

# LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

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## **TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES**

West LA Community Police Station

Roll Call Room

April 14, 2009

8:30am-10: 30am

### **Attendees**

Robert A. Ringler, Chairman, President, Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council  
Captain Van Nathan, WLA LAPD  
Officer Tony Perez, WTD CTSU  
Officer Mike Toth, WTD CTSU  
Officer Craig Lally, WLA LAPD  
Sgt. David Podesta, LAPD  
Sgt. Toni Bowie, LADOT WST  
Sgt. Berdena Garrett, LADOT WST  
Jim Horwitz, CD 11  
Evan Gordon, CD 5  
Hilary Norton, FAST  
Jane Gould, UCLA  
Samantha Greenberg, South Brentwood HOA  
George Wolfberg, Santa Monica Civic Association  
Emile Levisetti, Santa Monica Civic Association  
Debbie Nussbaum, WHPOA  
Pauline Chan, LADOT  
Annette Mercer, WNC  
Walter Kaufman, WWHO  
Chuck Kahn, BCC  
Steve Twining, RVA, BABCNC  
Barbara Broide, WSSM, WNC  
Nickie Miner, Benedict Canyon Association, BABCNC  
Ernie Frankel, Mountaingate  
Shannon Burns, Overland Avenue Community  
Bill Bicker  
Paul Glasgall, Pacific Palisades  
Peter Duke, Pacific Palisades  
Linda Starey  
Patricia Bell Hearst  
David Espinoza, Transcribing Secretary, Executive Director BABCNC

**Meeting called to order by the Chair, Robert A. Ringler at 8:39 a.m.**

### **Item I – Introductions of Guests**

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Chair Robert A. Ringler welcomed the committee members and commented that the meeting was being audio taped.

Chair Ringler asked for everyone to introduce themselves and welcomed the new Captain Van Nathan.

## **Item II – Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes. Ernie Frankel made motion. Annette Mercer seconded. Motion approved.

## **Item III – West Los Angeles Area Commanding Officer, Van Nathan**

Captain Nathan introduced herself as the new Commanding Officer for West LAPD Division and thanked the committee for meeting and discussing issues. She commented on the traffic on the West side and the need for the community to work on ideas regarding traffic issues.

## **Item IV – West Los Angeles Area Patrol Captain, Capt. Ruben De La Torre, Sr.**

No report.

## **Item V – West Traffic Division Commanding Officer Captain Nancy Lauer**

Captain Lauer acknowledged Captain Nathan and commended her on her commitment to LAPD and the community.

She updated on the Pacific Palisades Neighborhood Radar Speed Watch program that may be implemented in other areas. The program allows citizens to shoot radar, record the vehicles license plate information to submit to LAPD. LAPD is able to cite violators from the information and she encourages others to consider the program in their neighborhoods.

Chair Ringler stated the Program began with the Residents of Beverly Glen in 1998 and proved effective, lowering speed to about 20%. The challenge is maintaining continuity and staying power with volunteers.

## **Item VI – Guest Speakers:**

### **A. Hilary Norton, FAST**

Hilary Norton introduced herself and thanked the committee for the time to present on the organization, FAST (Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic). She passed out information on the organization and presented a PowerPoint presentation on finding short term traffic solutions. Los Angeles leads the nation spending 93 hours a year in traffic, with a total annual delay of 490 million hours and the economic consequences of congestion is more than 9 billion dollars. The RAND report was sponsored for short term solutions which include: 1) Improving Signal Timing; 2) Network of Paired "One-Way"; 3) Peak-Hour Curb Parking Restrictions Streets; 4) Traffic Demand Management; 5) High Occupancy/Toll Lanes; 6) Variable Curb Parking Rates; 7) Parking "Cash Out"; 8) Deeply Discounted Annual Transit Passes For Employers; 9) Dedicated Bus-Only Lanes; 10) Region-Wide Bicycle Network.

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FAST's goal is to work with the community and she encouraged everyone to join FAST's network in moving forward to implement these solutions.

Patricia Bell Hearst asked if there is no Right Turn allowed onto Sunset from Barrington, how travelers will get to the 405. Hilary stated they are working with LADOT to make traffic more efficient and have not decided if No Right Turn is viable.

Chuck Kahn commented the presentation implied Brentwood was in support of the widening of Sunset and was not in fact true. He stated the widening of Sunset has not been studied and the BCC is not in support of LADOT proposed project. Hilary Norton stated FAST is not implying the widening of Sunset is supported by everyone, but it should be discussed as a possible solution.

Barbara Broide asked if FAST was a registered lobbyist group. Hilary Norton stated FAST is not a registered lobbyist, rather an advocacy group.

Barbara Broide commented the cost of the improvements is accounted for and the consequences of quality of life in neighborhoods.

Chair Ringler stated FAST is a volunteer group and encouraged everyone to get involved in the issues.

### **B. Paul Glasgall and Peter Duke, Neighborhood Speed Watch, Pacific Palisades**

Peter Duke presented a PowerPoint overview of the website [www.safewestside.com](http://www.safewestside.com) and discussed with the Pacific Palisades community is doing regarding their Neighborhood Speed Watch. The website contains photos memorializing the victims of Palisades Drive and Sunset Blvd, traffic issues and resources for information and getting involved in affecting some change.

He encouraged everyone to sign the petition on the website. The petition is to demand the City, and its agencies, provide safe roadways for automobile, bicycle and pedestrian traffic on and across Palisades Drive and Sunset Boulevard.

Chair Ringler stated a similar petition could be created in different neighborhoods to positively affect similar traffic issues.

Emile Levisetti asked if other neighborhoods could be linked on the Safe West side site. Peter Duke stated he would link other neighborhood sites.

Paul Glasgall passed out information to the committee regarding the Community Speed Watch Program agreement, which is being implemented in Pacific Palisades. The program began recently with the recent fatalities along Pacific Palisades Drive. The program involves citizens shooting radar, which Capt. Lauer referenced in her comments to the committee.

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He stated the Police participation had been helpful and thanked Capt, Lauer, Sgt. Podesta, and Officer Blankenship. Fourteen people have taking the training and discussed the training involved to use the radar gun. He commented on the handout passed to the committee regarding results of the recorded information for vehicle speed on Avenida Santa Ynez and Lower Palisades Drive.

He asked Captain Lauer why warnings still being given out, instead of tickets. Captain Lauer stated they try to resolve the issue by giving out warnings to curb the speeding. Most of the Reserve Officers are involved and would not be able to handle the mandated court appearances if tickets were issued. The preference is to give the warnings, however they are tracking the information and if there are several warnings to the same individuals, citation will be considered.

Officer Smyth stated a speed survey had been conducted last year in June and October. He stated he gave tickets yesterday along those areas. He ran a survey on Entrada and the average speed was 34 mph with a top speed at 57. Another survey further along Entrada was done and the average speed was 32 mph and a top speed of 51 mph. The posted speed limit is 30 mph.

Paul Glasgall stated stronger enforcement and fines correlated to the speed should be considered by the City Attorney's Office is needed.

Chair Ringler stated volunteers are always needed to keep programs active.

Sgt. Podesta stated they approached High Schools to get students involved, but there is no credit for the students unless the HOA is involved. He encouraged the committee to discuss the need for student involvement with the principals of the schools.

Officer Smyth stated they were involved in two assemblies at the Pacific Palisades High School to bring awareness to the students on the dangers of speeding.

### **Item VII – Department of Transportation Report (LADOT)**

#### **A. Community Programs Division – Pauline Chan**

##### **1. Community updates & reports**

Pauline updated on LADOT's partnership with the concerns at Pacific Palisades Drive.

She stated the Overland widening bridge project is on scheduled and has been awarded to a contractor. The notice to proceed will be in May and completion will be around December 2010.

New signals have been activated at the Culver Blvd ramp and Lincoln Blvd, as well Blood Creek Road and Lincoln Blvd.

Annette Mercer asked if all efforts have been made for signal synchronization in West LA. Pauline stated efforts have been made for the more dense areas; however, there are still canyon

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signals that have not been incorporated into the centralized control system, because of the lack of infrastructure and remoteness of the signals.

Walter Kaufman asked why only a left and right turn is allowed at Hilgard and Weyburn. Pauline stated the traffic restriction was placed in response to the Holmby Hills HOA's concerns with traffic east of Hilgard. The restriction was on a temporary basis and the LADOT is awaiting direction from the City Council regarding the issue.

George Wolfberg asked what the limits were for the Sunset signal coordination project. Pauline stated the project modernizes the system which begins west of the 405 to the PCH.

### **B. Parking Enforcement Division**

Sgt. Toni introduced Sgt Garrett and asked if there were any questions.

Debbie Nussbaum asked where to call to report parking violations. Sgt. Toni stated to contact 213-485-4184 and press option 2.

### **Item VIII – Mayors Office Report – West District Officer Jennifer Badger**

No report.

### **Item IX – Council District Reports**

#### **A. Council District 11 – Jim Horwitz**

Jim stated enforcement along Pacific Palisades Drive had improved and there is no information yet on the cost for a barrier and lighting along the street.

He stated there is discussion in the community regarding the widening of Sunset and the Council office will follow the community's position.

#### **B. Council District 5 – Jay Greenstein and Evan Gordon**

Evan reported on the Santa Monica Task Force and working with \$700,000 from the project for traffic calming measures.

There is work on the Holmby Traffic Fund and her referenced Pauline Chan's comments on the traffic restrictions at Hilgard and Weyburn.

#### **C. Council District 10 – Elizabeth Carlin**

No report.

### **Item X – Metropolitan Transportation Authority Report (MTA) – Jody Litvak**

Chair Ringler passed out a brochure to the committee from the MTA.

### **Item XI – CALTRANS – Joe Brazil/ Otis Jackson**

**A. Update on local Projects**

No report.

**Item XII – Community Traffic Reports**

**Community Traffic Reports:**

**A. Benedict Canyon – Nickie Miner, Joanna Brody**

Nickie Miner commented on constant speeding in Benedict Canyon and the need for enforcement.

Chair Ringler stated the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program may benefit the community and encouraged the BCA to consider implementing the program.

**B. Bel-Air Association – Paulette DuBey**

No report.

**C. Bel-Air Crest – Irene Sandler**

No report.

**D. Beverly Glen**

No report

**E. Comstock Hills Homeowners Association – Carol Spencer**

No report.

**F. Pacific Palisades – Patti Post & Paul Satenstein**

No report

**G. Brentwood - Raymond Klein, Brentwood Homeowners Association**

No report

**H. Brentwood Park – Larry and Anita Miller**

No report

**I. Crestview Neighborhood Association – Bill Clarkson**

No report.

**J. Glenridge, HOA -- Dan Weingart**

No report

**K. Holmby Hills**

No report

**L. Holmby/Westwood -- Paul Verdon**

No report

**M. Mountaingate – Ernie Frankel**

No report.

**N. Roscomare – Steve Twining**

Steve asked what LADOT's position was on fixed speed monitoring signs. Pauline stated LADOT would like to see them go up on residential streets. Through grant funds, signs near schools zones are the first priority and locations are being submitted for the funding. There is not budget set for the signs and some neighborhoods have volunteered to pay for them, though placement for the signs is a consideration due to power issues.

**O. Santa Monica Canyon/BOCA – Leslie Hope**

No report

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**P. UCLA Government and Community Relations – Vincent Wong**

No report

**Q. Westwood Hills – Debbie Nussbaum**

No report

**R. Westwood Homeowners Association – Renee Korn**

No report

**S. Westwood South – Barbara Broide**

Barbara reported there is a notice of preparation and initial study for Olympic/Pico plan and the deadline for comment is April 28. There is a forth public meeting on April 22 at Rancho Park in the evening.

She stated the purpose of the Santa Monica Task Force fund, referenced by Evan Gordon in his report, is to address unattended consequences of the construction on Santa Monica.

The Planning Commission passed an ordinance regarding signage. The ordinance will be heard at PLUM and City Council must hear the case by May 18 because of the pending moratorium and the expiration of the interim control ordinance on billboards.

She stated the EXPO Authority has adopted a preferred route.

**T. Wilshire Corridor – Marilyn Lewis**

No report

**Item XIII – Neighborhood/Community Council and other City’s Reports**

**A. Bel-Air/Beverly Crest – Steve Twining & Robert A. Ringler**

Chair Ringler announced a Candidates Forum April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Skirball Center at 7 pm.

**B. Brentwood Community Council – Chuck Kahn**

No report

**C. Pacific Palisades Community Council – Patti Post**

No report.

**D. South Robertson Neighborhood Council – Jon Liberman**

No report

**E. Westside Neighborhood Council – Annette Mercer/Barbara Broide**

No report.

**F. WLA Neighborhood Council**

No report

**Item XIV – Police Department Reports**

**A. West L.A. Division –Sgt. Craig Lally and Officer Kirk Madison**

No report.

**B. West Traffic Division – Sergeant Chris Kunz, et al**

No report.

**C. UCPD, University of California Police Department**

No report.

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**D. California Highway Patrol (CHP)**

No report.

**Item XV – Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 8:30 am, WLA Community Police Station.**

**Motion to end the meeting. Steve Twining made motion. Ernie Frankel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.**