

Traffic & Transportation Committee Minutes
March 24, 2008

1. **Call to order** at 7:00 pm. Members in attendance: Alethea Altenbern, Richard House, Dick Katz, Robin Kaufman, Kathy Keehan (late arrival), Myrna Reese, Irv Sherman, Patti Perna, Andrea Thomas. Unexcused: Bill Renstrom, Dick Walker. Guest Speaker: David DiPierro, City of San Diego, Associate Engineer – Traffic Transportation. Resident Guests: Stan Madsen, Ralph Parris, Roger Wolfe, Jim Oakes, Scott Redlin, MaryAnn Hoegberg, Raymond Suarez, Robert J. Spence, Julie Krumdieck, Carol & Al Allison, Carol Terzakis, David Keeney, T. T. Loftis, Sheryl Humphrey, Terri Hunter, Nim Janepbs, Ben Maloney, Gary Carlson, Diane Orvis, Cynthia & Ross Pyle.

Gatewood Hills Area – Increased traffic, speed and death of a long-time resident in November 2007 has focused attention.

After fatality at Pomerado Road and Pomerado Court, the need for a traffic signal was reviewed by the City utilizing the Eight National Warrants (traffic volume, pedestrian volume, peak hour count, 8 hour count, 4 hour count, school zone, accident history, progression of traffic). The intersection of Pomerado Road and Pomerado Court does not qualify.

Approximately 10 years ago, Pomerado Road and Grandee Court did qualify. Grandee was placed on a deferred list. That intersection competes with 180 other intersections for funding. The City is funding one per year at a cost of \$150,000 per signal light. Grandee is number 30 on the list.

Alternatives for consideration: 1) turn restrictions, 2) median closure to prevent lefts, 3) reduce speed.

Questions:

- 1) Why does Grandee qualify and Pomerado Court not? Based on counts during peak hours 7-9am and 4-6pm. 31 vehicles (Court) vs. 90 vehicles (Grandee). Also, 13 vehicles (Court) between 5-6pm vs. 1700 vehicles (Pomerado Road).
- 2) Are the results skewed because residents can't get out? Need to consider major vs. side-street volume.
- 3) What are the turn restrictions? Restrictions can be 24 hours OR peak hours.
- 4) Is the hill/curve taken into account? Based on a National Standard, it would take 5 accidents that could be correctable for a signal.
- 5) What about brush removal? According to residents, brush removal on the west side was in progress.
- 6) What is the process? Review and full board recommendation.
- 7) Accidents are occurring between 10-11pm, turning right from Grandee going Northbound. Are those factored into the figures? Response: Has there been 5

accidents within one year at Pomerado Court OR Grandee? Answer:
Documentation of two accidents, not five.

- 8) What is a “side swipe?” Crossing more than one lane of traffic. Whereas, a right turn has only person on left and is not a huge factor with stop signs or signals.
- 9) What about speed limit enforcement? Needs to be referred to SDPD.
- 10) Can speed limit signs be moved? Requires a new survey, which may result in a higher speed limit. Once every seven years California Vehicle Code requires classified streets to have a speed survey. Survey is made of 100 vehicles and is based on the speed of 85% of the vehicles. Speeds cannot exceed 65 mph. Based on accidents “double dipping” street with similar characteristics can have lower speed limits. Would need to contact “Safety and Info Section” for accident rate and expected accident rate.
- 11) Can a “warning light” be considered? Costs \$15-20k, not mandatory.
- 12) Can a “digitized sign” for speed awareness be posted? Cost is \$10k. Works better in residential than large volume (1700 vehicles per hour), high-speed street. City has portable ones.
- 13) Could a caution sign be placed that shows cars entering from right? One is already there.
- 14) Are the demographics of the elderly in Rancho Bernardo taken into consideration? DMV does that.
- 15) What are peak hours of the study? 7-9am and 4-6 pm.
- 16) Are the shorter line of sight and the topography taken into consideration? Each intersection is evaluated on an individual basis.
- 17) What are the four ways to enter/exit Gatewood Hills? Cresta, Alondra, Grandee and Pomerado Court.
- 18) Was a study performed on all four? 3 of 4. Later it was determined that all 4 were evaluated.
- 19) Can a “slow school sign” be used? Does not qualify, too far and no crosswalks.
- 20) Can “stop signs” be used? Does not qualify, 1700 vehicles per hour.
- 21) When was the 31 vs. 90 vehicle count study performed. Pomerado Court was surveyed on January 16, 2008.
- 22) Is there a 5 or 10-year history? Yes, ADT’s for that.

One resident wanted to go on record that there are 450 residents and there is no safe way to get out of the development. City noted this is a resident point of view.

Next, a show of hands was taken for the following:

Restrict no left turn, right turn only, during peak hours only AND only on East side of street. For:

Pomerado Court	= 1
Grandee	= 0
Alondra	= 0
Cresta	= 0

Given the restriction, do nothing at this time. For:

Pomerado Court	= 1
Grandee	= 11
Alondra	= 9
Cresta	= 7

Given the options, agreement reached to contact SDPD for speed enforcement and request a temporary speed metering sign. Robin Kaufman to pursue.

Minutes - Motion made by Dick Katz and seconded by Andrea Thomas to accept the minutes with a correction. Unanimously approved.

Updates:

- 1) City to install warning signs on Bernardo Heights Parkway.
- 2) Recognition of Alethea Altenbern for the I-15 & RB Road detailing by Caltrans. Kathy Keenan noted that bike lanes were not designated.
- 3) Bernardo Hills - Addition of a stop sign on Alondra and Rios has helped. Speed bumps will help more.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patti Perna