

## MEETING SUMMARY

Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council –Highway 33 Improvement Committee

October 20, 2014

Chair Joe Westbury called the meeting to order at 7 PM. MAC Members present were Joe Westbury, Catherine Lee, Terry Wright, Todd Wilson, and Brian Segee. Carin Kally's absence was excused.

Reporting for the Ojai Planning Commission, Kathy Nolan said the commission had entertained room additions, variances, and a joint effort with the building appeals board. The city is considering an amnesty for unpermitted second dwelling units in order to comply with State Housing Element requirements. A zoning ordinance update is planned.

Kicking-off the Highway 33 Improvement Committee, CHP Officer Steve Reid noted that the CHP has received grants for focused enforcement efforts for speeding motorcycles on Maricopa Highway. The grant funded teams of 2-3 officers and use of a radar trailer and electronic message sign. Officer Reid said a new state law requires that motorist allow a minimum distance of three feet separation when passing a bicyclist. Bicycles must follow the rules of the road including riding single file and pulling to the right. Catherine Lee suggested that the CHP leave information cards informing bicyclists of these requirements at bicycle shops. Brian Segee said that drag racing has been occurring on La Luna. Officer Reid said that complaints can be called in to CHP dispatch at 477-4100 while more urgent safety issues such as drag racing should be reported to 911. Catherine Lee asked about traffic volumes and Highway 33 Committee history.

Speaking for Caltrans, Ashraf Hanna said that, per the committee's request, Caltrans studied reducing the number of lanes in Oak View to two. He said that this is the first time his department has been asked to study eliminating lanes. He said that in Caltrans' experience, wider highways are universally safer. He said that in review accident data and the roadway, there is no indication that the current configuration is unsafe. He said that the solution for speeding is enforcement. He said that Caltrans must also consider the importance of this segment to the rest of the Ojai Valley. If the highway were reduced to two lanes, emergency vehicles could not get through without great difficulty, and any accidents or breakdowns would close traffic in one or both directions, and may lead to additional accidents. He said reducing lanes would impair both highway capacity and safety. Gene Elerding said that one of the closed lanes could be used for parking, that safety would be the same as along the rest of the two-lane highway, and that local businesses are adversely affected by speeding. Ashraf said that speeding would still occur on a two-lane highway.

Kathy Nolan said that Ojai has a complete streets committee, and that perhaps roundabouts instead of signals would improve the community. She said the Caltrans has a complete streets policy. Officer Reid said that the three E's of Engineering, Enforcement, and Education are the keys to traffic safety, and that driver education is the most effective component.

On Phun of Caltrans said that the Casitas Springs crosswalk lighting and speed feedback signs have been entered into the Caltrans budget cycle and would likely be constructed in 2016. He said that signs reading "Oak View" and population have been ordered and will be installed in coming months. Terry Wright noted missing centerline reflectors in Foster Park, and Steve Offerman said that he would write this up and transmit to Caltrans.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.