



Placentia Traffic Safety Commission

401 E. Chapman Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870

7:00 P.M. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

AGENDA

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2011

7:00 P.M.: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: BRUSCHKE, CHADHA, FAIA, GORMAN, HERNANDEZ,
LABRECHE, STAFFORD

PUBLIC COMMENTS: At this time the public is invited to address the Traffic Safety Commission concerning any items on the agenda, which are not public hearings.

REPORTS:

I. **TRAFFIC CONTROL:** Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Concerns
TSC NO. 11-02 Golden Avenue and Valencia Avenue
Requested by the City Administrator

NON AGENDA ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT:

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Engineering Office at 714/ 993-8131 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to allow the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

*****CERTIFICATION OF POSTING AGENDA*****

I, Ruth Smith, Traffic Engineer/Secretary to the Traffic Safety Commission for the City of Placentia, hereby certify that the Agenda for the meeting of February 24, 2011 of the Traffic Safety Commission of the City of Placentia was posted on February 17, 2011.



Ruth Smith, PE
Traffic Engineer

“Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Traffic Safety Commission regarding any item on this agenda that not exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act will be made available for public inspection at the Clerk’s office, City Hall, 401 East Chapman Avenue, Placentia, during normal business hours.”

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION REPORT
GOLDEN AVENUE AND VALENCIA AVENUE
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS

TSC NO.: 11-02

SPECIAL MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2011

REQUEST:

This is an information-only item regarding pedestrian and traffic safety concerns, as expressed by the public, following the traffic collision at the intersection of Golden Avenue and Valencia Avenue on January 24, 2011. The collision involved children from Golden Elementary School. The school is located near the intersection, on the south side of Golden Avenue east of Valencia Avenue (see Exhibit 1).

Several parents and residents expressed their concerns about the safety of the intersection and the two streets at the February 24, 2011 City Council meeting. In response, the City Administrator requested that staff investigate the feasibility of installing the traffic improvements requested at the Council meeting and report the results of the investigation at a special Traffic Safety Commission meeting. We also considered other possible improvements. The following improvements were requested at the Council meeting:

1. Protected left turn arrows for all directions, at the intersection of Valencia Avenue and Golden Avenue
2. Flashing beacons for the uncontrolled school crosswalks on Valencia Avenue at Purdy Avenue and on Golden Avenue at Chickasaw Drive
3. Speed feedback signs

DISCUSSION:

Certain traffic control devices are regulated by the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), including traffic signals, flashing beacons and school signs. Therefore, the feasibility of installing fully protected left turns and flashing beacons was evaluated based on the CA MUTCD requirements. It should be noted that when traffic control devices comply with federal and state standards, such as the CA MUTCD, the jurisdiction is protected by design immunity. Conversely, if an unwarranted traffic control is installed, the jurisdiction is legally liable for any damages or injuries suffered as a result of the traffic control device.

Fully Protected Left Turns

Fully protected left turns consist of separate left turn arrows for left-turning traffic. They were considered for all four legs of the intersection. The analysis showed that neither the number of left turn collisions, the vehicle delay or miscellaneous factors at the intersection of Valencia Avenue and Golden Avenue meet the minimum requirements of the CA MUTCD for fully protected left turns. Besides the legal ramifications, their installation at this intersection would result in generally longer waits for left-turning vehicles and less green time for the other movements, for an increase in overall delay.

Flashing Beacons for School Crosswalks

Flashing beacons for school crosswalks are typically a set of two yellow beacons placed at an uncontrolled painted crosswalk, positioned either above or to the side of the crosswalk. The beacons flash on and off to alert motorists to special conditions requiring their attention.

The crosswalk on Golden Avenue at Chickasaw Drive in front of Golden Elementary School meets the CA MUTCD warrants for the installation of flashing beacons. There is more than enough pedestrian and vehicle traffic to meet the requirements. A flashing beacon would warn on-coming traffic to watch and be prepared to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

The crosswalk on Valencia Avenue at Purdy Avenue (one block south of Golden Avenue) has insufficient pedestrians to meet the CA MUTCD requirements for a flashing beacon. Besides the legal ramifications, a flashing beacon for a crosswalk with too few pedestrians results in drivers eventually discounting and ignoring the warning.

Speed Feedback Signs

Rules or guidelines for installing speed feedback signs have not been developed. It would be beneficial to install these signs in advance of the school zone on each approach to the school, to be used during school drop-off and pick-up times. Speed feedback signs would alert drivers to their current driving speed and provide ample time to slow down, if necessary, as they enter the school zone. The signs would emphasize the school zone speed of 25 mph.

Other Possible Improvements

There are other improvements that would improve pedestrian and traffic safety in the vicinity of the intersection of Golden Avenue and Valencia Avenue, as follows:

1. The existing yellow school warning and crosswalk signs could be enhanced by replacing them with fluorescent yellow-green (FYG) signs. These signs are more

noticeable to drivers than the current yellow ones and would help alert/remind drivers that they are in a school zone.

2. The existing pedestrian heads at the intersection of Golden Avenue and Valencia Avenue could be upgraded to countdown pedestrian heads that notify pedestrians how many seconds they have left to cross the street before the yellow indication. When pedestrians cross the street before the signal changes, the potential for a pedestrian collision is reduced.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

City staff will develop a list of recommended actions based on the comments made by the Commissioners and the public. The actions will be presented to the Traffic Safety Commission at their regular March 21, 2011 meeting, for their review and recommendation to the City Council.



Ruth Smith, P.E.
Traffic Engineer

Attachment: Exhibit 1 – Vicinity Map
Exhibit 2 – Location Map

EXHIBIT 1

VICINITY MAP

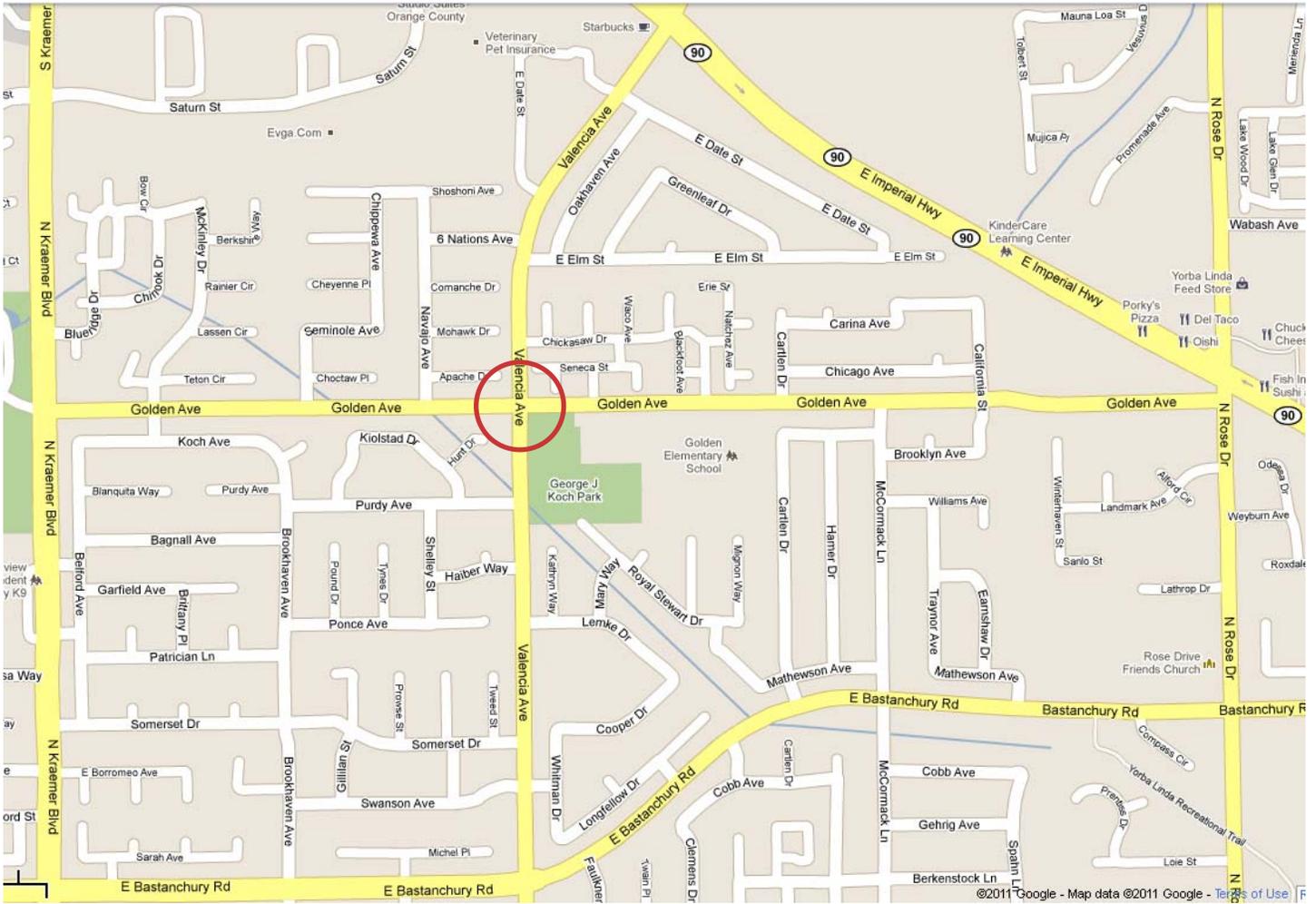


EXHIBIT 2
LOCATION MAP

