



Traffic and Parking Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR TURNER called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: CHAIR TURNER and COMMISSIONERS TOUSSAINT, ERICKSON, EMANUEL and CALDERONE

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS KAHR, RICE and Sheriff's Designee

NOTE: ROSA CORTEZ, Assistant City Engineer, was present as the Public Works Director's Designee

ALSO PRESENT: CHRISTINA KARANIKOLAS, Assistant City Traffic Engineer, JOEY PASKEY, Transportation Manager, RICHARD ROZIER, Deputy Fire Marshal, JOHN RIDILLA, Deputy City Attorney, and CHEYENNE LARANCE, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

3. **Public Comment:** Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2022

Motion made by Ronald Calderone to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-David Turner, Margo D. Erickson, Greg Toussaint, Amy Emanuel, Ronald Calderone, Rosa Cortez;
Excused-Kathleen Kahr, Marlon Rice, Sheriff Designee;

5. Discussion for possible action to install speed cushions on Mello Avenue between Bradley Road and Jones Boulevard – Ward 6 (Fiore)

Minutes:

CHRISTINA KARANIKOLAS, Assistant City Traffic Engineer, explained Mello Avenue is located just south of Deer Springs Way and Jones Boulevard. In August 2020, staff received notification from residents that were concerned about speeding, which prompted letters to determine if there was interest in installing speed

cushions. Out of the 28 owners, staff received 12 support ballots and one opposition ballot; therefore, a speed study was performed in September 2021. The posted speed limit on Mello Avenue is 25 MPH, the 85th percentile based on the speed study was 50 MPH, and the average speed was 39 MPH. Per the Institute of Transportation Engineers Trip Generation handbook, a single-family residence is expected to generate approximately 10 trips per day. With 21 single-family homes, 200 vehicles per day was expected, but the study counted 385 vehicles, which indicated cut-through traffic on Mello Avenue. Additionally, 10 percent of those vehicles were heavy vehicles. Because of the low volume, this did not meet the requirements that are set forth in the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program for speed hump installation, but staff knew something still needed to be done. Another letter was sent to the residents in November 2021, which prompted interest in closing off Mello Avenue at Jones Boulevard; however, the Fire Department declined this proposal because it would increase their response times. Staff is now proposing speed cushions at six locations: roughly 220 feet from the intersecting streets of Jones Boulevard and Bradley Road, and 430 feet between cushions. The Fire Department is in support because they are not slowed down by the cushions.

DAVID POOLE said he was in favor of speed bumps, and he expressed that this street is very dangerous. He has almost been hit five times this year trying to pull out of his driveway due to individuals speeding, and he did not think the proposed speed cushions would slow the traffic down because people will weave in and out of them. MR. POOLE said he has seen a lot of cut-through traffic when school buses back up traffic on Jones Boulevard. He and other residents are interested in closing the street off on the east end, which would still allow the Fire Department to get to residences on Mello Avenue. Because Clark County closed Rome Boulevard off to through traffic and Centennial Center Boulevard was not extended, all of the traffic from Carson Ranch hits their street on Saturdays, generating 500 to 600 cars. By his visualization, less than one percent of the cars are doing 25 MPH, and he asked staff to address this as soon as possible.

CHAIR TURNER said this is a long stretch of road with no intersections, and he believed part of the traffic is generated from Costco. He said a dirt berm would not be a solution, but he recognized that this a problem that needs to be addressed.

MR. POOLE added that the RTC (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada) is now coming south on Jones Boulevard, and he guessed that the City would be adding stop lights at Deer Springs Way, which will generate extensive cut-through at Mello Avenue. He reiterated that closing off access at Mello Avenue would be a good solution.

COMMISSIONER CALDERONE asked if a neighborhood meeting was held with the residents, and MS. KARANIKOLAS said staff received comments from the general vicinity in February 2022, and there was no meeting held with the residents on Mello Avenue specifically. The meeting to discuss the neighborhood's concerns was held in January at City Hall. The Commissioner recalled the number of residents that were in support, and he asked for any reason(s) why the others were opposed. MS. KARANIKOLAS said the opposition might have been to the street closure that had been discussed before considering speed cushions, but not everyone submits comments with their opposition. COMMISSIONER CALDERONE wondered if the homeowners were getting cushions and humps confused, and he asked about the cost of the cushions. MS. KARANIKOLAS said it would cost between \$45,000 to \$60,000 per street, depending on the width of the street. COMMISSIONER CALDERONE requested to see the cost estimate with the backup documentation going forward, and MS. KARANIKOLAS said the approximate cost would be included if the item were to go to the City Council. She further stated that although many residents did not respond to the City's communication, there is a speeding problem and residents want something to be done. Staff's best recommendation to solve this problem is to install speed cushions, which will still allow the Fire Department to respond in a timely manner. COMMISSIONER CALDERONE wondered if the residents would be satisfied after spending this money, and whether or not they were told the proposal was for speed cushions. MS. KARANIKOLAS said the final letter that went out in February 2022 did indicate that speed cushions were being considered.

COMMISSIONER ERICKSON wondered if the proposal should be re-noticed because many people might have sold their homes. MS. KARANIKOLAS said she would have to look at any property ownership changes for this specific street, although she believed it would not be many.

COMMISSIONER TOUSSAINT asked if staff believed speed cushions were the best solution to solve this problem, and MS. KARANIKOLAS confirmed it would be the best alternative.

COMMISSIONER EMANUEL asked if traffic in the surrounding area was taken into consideration during the studies, and MS. KARANIKOLAS said it was. The Commissioner said this problem is exasperated by the flow of traffic on Deer Springs Way and Jones Boulevard, along with the bus turnouts, and she asked if RTC could get involved before moving forward. MS. KARANIKOLAS did not think the RTC buses were causing issues; rather, it was the school buses. She reiterated that the City was made aware of these issues by the residents at large, and staff will determine what other solutions are available once Mello Avenue is addressed. COMMISSIONER EMANUEL asked if there has been any police presence or monitoring in this area, and MS. KARANIKOLAS said staff contacted the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, but they are not privy to when they go out or what citations, if any, were issued.

COMMISSIONER ERICKSON inquired about making Mello Avenue a one-way street, and MS. KARANIKOLAS said that option was not considered because it would change the traffic patterns in the area.

COMMISSIONER CALDERONE asked if the study took place on the weekends, and MS. KARANIKOLAS said studies are performed Tuesday through Thursday to obtain a typical traffic pattern. Weekends were not considered in this case because Mello Avenue is a residential street.

COMMISSIONER EMANUEL asked about the speed limits on the surrounding streets, and MS. KARANIKOLAS believed they were all 35 MPH or higher.

COMMISSIONER ERICKSON inquired about lowering the speed limits, and MS. KARANIKOLAS said Jones Boulevard is an arterial roadway, and would not be an appropriate street for 25 MPH because of the access to the freeway. Deer Springs Way is another arterial roadway and designed to carry heavy traffic.

COMMISSIONER CALDERONE reiterated that there might not be enough information or support from the homeowners to move forward with this change. CHAIR TURNER said staff already looked at all of the options, and speed cushions are the best one. COMMISSIONER CALDERONE said he would like to hear from more of the residents, and MS. KARANIKOLAS said staff could potentially conduct follow-up studies, but she reiterated that there is a speeding problem and something should be done rather than nothing. She added that speed cushions are removable and could be used elsewhere if they are no longer needed or wanted.

COMMISSIONER TOUSSAINT said the traffic issues in the surrounding area are contributing to the issues on Mello Avenue. If the best suggestion by the experts is to install speed cushions, they should move forward. MS. KARANIKOLAS agreed, and she noted this area still has the capability to grow.

Motion made by Greg Toussaint to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-David Turner, Margo D. Erickson, Greg Toussaint, Amy Emanuel, Ronald Calderone, Rosa Cortez;
Excused-Kathleen Kahr, Marlon Rice, Sheriff Designee;

6. Discussion for possible action to temporarily change the speed limit on Alta Drive from Rancho Drive to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Bonneville Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to Maryland Parkway from 30 MPH to 25 MPH – Wards 1, 3 and 5 (Knudsen, Diaz and Crear)

Minutes:

CHRISTINA KARANIKOLAS, Assistant City Traffic Engineer, explained the City of Las Vegas is a partner to the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) in their implementation of the GoMed autonomous vehicle pilot project. The project will provide accessible mobility for patients, staff, medical students and the public via shuttles traveling between the Bonneville Transit Center and the Las Vegas Medical District along a pre-defined route. The autonomous vehicles will be limited to operate at 25 MPH with the capability to accelerate to 30 MPH, and will maintain the required speed throughout operating hours. As such, staff is proposing to temporarily lower the speed limit on Alta Drive from Rancho Drive to Maryland Parkway. Beginning operations are scheduled for early 2023, and it will operate for 24 months. At the termination of the pilot project, staff will reconsider the speed limit. Speaking to the transit route, MS. KARANIKOLAS said it will start at the Bonneville Transit Center, travel along Alta Drive, turn down Shadow Lane and circle around the Medical District before going back to the Bonneville Transit Center. Due to the speed limitations of the

autonomous vehicle and in an effort to avoid confusion amongst the traveling public, staff is proposing to keep the speed limit 25 MPH from Rancho Drive to Maryland Parkway.

COMMISSIONER CALDERONE asked when these changes would start if this was to be approved. MS. KARANIKOLAS said the final design plans have been routed, and the bus shelters will be constructed over the next six to eight months. The program is expected to start in early 2023, and continue for 24 months after.

Motion made by Margo D. Erickson to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-David Turner, Margo D. Erickson, Greg Toussaint, Amy Emanuel, Ronald Calderone, Rosa Cortez;
Excused-Kathleen Kahr, Marlon Rice, Sheriff Designee;

7. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No subject may be acted upon by the Commission unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:
None.

8. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

Christina Karanikolas, Assistant City Traffic Engineer

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor