

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMITTEE (TAPS)
MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2024

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Committee Meeting was held via a Zoom video conference 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 6:03 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call and Statement of Conflict

Committee Members Present

Oliver Collins
Ben Doyle
Faith Dunham-Sims

Committee Members Absent

Kent Moriarty

Staff Present

Sanjay Mishra, Public Works Director

3. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2023

Chair Dunham-Sims made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Member Collins; all approve minutes.

4. Committee Member Reports

Member Collins: Extends reminder to everyone that as spring approaches, to keep their trees, hedges, and plants trimmed.

5. Citizens to be heard – for items not on the Agenda

Citizen Anthony: 1) There are still streetlights out up and down Pinole Valley Rd and San Pablo Ave. The City was supposed to have two staff go out twice a year at night to check lighting. 2) What is the public alert system for Pinole? 3) The Police presence at the Christmas tree lighting was an overshoot of force (referring to the presence of the Emergency Rescue Vehicle, or ERV). 4) Still waiting on the police report from Cmdr. Avery re. traffic incidents. 5) There should be a police substation established on Fitzgerald Dr for a 6-months trial period.

6. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Issues

Submitted by Citizens: Safety Concerns at Kildare Way and Tara Hills Drive intersection

Neven Zunic: Has seen many accidents as a result of how the road is laid out. The intersection is somewhat hidden when coming down from Appian or San Pablo. Many drivers tend to roll through the stop sign, at least 1-2/day. Pinole PD has made an effort to be stationed there for

enforcement. In 2014, a number of serious accidents happened at that location. Pinole PD and CHP are aware. The City should look at the data and make a decision in favor of the residents' safety, either a traffic light or speed bumps.

Raynato Castro: Neighbor of Neven; has also seen many accidents at this run and worn down intersection. When he walks the neighborhood with his family, he carries and shows a red flag. He started an Instagram called "Make Tara Hills Safer" where he collects incidents and photos.

Chair Dunham-Sims: The red flags are fantastic, in Marin there are holders on each street side where the flags can be taken out of and then placed back on the other side. The topography at the Kildare/Tara Hills intersection does not have good visibility; can we go and observe.

Director Mishra: Will look at data and verify with Pinole PD. Encourages residents and TAPS members to provide any input to our consultants during the current ATP (Active Transportation Plan) study.

Chair Dunham-Sims: For a quick fix, is it possible to have striping and additional crosswalks?

Director Mishra: Our maintenance staff could improve striping and add crosswalks, for any major improvements we would have to go to Council for funding.

Member Doyle: The entrance to Shannon Elementary School is on Marlesta Rd, but a secondary, unmarked entrance is on Tara Hills Dr and is not recognizable as a school zone. That area needs more warning signs about children crossing.

Member Collins: Supports the other members in their statements.

Director Mishra: Will place this as a project on his list, as a rolling item.

List of Traffic Issues Discussed and Status

Director Mishra: These tasks have been completed: the crosswalk at Tennent/Pear/Plum streets; the trip hazard at Creekside pedestrian bridge; the ADA access ramp to Creekside from Sarah Ct.

Member Doyle: Are the sidewalks on Fourth St on the list? They are impassible.

Director Mishra: The Municipal Code Update Subcommittee meeting will take place on January 22, and he will propose to adopt a sidewalk program for the City; will report back at next TAPS meeting.

7. Staff Updates

CIP Projects

Director Mishra: The Appian/Marlesta project is ongoing but nearly done; the traffic signal will be video-timed which still needs to be activated by the vendor.

Member Collins: Where is there a "no turn on red" sign?

Director Mishra: The idea is for drivers not to get hit when turning right by faster, oncoming vehicles which is very common during school hours.

Member Collins: During school and rush hours this is understandable, though maybe we can look at it in a few months again and open it up to turn on red during other times.

Development Projects

None.

ATP

Director Mishra: In progress, workshops will be held, the website for all the information is running: www.walkandrollpinole.com.

Grants

Member Doyle: Does Pinole receive any federal funds for new infrastructure like EV charging stations?

Director Mishra: We applied for an EV charging grant for \$1.1mil for 24 EV charging stations, but don't know the result yet.

8. (Contacts for reporting Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Issues – please see agenda page)

9. Future Agenda Items

None.

10. Mann Drive Improvement Workshop

Director Mishra: After the workshop and the input of stakeholders, we searched the Division of the State Architect and State Clearinghouse Document Depository for environmental impact reports or any other documents which would provide insights into the traffic situation at Mann Dr when the school was built. We found no such documents, and that is because school districts are not required to go through that process. We are now requesting documents from the school district should they exist. We are holding off on any plans for development improvements until appropriate documentation might be found by the school district. With the current situation, no engineering solutions will resolve the traffic issues on Mann Dr. At this point, we are working with the school district and Pinole PD to see how the situation can be managed. Director Mishra will present the current update to Council in February.

Special Attendance by Officer Lew from Pinole PD

Member Collins: Question for attending Officer Lew from Pinole PD: Will PD apply for an OTS Traffic Safety Grant? Officer Lew: Will check with commanders.

Officer Lew:

- The intersection at Kildare and Tara Hills are on the hot list. He will get more information for increased enforcement to the area. The latest citation happened this morning. In general, the amount of calls received re. certain intersections are placed on hot lists for the month. This will change with the amount of calls received and incidents that occurred.
- If any traffic lights are not functioning, please contact the PD non-emergency # 510-724-1111 and an officer will be sent out.
- Shelter in Place: PD does inform the public as much as possible during critical incidents, and they will be out in the field and secure the area. The suspect of the Chevron incident was taken into custody, and a press release was published.
- Utilizing the ERV (Emergency Rescue Vehicle) to educate the community at events on the equipment available. The ERV was donated to PD.

- Pinole Middle School/Mann Dr: Commander Crone sent patrol teams to step up enforcements during school hours.
- PD staffing has improved significantly, and more patrols are able to be sent out. A full-time traffic officer will be hired soon.
- The best way to engage with PD is to attend an event called Coffee with the City (prior: Coffee with a Cop) which is once a month. As far as updates on crime, PD uses social media regularly.

Citizen Anthony: Expresses a Thank you to Officer Lew for attending, and will PD be present at more TAPS meetings? Is there any consideration by the Police Chief to have a police substation on Fitzgerald Dr? Who is authorizing the displays of the ERV at almost every event? How are the police blotter items prioritized by the police department to be published? Right now the blotter report is about two weeks behind. Is there any consideration given to banning sideshows?

11. Adjournment to the next meeting on February 14, 2024

Chair Dunham-Sims adjourned the meeting of the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting on January 10, 2024 at 6:56pm.