



**OJAI VALLEY
MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING
NOTICE AND AGENDA**

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

**18 Valley Road, Oak View
Monday, July 18th, 2022 - 7:00PM**

Chair: Chris Cohen, **Vice Chair:** Joseph Westbury

Council Members: Barbara Kennedy, Grace Malloy, Terry Wright

Public Comments FOR IN PERSON MEETINGS may be provided using the following **TWO options:**

Option 1: E-MAIL PUBLIC COMMENT- If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment to the Executive Officer at ovmac@ventura.org for that item via email by 3:30 p.m. the day of the meeting to ensure your letter is received and entered into the record. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL: (A) MEETING DATE, (B) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER, (C) SUBJECT OR TITLE OF THE ITEM, (D) YOUR FULL NAME. DURING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEM SPECIFIED IN YOUR EMAIL, YOUR COMMENT WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD. Please limit your written correspondence to 300 words or less.

Option 2 – IN PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT - If you wish to make a comment in-person, you must be present at the meeting location and provide your comment prior to the close of the public comment period for the item you wish to speak on. Each meeting will have sign-in sheets to participate in Public Comment at the meeting location for in-person comments.

1. Call to Order of the Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:04PM

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

Chair Cohen, Vice Chair Westbury, Member Kennedy and Member Wright present.

Member Malloy absent.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Member Wright moved to adopt agenda as presented;
Seconded by: Vice Chair Westbury

Motion passes 4-0

5. Public Comments by Citizens on Matters Not Appearing on the Agenda

Email Correspondence from John Brooks was read into the Record (Attachment).

6. City of Ojai Planning Commission Update

Email Correspondence from Planning Commissioner Stephen Quilici was read into the Record (Attachment).

7. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2022 - Draft Minutes attached

Member Kennedy moved to approve the minutes as drafted;
Seconded by: Member Wright

Motion passes 3-0; Chair Cohen abstaining.

Informational Items:

- 8.** Receive an informational presentation from the County of Ventura Public Works Agency regarding the design and schedule overview of the Creek Road repaving project to include lane turnouts and traffic control mitigation measures.

Public Works Agency – Roads and Transportation presented a power point regarding future safety improvement plan, including curb median layout adjacent to Kenewa, Tewa, and Kiowa Roads. This creates a traffic calming measure by narrowing the road. Hopefully, this will result in reduced traffic speed which will subsequently support reducing the speed limit.

Public Comment:

Public Comment No. 1 - Teena Broumand: Speaking on this item and is disappointed in the prior meeting I had with Staff during which I provided accident statistics and fatalities. I asked for additional improvements to be taken on and was told no. Creek Road is the most dangerous road in the Ojai Valley. We have requested accident information and have not received it. There is a wildlife corridor and many accidents. We believe we have evidence for stop signs at Country Club, Encino, and Hermosa. We have gathered signatures and have hired a private traffic engineer. Asking the OVMAC to ask the Board of Supervisors to have a third-party engineer do the analysis. This project contract is going before the Board of Supervisors on July 26th and I ask you that recommend denial.

OVMAC Comments:

OVMAC Members had questions about the turn lane addition that the lanes will be narrowed and moved closer to adjacent residents. Chair Cohen asked Ms. Broumand as to whether this project with the proposed improvements is something she could get behind. She didn't think so and thinks that it needs to be looked at differently.

Public Comment No. 1 - Broumand Comments continued: City of Ojai has all these projects that are going to use Creek Road. If we didn't have accidents, I wouldn't be here. I'm asking someone to step in and do something.

Public Comment No. 2 - Judy H.: Will often take Creek Road to Ojai; and my question is why there isn't a stop sign at Encino? I've almost been hit - what does it cost? I don't understand and what a simple solution. Why is there a need to put this project (turn lane median) into a residential development?

PWA Comments:

Warrants and other criteria for traffic improvements are established by State guidelines and standards. Putting stop signs where they shouldn't be (i.e. where they are not enforceable by warrants and/or criteria) can present a

disrespect in road signage which can result in more traffic accidents.

There are four major warrants required to install an All Ways Stop Sign Intersection.

- 1) You put it in as an interim signal
- 2) 5 collisions in 12 months that would be corrected by the stop sign.
- 3) Looks at volume within certain valuation but side streets need to stay the same. Stop signs are not a traffic calming measure; it is to determine who has the right of way.
- 4) Has to have significant number of pedestrians and bicycles to trigger warrant for stop sign intersection.

Councilmember Wright: What asked about Rice Road?

PWA Comments: Criteria has morphed over time and it was an exception done by BOS and there is a legal precedent in that case.

Councilmember Kennedy: Could there be a petition? Would that help?

PWA Comments: Would want to stick with what is legally enforceable.

Public Comment No. 2- Judy H. Comments continued: Inquired again about the left hand turn lanes. Are they necessary?

PWA Comments: Reduces rear end and road-way departure accidents. Drivers get impatient, and when they do, they shift around the car that is queuing; one way to alleviate that is to introduce the median with turn hand lane.

Councilmember Kennedy: Road width is the same; We are using space that is already there and in the County's right of way, correct?

PWA Comments: Correct there is no new land or right of way acquisition byway of this project.

Public Comment No. 3 - Leslie Hess: This is a cookie cutter urban design and wish we could have another answer than a huge median and left-hand turn lane.

Councilmember Wright: Have questions regarding the width of the lanes and sidewalk to confirm that no additional property would be taken byway of this project.

Public Comment No. 1 – Broumand continued: Could this road diet project be at other parts of Creek Road at this point? Could there be signage for sharing the road be asked and or included?

PWA Comments: Not at this time. We have an ATP (Active Transportation Plan) effort underway and are looking at those types of signage through that lens. There will be a future opportunity to address those types of improvements.

Public Comment No. 1 – Broumand continued: What other recommendations do you have? The 40/45/40 MPH change wasn't done.

PWA Comments: In regards to the request by former Supervisor Bennett, we conducted a speed survey and those results indicated the 85th percentile of speed and therefore the current MPH that exists today.

Public Comment No. 1 – Broumand continued: You guys are trying to cram a 45 MPH into a 40 MPH zone; is there a financial disincentive to not make it all 40 MPH to do this? That's what I heard you say (*in reference to prior meeting with PWA staff*) There must be something else that can be done.

PWA Comments: I did not say that (*in reference to the prior meeting comment made*). What I said was if we cannot make the metrics (85th percentile) work with what is required to lower the speed limit, then it is not be enforceable.

Public Comment No. 1 – Broumand continued: City of Ojai installed stop signs

Supervisor LaVere Commented: This project is the answer we have to calming the traffic; if we bend state standards, we would be exposing ourselves to more liability.

Public Comment No. 1 – Broumand continued: We have had recent casualties; County is in equal legal jeopardy if nothing is done.

Public Comment No. 4 – Marilyn Miller: I'm on the Active Transportation (ATP) group. Creek Road is one area we would like to see improved with that project; if County can make some progress with these efforts with the Creek Road project; but know that this road is definitely on the ATP radar.

Public comment closed. Public Comment Letter was read into the record (Attachment). The OVMAC Received and Filed this item.

9. Receive an informational update from the County of Ventura Public Works Agency regarding the Santa Anna Bridge Project.

Public Works Agency Update - Roads and Transportation Division provided an informational update regarding the Santa Ana Bridge Project. This project is associated with the Matilija Dam removal project. We anticipate Riverside being open by the end of July; the thoroughfare has a 2" overlay which is scheduled for the first part of October. We are finalizing the rip rap and revegetation, all with native species and hydroseed. The rip rap will be done by the end of September. We are slightly ahead of schedule; Ribbon Cutting will occur in the Fall. Raising and widening of the bridge will help with water flow accommodation associated with the eventual removal of Matilija Dam.

Public Comment No. 1 – Judy H.: Thanked Public Works for this job and traffic control; reflected on past impact of the Caltrans project that affected vehicular routes of travel.

Public Comment No. 2 – XXX: Resident inquired into noise from air vac valve and could it be replaced.

PWA Comment: PWA committed to investigate.

10. Receive an informational presentation from California Highway Patrol (CHP) Public Information Officer (PIO) Salvador Rangel regarding enforcement activities on State Route 33.

CHP Update – Officer Rangel: Gave presentation on enforcement along the 33; loves Ojai and this was his first year back. Knows about the speeding concerns and made some observations and have issued a couple citations recently. We are here and we do listen, but very thinly staffed. We are working on a "COMPS" team with outreach focus in communities; We appreciate

all the feedback and is still looking at pulling accident data to confirm hot spots for enforcement.

Public Comment No. 1 - Tyssa from Casitas Springs: I live in Casitas Springs; there is non stop speeding all day; and I haven't seen a CHP officer very often. The signs don't work. Need more enforcement here.

CHP Comment: This beat is a very large area and only has 1 officer. It goes from St. Thomas Aquinas College; to the 150; down the 101 and up the 33. If an officer is called to do a call or other, he has to do that. We now have a taskforce in place to do this so we don't have to pull people off calls or beats. But I've made note of Casitas Springs and will attempt to patrol it or ask their other team agencies to increase presence.

Councilmember Kennedy: Do you enforce bicyclists?

CHP Comment: Yes we do. They may not always give them a citation, but they do create unsafe conditions.

Councilmember Kennedy: What about the bike trail?

CHP Comment: If we see it, we can enforce it.

Chair Cohen: Who actively patrols these areas?

CHP Comment: We would like to hit the unincorporated area more depends on officers; some don't want to come off the highway, but the Ventura County Sheriffs Office helps a lot.

Chair Cohen: If we could send you guys an intersection to look at, would you be open to that?

CHP Comment: Yes, that's why I like these Mac meetings to hear current activities and help solve these issues.

Chair Cohen: How about Lomita and La Luna? [CHP acknowledged]

Councilmember Wright: Have worked at the Visitor Center by Wheeler Gorge and there are tons of motorcycles - how do we control that? It's just crazy up there.

CHP Comment: That's the reason behind the taskforce I mentioned; We hope this new taskforce will be present at these places. We hardly go up to Wheeler currently as it's a long drive on our beat, but again that's why we are putting these teams together.

Councilmember Kennedy: Is there an opportunity to get another safety corridor?

CHP Comment: We can look into it further.

Public Comment No. 1 – Teena Broumand: Car clubs and motorcycles start at Creek Road from Ventura up through Creek Road to the 150/33. It's weekend joy riding.

Public Comment No. 2 – Judy H.: I have two questions; North on the 33, through Casitas Springs, there are pavement signs that are different; understand its Caltrans jurisdiction, but could a police or CHP car be parked there?

CHP Comment: We can't leave a car there without a person but would see if we can just

saturate areas and moving around more through the area.

Public Comment No. 3 ___UN-NAMED: Could speeding cameras be put in?

CHP Comment: That is more Caltrans call, but distracted drives is a huge thing in addition to speeding.

Public Comment No. 4 – Marilyn Miller: Could we put cameras on the speed indicators? Drivers are crazier now; more tailgaters and angry drivers.

Public Comment No. 5 – Tyssa (Casitas Springs): I have questions about the Task force – who is it?

CHP Comment: They are in regular uniform and vehicles; they do not look any different; please let us know specific times you witness these occurrences and we will address.

11. Announcements and Updates

- OVMAC Site Visit to Krishnamurti Foundation - **CONFIRMED** September 19th @ 5:00PM prior to OVMAC Meeting. 1098 McAndrew Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM Road, Ojai
- No OVMAC Meeting in August 2022
- All OVMAC Members are Up to Date with their Ethics Training!
- Hwy 33 Intermodal Study – Cal Trans Update – Fall 2022
- Congressman Carbajal Meet-n-Greet – October 17, 2022

12. Councilmember Comments

Member Kennedy shared that the Parks and Recreation Center in Oak View will have Covid Clinics for kids and free tests on July 27th and August 24th

Chair Cohen closed with underscoring how the County is looking at a proactive approach with Creek Road.

13. Adjournment: Meeting closed at 8:47PM