

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LANCASTER ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN COMMISSION

December 1, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Bartlett called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Mercy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Hawse, Pursley, Vice Chair Mercy and Chairperson Bartlett.

ABSENT: Commissioners Stallworth and Wiley.

Also present were the following: Brian Ludicke (Planning Director), Silvia Donovan (Principal Planner), Elma Watson (Planner), Michelle Cantrell (City Traffic Engineer), Joy Reyes (Recording Secretary), and Shirley Corder (Recording Secretary), and an audience of four.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Chairperson Bartlett and seconded by Vice Chair Mercy to approve the minutes from the Meeting of November 22, 2011. Motion carried with the following vote (4-0-0-2).

AYES: Commissioners Hawse, Pursley, Vice Chair Mercy and Chairperson Bartlett.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners Stallworth and Wiley.

CONTINUED BUSINESS**2. MASTER PLAN FOR TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS DRAFT REVIEW**

Chairperson Bartlett asked staff if they were ready to present their report on the Avenue L Overpass bike lanes. Brian Ludicke stated that staff had prepared a presentation regarding this matter which would be delivered by City Traffic Engineer, Michelle Cantrell.

Michelle Cantrell used a PowerPoint presentation to explain why the City does not propose or support bike lanes at Avenue L and SR14. Ms. Cantrell explained that Avenue L is a regional arterial with 6 lanes of traffic. This arterial is a high volume area with a speed limit of 50 miles per hour and 30,000 vehicles traveling through it per day; by the year 2030, this volume will increase to 50,000 vehicles per day. Further, within the area of the interchange, the City must meet Caltrans standards, or request a waiver of them. Ms. Cantrell stated that Caltrans may restrict removing a lane in this area to add a bike lane. Therefore, based on Caltrans lane width requirements, traffic volume present and future, current speed limit, and the concern for safety, staff did not propose putting in bike lanes in this area.

Chairperson Bartlett was concerned that there was no easy way to connect from Avenue K-8 to Sierra Highway for cyclists. Ms. Cantrell indicated that there is currently no easy way to get to the Sierra bike path; however, the Plan calls for bike activated signals to help cyclists cross Avenue K-8. Chairperson Bartlett wanted to know if speed limits at this location could be reduced, since lanes could not be eliminated. Ms. Cantrell indicated that the traffic survey shows that this is the speed warranted by the 85th percentile rule established in the California Vehicle Code. Further, she added, that reducing lanes or speed does not reduce the conflict of merging traffic. Ms. Cantrell stated that funding and the priority list determines how soon a signal or bike path would be placed in this area.

There were speakers who wished to comment, as follows:

Douglas Wade, a Lancaster resident, supported bike lanes at Avenue L and on 10th Street West. He felt it was cumbersome to go to Avenue K-8, and that cycling on 10th Street West was scary.

Russ Bartholet, a Lancaster resident also felt that something should be placed on Avenue L. He stated that the City had already received an exception from Caltrans, but Ms. Cantrell clarified that we have never asked or received any exceptions from Caltrans.

Commissioner Amanda Hawse asked if the City had ever considered taking the bike path through City Park. Brian Ludicke stated that staff has not discussed an east-west bike connection, but indicated that the Plan does call for putting bike lanes/paths on other slow speed streets in the area to avoid some of the larger streets and intersections.

Commissioner Hawse wanted to know if another bridge could be built across the freeway. Brian Ludicke reiterated that Caltrans has oversight of improvements on Avenue L at the freeway. He noted further that interchange conflicts are not likely on Avenue K-8, since placing another interchange there would not meet typical Caltrans standards.

Chairperson Bartlett stated that cyclists will still take Avenue L/Sierra Highway route; therefore, it makes sense to put a bike lane there. Again, staff reminded the Commissioners of the restrictions in place, as well as the safety concerns for cyclists. Chairperson Bartlett asked for a motion on this item but none was given.

Chairperson Bartlett directed the Commissioners attention to the matrix, which contained additional comments received and staff's recommendations regarding the Plan since the November 22, 2011, meeting.

Chairperson Bartlett read aloud each new comment and staff recommendation. She polled the Commissioners to ask if there were any comments on staff's recommended changes. Brian Ludicke reminded the Commissioners that they could vote to accept all staff recommendations as a group, or extract the ones they felt required further clarification.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Mercy and seconded by Commissioner Hawse to accept the changes as written and proposed by Staff for the Master Plan for Trails and Bikeways. Motion carried with the following vote (4-0-0-2):

AYES: Commissioners Hawse, Pursley, Vice Chair Mercy and Chairperson Bartlett.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners Stallworth and Wiley.

It was moved by Commissioner Hawse and seconded by Chairperson Bartlett to adopt Resolution 11-02, a resolution of the Architectural and Design Commission of the City of Lancaster, recommending to City Council approval of the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways, with modifications as noted on the comments matrix. Motion carried with the following vote (4-0-0-2):

AYES: Commissioners Hawse, Pursley, Vice Chair Mercy and Chairperson Bartlett.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners Stallworth and Wiley.

Commissioner Hawse and Vice Chair Mercy thanked staff for all their hard work.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. to the Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

APRIL BARTLETT, Chairperson
Lancaster Architectural and Design Commission

ATTEST:

BRIAN S. LUDICKE, Planning Director
City of Lancaster