pockets at the intersections of Cahuenga Boulevard and Valley Spring Lane, Whipple Street, Woodbridge Street and Bloomfield Street.
4. Install left-turn phasing at the intersections of Cahuenga Boulevard and Camarillo Street, Riverside Drive and Moorpark Street.
5. Install two permanent speed display signs on Cahuenga Boulevard.

This is the tentative schedule for completion of the work and DOT may have to adjust the dates later as design progresses. We will keep you posted of any changes.

Table with 2 columns: Task, Completion Date. Rows: Design (June 2008), Environmental (April 2008), Right-of-Way (July 2008), Construction (Mar 2010)

Cahuenga Blvd. Secondary Highway designation and downgrading:

Councilman LaBonge has initiated the following City Council motion on September 18, 2007:

“the (City) Planning Department be directed, in coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), and in consultation with the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council and the office of Council District-4 to review the feasibility of re-designating and downgrading a segment of Cahuenga Boulevard from Lankershim Boulevard to Magnolia Boulevard from its current street classification of secondary highway to a collector street; and to report with recommendations in 90 days.”

Alley South of Riverside Drive at Forman-Adding stop sign:

- Still looking at accident reports. Should be able to be put up quickly once order is placed by DOT.

Riverside and Talofa (Trader Joe’s corner)-Adding traffic signal:

- According to DOT a Traffic signal is not justified since the City requires a 300 ft minimum distance between that corner and Forman Ave. and the distance is short of that. Could still continue to study.

Clybourn and Camarillo: Adding traffic signal:

- High traffic volume and poor visibility because of curve.
- Request a traffic signal, instead of current Stop sign, (historical information: this intersection is on the border between Burbank and LA and the City of Burbank would not agree to a traffic signal unless LA ceded a piece of the border to Burbank. Council Office is planning to meet with the Mayor of Burbank to discuss.)

Strohm (South of Riverside) Improving safety and traffic:

- Public Safety Committee would like to hear from DOT on their recommendation for the best solution. No further discussion. One-way would require a petition.

Camarillo between Lankershim and Tujunga- Improving safety and traffic:

- City is analyzing data. Possible change to reduce Camarillo to one lane in each direction with center safety zone was discussed. Need to have traffic count to see if this is feasible. This plan would be similar to the new Verdugo Blvd changes initiated by Burbank.

Valley Spring Lane-(between Lakeside and Cahuenga) Resurfacing street and Improving street lighting:

- Resurfacing street-This is now planned for later this year or next year. Question was raised whether the new Sewer System would go through Valley Spring Lane requiring the street to be dug up after it was resurfaced.
- Street Lighting-City Department of Public Works

Town Hall Meeting: Making the Internet a Safer Place for Children:

An LAPD presentation on predatory behavior toward minor children on the internet.

- Tentatively to be held at Toluca Lake Elementary on January 29 or February 5, 2008.

3. New Business Public Input limited to 3-minutes

Universal Development Plans

- Complaints were made by some of the guests in attendance that the Neighborhood Council members who are members of the Universal/MTA Community Working Group were not keeping the Community informed on the development plans. Jay Goldberg is to ask the Council members of the Working Group whether there are plans to have a Town Hall meeting for the community on the progress of discussions with Universal.

Street Lighting Districts

- James Quigley, a Street Lighting Engineer from Bureau of Street Lighting reported on the city procedures on creating Street Lighting Maintenance Assessment Districts based on new developments. Mr. Quigley explained that whenever called for the City now requires developers to install new or additional street lights as part of approving plans for a new development. The city then creates Street Lighting Maintenance Assessment Districts whereby property owners who will benefit are asked to pay ongoing yearly assessment fee (approximately \$70) for operating and maintaining the street light(s). One example of this is the recently created Cahuenga Boulevard and Otsego Street Lighting Maintenance Assessment District.

Congress of Neighborhoods

- Congress will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2007 (9:30am-12:15) LA Convention Center. (Attendance & Parking is Free) Part of the each of Two Sessions includes Crime and the Police, Training on Safe Streets Program. Everyone is invited to attend .

4. Meeting Close and Wrap-Up 8:15 PM

Meeting Dates for 2007: (first Monday of the month unless there is a Holiday) November 5; December 3; and January 7, 2008.

Time: 7:00 PM **Location:** 10116 Riverside Drive, Suite 200

**Cahuenga Boulevard Street Improvements
Questions & Answers from the August 6, September 10, and October 1, 2007
GTLNC Public Safety Committee Meeting**

FROM: *South of Cahuenga Committee* (questions and answers in Italics)
North Cahuenga Committee (questions and answers are underlined)
TO: the City DOT, Tom LaBonge, & the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council
& Public Safety Committee
RE: Cahuenga Boulevard

SOUTH QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

1. ***The project as planned per the City is to make through traffic flow easier (quicker & more of it)& is primarily not for safety. Paragraph 1 of Scope of Work.***

- ***The Scope of Work title should be changed to “Street Improvements-Cahuenga/Magnolia Blvd. to Lankershim Blvd.***

South: *Agreed*
P/S Minutes 8/6: Tom gave assurance that he will be changing signs.
P/S Minutes: 9/10:

2. ***No work should begin without the Scope of Work containing the exact relocation of the traffic directional sign at the Cahuenga/Lankershim Y directing freeway traffic down Cahuenga, a 99% residential street, & changing the lettering to direct traffic down Lankershim a 99% commercial street to the freeway.***

- ***This was promised by Councilman LaBonge in writing, acquiesced to by the City, & published in the Tolucan, & send(d) via mail by Tom LaBonge to over 550 Citizens of Toluca Lake.***
- ***This was supported by over 550 signatures, the recommendation of the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council & the Toluca Lake Homeowners Association in writing.***

South: *Agreed*
P/S Minutes 8/6: All okay.
P/S Minutes: 9/10:

3. ***There is no need for a left hand turn pocket at Landale & Cahuenga Blvd. There has only been 1 accident in 6 years. Landale is a very narrow street with needed parking on both sides of the street. A no left hand turn sign should be installed on Cahuenga prohibiting left hand turns on to Landale from Cahuenga. At the “Shade Tree Meeting” the Councilman agreed to this elimination & sign. Turn pockets will only increase accidents not prevent them.***

- ***Because of the elimination of the left had turn pocket at Landale & Cahuenga there is no need to eliminate 5 parking spaces that are needed by local workers, occasional guests, & for the impacted parking situation on Landale.***
- ***The 5 parking spaces are on Cahuenga on the West side of the street, 3 North & 2 South of Landale. There have never been accidents as a result of the 5 parking spaces.***

South: *Agreed*
P/S Minutes 8/6: Remove and leave parking.
P/S Minutes 9/10: The Cahuenga-Landale left-turn pocket is out.

4. ***The Scope of Work should include a traffic light at Valley Spring Lane to prevent accidents. All a turn pocket will do is increase accidents. The City can’t provide any evidence that turn pockets prevent accidents, but rather enhance thru traffic thereby increasing the odds of accidents occurring.***

- ***The new light should be timed with the others on Cahuenga, & have a left hand arrow component. (Paragraph 4 - Scope of Work).***

South:
P/S Minutes 8/6: Updated study 4/2007, no signal needed.
P/S Minutes 9/10: Traffic light at Valley Spring denied. Timing on local traffic signals will be adjusted.

5. Installation of 2 permanent digital speed signs on Cahuenga on both sides of the street, South of Riverside

- **2 signs south of Riverside, placement to be determined by the City DOT.**

South: DOT will try to install two speed signs instead of one.
P/S Minutes 8/6: Attempting to see if they can add this to scope of work.
P/S Minutes 9/10:

6. Scope of Work under "Major Objectives" has errors. The work isn't a safety issue as stated, however these recommendations contained in this paper will provide safety, & make both common & traffic sense.

- **All existing red curbs should be repainted red to help prevent illegal parking & inserted into the Scope of Work along with multiple no parking signs installed on each red curb area.**

South: City to repaint red curbs. (DOT explained why they can't install "No Parking Signs" on red curb areas).
P/S Minutes: Can't do both.

7. A letter of these recommendations should be prepared for the Council to approve & once approved put in letterform to Councilman LaBonge & to the City DOT, no later than September 2007 by the GTLC

South: Request that GTLNC approves these recommendations and send to Councilman LaBonge and DOT no later than September 2007.
P/S Minutes: (no information in notes)

NORTH QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

1. Adjust traffic signal timings on Cahuenga starting at Magnolia southward to the 134 at Sarah or Riverside so drivers will be forced to come to a full stop at Huston & again at Camarillo. Do this 24/7. Adjust the timing so pedestrians needing to cross Cahuenga at Huston don't have to wait so long for the lights to change, the yellow button does nothing for them.

North: They (DOT?) will check on the yellow button equipment at Cahuenga & Huston to make sure it is working properly.
P/S Minutes 8/6: Not part of scope of work. Will try to make special times for children crossing then go back to Regular time.
P/S Minutes 9/10: Yes

2. Install a traffic signal on Cahuenga at Addison.

North: (?)
P/S Minutes 8/6: Will look into it.
P/S Minutes 9/10: Denied.

3. On the west side of Cahuenga from Magnolia to Camarillo, paint solid white lines to identify parking lanes.

North: This will be looked into by ?
P/S Minutes 8/6: Will look into it.
P/S Minutes 9/10: Per Paul Meshkin's email to Alice, there is no problem with a solid white line on Cahuenga, between Camarillo and Magnolia.

4. Prohibit southbound traffic on Cahuenga from turning westbound on Camarillo on the red light by installing a "No Right turn on Red" sign at the N.W. corner of Cahuenga at Camarillo.

North: ? will try.
P/S Minutes 8/6: Can't be part of this project.
P/S Minutes 9/10: Yes

5. Increase nighttime visibility & decrease temptation to speed at night by adding more pedestrian lighting on Cahuenga Blvd. (Provided that there is no spill light back towards homes).

North: We asked for more pedestrian lighting on Cahuenga: This is an issue for Dept. of Public Works-
Alice will look into it.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Can't be part of this project.
P/S Minutes 9/10: Awaiting response.

6. Install photo enforcement signals on Cahuenga at the intersections of Huston & Camarillo.

North: We asked for Photo enforcement signals on Cahuenga at Huston and at Magnolia. This is an LAPD issue. Rob and Alice will look into it.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Up to LAPD.
P/S Minutes 9/10: Awaiting response.

7. Prevent semi trailer trucks from using Cahuenga & the installation of all needed signs to prevent their use including working with the City & State.

North: Get heavy trucks off the commercial access route. This is an issue for Dept. of Public Works.
Alice to follow through?

P/S Minutes 8/6: Can't be part of this project. CA and LA codes apply.
P/S Minutes 9/10: Awaiting response.

8. Traffic enforcement hours to be recommended to the Police Traffic Division beginning at:

- **Mondays - Fridays between Mid-day to Midnight.**
- **Saturdays between 10:00PM to 2:00AM.**
- **Enforce the no U-Turn Law.**

North: (? don't believe this went through).

P/S Minutes 8/6: Refer to LAPD. P/S Minutes 9/10: Awaiting response.

9. The Cahuenga Committee strongly recommends NO INSTALLATIONS OF RIGHT LANES AT THE CORNER OF CAHUENGA BLVD. & CAMARILLO ST. Data must be provided to Justify right of way acquisitions.

North: We do not want right of way acquisitions in order to install right lanes at the NE & NW corners of Cahuenga Blvd. & Camarillo for "traffic safety." We have been given no traffic accident data to justify if this is needed.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Talk to Council Office.
P/S Minutes 9/10: No

10. Installation of 2 permanent digital speed signs on Cahuenga on both sides of the street, North of Riverside Dr.

- **1 on the southbound side at Addison.**
- **1 on the northbound side at Kling.**

North: DOT will try to install two speed signs instead of one.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Need to downgrade Cahuenga.
P/S Minutes 89/10: Yes

No Number:

Signage: We identified 6 sites where signage could be placed to Divert Traffic from Cahuenga Boulevard. There may be others. Tom LaBonge has long expressed his feelings that traffic should be diverted from Cahuenga, a residential street, to Vineland and/or Lankershim, and we feel these recommendations will assist him.