

# **TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMITTEE (TAPS) MEETING MINUTES**

**February 8, 2023**

## **1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

The Committee Meeting was held via a Zoom videoconference and broadcast from the Pinole Council Chambers, 2131 Pear Street, Pinole, California. Committee Member Dunham-Sims chaired the meeting and called the Committee Meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **2. Roll Call and Statement of Conflict**

### **Committee Members Present**

Oliver Collins  
Ben Doyle  
Faith Dunham-Sims  
Kent Moriarty

### **Committee Members Absent**

None

### **Staff Present**

Sanjay Mishra, Public Works Director

## **3. Approval of February 8, 2023 Minutes**

Chair Dunham-Sims motions to approve; Member Moriarty seconded; all members approve.

## **4. Committee Member Reports**

None.

## **5. Citizens to be heard – for items not on the agenda**

### **Public Comments Opened**

None.

## **6. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Issues**

### **Improvements on Mann Dr / Pinole Middle School**

Member Collins: Design change needs to be created. Roadway is not wide enough, no bike lanes. Will the school contribute to the funding cost? With the signal light at Mann Dr and Appian Way affected, will the intersection be changed?

Staff Mishra: We are currently looking at all options to manage traffic circulation. There are two driveways for school, parents making left turns creates conflict during drop offs and pick-ups. The map shows proposing a barrier for certain length (driveway to driveway) to prevent left turns. A crosswalk would be added. Funding has not been discussed yet with school. Right now we are looking for an appropriate solution with the inputs from all stakeholders. Mann Dr residents need to provide

comments. The signal light is another project at “Doctors Center”, paid by developer.

Member Doyle: One of main holdups is people coming from Appian Way waiting to make left into the driveway; 1566-1558 Mann Dr couldn’t exit towards Appian

Louis L.: Lives on Mann Dr, has concerns about the plan. The Committee needs to talk to all stakeholders and school before proposal. The issue is people turning into the school for drop offs, parents need to be talked to. Likes the idea of a turn-around on Mann Dr. Concerned about the red curb in front of his and others’ houses, residents would not be able to exit their house to go down to Appian Way. The plan is good but premature, residents and parents need to be communicated to.

Irma Rupert: Lives around the corner on Marlesta, everybody needs to be brought together, new apartment buildings will be across the street.

John Tate: Lives directly across from school; first house on block next to medical bldg; traffic is impossible, cannot back out of driveway in the mornings to take his kid to PVHS, people block his driveway, crossing guard is not helping with directing traffic.

Staff Mishra: Public Works had sent flyers to all residents living within 500 feet of the school re. the meeting and the discussion. The school has the details, and was advised to tell parents. Curb separators: residents who live on Mann Dr should be able to make a left turn to get to Appian, paddles would not be in front of their driveway so they could drive over the curb as they are not very high.

John Tate: Please put off a curb separator until the roadway will be repaved on Mann Dr in front of his and his neighbors and businesses; was paved 2x in 20 years; starting point is beyond where school is; city refuses to have area paved because of school and businesses.

Staff Mishra: This is currently still in design stage. We need to get comments from the public. The road is another subject.

#### **Illegal U-turn issue on San Pablo Ave**

Brian Osman: Square Deal Garage owner. The illegal U-turns have affected the shop, an illegal U-turner hit a mechanic driving a car into the shop. This happens all day long. Can a deterrent be placed in that intersection. It would help to place an officer in the area more often.

John Bender: Lives on San Pablo Ave adjacent to John St, observes a lot of illegal U-turns there at any time. Illegal U-turns also happen at John St, there are approx. 30-40ft not having a yellow line or similar.

Member Collins: Enforcement or engineering component re. flexible barrier. Collision and traffic data would be needed.

Member Moriarty: Request for more police presence. Place U-turn sign and paint lines again.

Staff Mishra: Bollards need some more investigation, as well as any median or partition.

#### **Public Outreach effort for Red Curb extension at Pinole Valley Road and Rafaela St.**

Gail Glenn: Lives at top of John St in senior community. Please have red curb stay as is. She almost got hit 3x when there was no red curb.

John Bender: Red curb provides enhanced visibility. Either keep red curb, or put in stop sign.

Joel Kuechle: Hands Staff Mishra a signed petition for support of the red curb. Reads statement in favor of red curb. Removal of red curb would cause great danger.

Matt Avery: An original motion included for community outreach to the adjacent properties beyond the church, how many residents and businesses were contacted and what was their feedback, what were the solutions considered, what the disadvantages and advantages. One of the safest would be reopening the left turn from John St onto San Pablo Ave via a traffic light, rather than making a left turn on Pinole Valley Rd from Rafaela St. The sideline for vehicles that were parked in front of the church now park in the residential area, what were the considerations given to the residents and sideline now created on the resident side. What is the higher risk: going forward making a left turn from a stop sign, or backing out of your driveway with limited sideline. Speaks on behalf of some residents in the area, one business would like to see systematic approach to the parking issue. How many collisions have occurred there, it was a motion at the last meeting.

Marilyn Huff for Sharon Ingersoll: Reads email from another resident at Pinole Grove – “The Pinole Valley Rd and San Pablo Ave intersection is full of dangers, the bend near 838 Pinole Valley Rd is too narrow for 25mph, the speed limit should be reduced to 15mph to accommodate larger trucks.”

Dana Frederic: In favor of keeping the red curb, has greatly enhanced the ability making a left turn onto Pinole Valley Rd, large vans were parked there before.

Mary W.: In favor of keeping the red curb. The amount of people should be considered, which is 70 seniors with cars that are impacted by that corner as opposed to the fewer other residents in the area.

Staff Mishra: Compiled comments from residents in that area. Matt Avery’s concerns re. red curb are not shared in professional opinion, red curb extension was purely engineering decision made for better visibility at that intersection. Regarding the parking in the area, the removal of a couple of parking spots does not justify a revision of the planning. A traffic study would be necessary re. the left turn from John St onto San Pablo Ave.

Member Dunham-Sims: The stretch of Pinole Valley Rd between San Pablo Ave and Tennent Ave has been an issue for many years with speeding etc. The corner of Rafaela St and Pinole Valley Rd was brought up in 2017, other options were proposed at that time. The need for the extended red curb was necessary and has improved safety for a large number of residents.

#### **List of traffic issues discussed and status**

Staff Mishra: The local traffic plan for the city will be finalized soon. We are looking at sections of Pinole Valley Rd, congestion, and high injury corridors to improve these portions of Pinole Valley Rd.

## **7. Staff Updates**

### **CIP Projects**

Staff Mishra: Working on two projects – Appian Way and Marlesta under construction. Pinole Valley Rd improvements are under design.

Member Moriarty: Pedestrian bike path between Sarah Ct and pedestrian bridge behind Trader Joes

should be added to the next CIP update.

Staff Mishra: That is an operations and maintenance budget item, not CIP.

### **Development Projects**

Staff Mishra: Currently 830-848 San Pablo Ave is being reviewed by the Planning Department.

### **Active Transportation Plan**

Staff Mishra: We received 5 proposals for the ATP Plan, interviews are concluded, proposal goes to Council on March 7.

### **Grants**

Staff Mishra: We applied for 3 grants with HSIP, no updates yet. OBAG gets 2 grants – MTC adopted a plan where we might receive approx. \$1M for one project, no confirmation yet. One project is for the Baytrail gap closure at Tennent Ave, confirmation should come from County soon.

Irma Rupert: Has looked into Contra Costa County transportation projects and federal grants. County has received \$29M for the “Safe Streets and Roads for all” campaign, will send article to committee members. We need to be more proactive re. grants.

Member Doyle: Can we help facilitate organizing and outreaching to citizens with their transportation issues?

Staff Mishra: Please bring this item to Council re. outreach for public discussions.

Member Moriarty: Great idea, were site visits ever undertaken?

Chair Dunham-Sims: Yes, a group would go out together and look at issues that were brought up as public concern.

Staff Mishra: Willing to support.

## **8. Future Agenda Items**

Staff Mishra: Discuss crossing freeway 80 on Appian way by bicycle or wheelchair.

## **9. Adjournment to the next meeting on March 8, 2023**

Chair Dunham-Sims adjourned the meeting of the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting on February 8, 2023.