

GREATER TOLUCA LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING (includes TRAFFIC/PUBLIC WORKS)
MINUTES for: Monday, November 5, 2007
10116 Riverside Drive, Suite 200 Toluca Lake, CA 91602

1. Meeting Opening and Call to Order:

- Start time: 7:00 PM
Members Present: Jay Goldberg, John Adair, Sol Ajalat, Frank Banyai, Wendy Mogul, Craig Strong, Betsy Mogul
Members Absent: Julie Yanow-excused
Standing Guests Present: Rob Benavides, Marie Andros, Glenda Baskin, Sharon Dresnik, Christine Farnon
Other Guests: Bureau of Engineering: Jeff Jolley, Lisa Ochsner, Ramnik Mungra, and Michael Silverman
Department of Transportation: Pakzad (Paul) Meshkin

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

Local Crime: Senior Lead Officer

- Transient-on-transient crime is increasing. LAPD is trying to increase patrol of the park and arrest on warrant violations and will try to get court orders for offenders to stay out of this designated area.
There has also been an increase in auto theft.
There was a purse snatch incident locally and an armed robbery on Lankershim in which the male victim was shot in the arm.

Gang Activity To report tagging or gang activity call Citywide Services Directory“311”.

- Nothing new to report.

Neighborhood Watch

- Nothing new to report.

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

Cahuenga Blvd. Improvements: Ramnick Mungra, Presenter (City of LA)

- 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.

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

- An oral presentation repeated the information that was given at the October Neighborhood Council meeting. The schedule must and will be adjusted to accommodate a rule which forbids work to be done during school hours.

Cahuenga Blvd. Secondary Highway designation and downgrading-

- Sub-Committee proposes that the Public Safety Committee produce a letter to submit to the GTLNC Board for submittal to Council District-4 to expedite the downgrading of Cahuenga Boulevard from Lankershim Boulevard to Magnolia Boulevard.
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.”

- The committee reviewed a draft letter prepared by the Cahuenga sub-committee seeking signatures and community support to have Cahuenga designated as a collector street. The sub-committee will circulate the letter.

- Frank Banyai explained the mechanics of the hearing process. Residents on Cahuenga want to expedite the hearing process, if possible.

The following motion was made and carried:

- **Motion-** *That the Public Safety Committee recommends to the GTLNC that it support the downgrading of Cahuenga Boulevard between Magnolia and Lankershim from secondary highway and its redesignation as a collector street.*
- *We further recommend that the GTLNC take such action as is deemed necessary to expedite the process and to achieve a final decision on this issue.*

**Background:** *In 2003, approximately 500 residents signed a petition for such downgrading and redesignation and in 2005, 500 residents signed a petition from a different section of Cahuenga and we believe that the sentiment of the community remains the same.*

**Alley South of Riverside Drive at Forman-Adding stop sign:** No action

- 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:** No action

- 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:** No action

- 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:** No action

- 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:** No action

- 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:** No action

- 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:** No action

- 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** the Universal/MTA Community Working Group plans to have a Town Hall meeting for the community on the progress of discussions with Universal.

- The consensus of those present was that GTLNC needs to be more aggressive in informing the community about this project.
- Questions: What is the "Working Group" doing?
- What are our objectives, what do we want this project to look like?

**Street Lighting Districts** No action

- 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** No action

**Burbank Boulevard Improvements** from Lankershim to Vineland- Ramnick Mungra, Presenter (City of LA)

- Ramnik Mungra explained this \$15 million project.
- Burbank will have 2 lanes in each direction with a center turning lane and a parking lane on the north and south sides.
- Due the configuration of the sidewalk, three properties will lose street parking.
- Trees will be replaced on a 2 to 1 basis, with 24" box trees.

**Magnolia Boulevard Improvements** from Cahuenga to Vineland- Ramnick Mungra, Presenter (City of LA)

- Ramnik Mungra explained this project. Magnolia is a secondary highway.
- Only the south side will be reconfigured.
- There will be one lane going east and two lanes going west, with a center turning lane.
- The south sidewalk will be reduced to a seven foot width.

**4. Meeting Close and Wrap-Up**

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

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