

April 20th 2005 MAC- Highway 33 Improvement Committee

Draft Meeting Summary

Steve Offerman of Supervisor Steve Bennett's Office opened the meeting and introduced guests Ashraf Hannah and On Phun of Caltrans and Officer Dave Webb of the CHP. MAC members Terry Wright, Joseph Westbury, and Todd Wilson were present.

John Mirk of the Ojai City Planning Commission reported on the activities of the Commission and the Complete Streets Committee. Todd Wilson suggested that the City post a street repaving plan the way that County government does. Ashraff Hannah noted that Caltrans has a Complete Streets program and materials are available on the Caltrans website.

Officer Webb said that they have received requests for parking enforcement, particularly for occupied RVs on North Ventura Avenue. The CHP has received grants for additional summertime speed enforcement on Maricopa Highway focused on speeding motorcycles and had also increased truck enforcement. Terry Wright noted that speeding motorcycles near Wheeler Gorge are a problem and Officer Webb said that he would have the radar speed sign trailer posted there again. Alex Laine requested that a CHP car be posted on Highway 33 near Portal street to perform radar speed enforcement, particularly for northbound vehicles entering Oak View. Ginette Waterman asked what the speed limit is on Maricopa Highway and Officer Webb said that it is 55 MPH. Officer Webb said that the CHP can perform two-week intensive speeding enforcement on the highway and residents requested this for Oak View.

Ashraff Hannah and On Phun discussed upcoming Caltrans projects and said that the pedestrian activated crosswalk lights in Casitas Springs would be combined with radar speed feedback signs and that this project is expected to move forward in 2016.

Citizen complaints were lodged regarding tree branches, trash, and malfunctioning lights. Requests for maintenance can be submitted by phone to Caltrans at (213) 897-0001.

Several residents requested additional crosswalk and sidewalk improvements in Oak View including at the southwest corner of the Larmier/Highway 33 intersection, and mid-block crosswalks in Oak View. Ashraff Hannah said that Caltrans would do a crosswalk warrant study in Oak View.

Becky Swift noted two recent pedestrian accidents in Mira Monte and requested that the speed limit in Mira Monte be reduced to 35 MPH. Ashraff Hannah said that State law requires that speed limits be set at the 85th percentile of traffic as shown in a current speed survey, and that Caltrans performs periodic speed surveys on the highway. Ms.

Swift requested a speed survey of the stretch of Highway 33 between Baldwin and Woodland.

Gene Elerding requested that "35 MPH" be stenciled on the pavement in Oak View and Ashraff Hannah said that this would be possible.

Alex Laine requested a written report of Caltrans' findings regarding the Committee's request to evaluate reducing the number of travel lanes in Oak View to two. Officer Webb said that the CHP sees the need for a passing opportunity in Oak View. On Phun said that it is very difficult to accurately predict the effects of reducing lanes, and Ashraff Hannah said he reported at the last meeting that his conclusion was that lane reduction would worsen both safety and highway operation, and that statistically there is not a high accident rate in Oak View currently. Steve Offerman said that it would be helpful to have a written report from Caltrans on the lane reduction evaluation because the issue tends to come up regularly.

The meeting concluded at 8:45 PM