

Traffic Commission Meeting of  
March 1, 2021

**SUPPLEMENTAL #1**

**TO:** Traffic Commission  
**FROM:** Craig Bilezerian, Public Works Director  
**SUBJECT:** **Supplemental Material for Agenda Item No. 7a**

Attached is email correspondence received after the agenda item was posted.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAIG BILEZERIAN  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

By 

Steve Finton  
Deputy Public Works Director/ City Engineer

Attachments:  
6 emails from Residents.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Justin Scarpetti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2021 1:33 PM  
**To:** Finton, Steve  
**Cc:** PWTraffic  
**Subject:** Calle de Arboles Striping

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Good afternoon Mr. Finton,

I'd like to share my thoughts regarding striping on our street prior to our Zoom call tonight.

As you are aware, several of us are still very concerned with the speeding happening on our street. We have spent many months trying to work with the city to get something in place to reduce the speeders. We were happy when the city decided to do something, which happened to be striping.

You are also aware that now we have many neighbors against this. It's sad that we have neighbors fighting against each other over a proposed safety measure. I'm shocked that we have people suggesting that speeding doesn't exist, or our property values will be reduced, or that it will ruin our quaint neighborhood. These shouldn't be reasons to not implement a safety measure. What will "ruin" our neighborhood is people ignoring the speed limit, speeding down our street, and endangering lives. **The safety of the 30+ kids on our 2 blocks, the families, and anyone who walks on our street should be everyone's first priority.**

I want to be clear that I am not fighting this as someone who is "pro-striping" or "pro-signs" or "pro-bumps" — **but I am simply "pro-safety"**. I don't believe it should be up to the residents to decide what should or shouldn't be done to make the street safer. The residents have presented a real problem, which data already shows, and it needs to be up to the city to decide what they feel is the best (and safest) solution to remedy the problem.

Feel free to share this email and contact information with anyone that will be joining the Zoom call.

Thank you very much.

Justin Scarpetti  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2021 12:01 PM  
**To:** PWTraffic  
**Subject:** Calle de Arboles safety ...

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As a resident of Calle de Arboles, I'm seriously concerned at high speeds by drivers on the street. I heard cars, not just driving fast but "flooring" them.

We contacted the city as a group and individually several times and for several months now. The sad part is that the moment that City of Torrance was going to take the first step to find a solution, some of our neighbors stopped these efforts.

We counted 650 vehicles on the street per day. That's almost 8 per house. How can anyone say this isn't a thoroughfare?

Studies claim that traffic striping has proven to reduce speeds in a variety of conditions. What makes our street any different? It encourages awareness of lane position thus reducing driver distraction which in turn equals pedestrian safety.

We are very concerned about pedestrians and children on this street. It would be a sad day if nothing is done and we face a sad death or injury which could have been prevented.

Thank the Torrance officials who attempted to proactively are looking for solutions. As far as I know part of a city responsibility is safety and we are crying for help.

-Robert Slack

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Brett Pearson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2021 11:38 AM  
**To:** PWTraffic  
**Subject:** Arboles traffic

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It is very disappointing that the efforts made by the city thus far have been stymied by the avarice of some vocal neighbors fueled by the propaganda being spread by a notoriously unscrupulous resident. Shame on him.

650 vehicles on the street per day. That's almost 8 per house. How can anyone say this isn't a thoroughfare?

Traffic striping has proven to reduce speeds in a variety of conditions. What makes our street any different? It encourages awareness of lane position thus reducing driver distraction which in turn equals pedestrian safety.

I think it is incredibly irresponsible for the city to ignore this, especially after they've recognized a problem.

I applaud Torrance's efforts so far. Sorry they were discounted by people I unfortunately have to call my neighbors

-Brett Pearson

**From:** Andre Beverly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:30 PM  
**To:** PWTraffic  
**Subject:** Proposed Striping on Calle de Arboles

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Dear City of Torrance,

My name is Andre Beverly. I would like to add my opposition to painting a centerline on Calle de Arboles in the area proposed. As a reasonable resident, I would like to reduce speeding as much as anyone else, but this proposal is not a solution to that issue and could cause other unintended vehicle vs. vehicle or pedestrian conflicts.

As a private investigator, I have been investigating accidents for 27 years, and I believe that experience forms a credible opinion on this issue. The study by the city of traffic on this stretch shows a daily average of 650 cars and a total of 3 accidents since 2015, none of which were speed related. I realize that anecdotal evidence shows that drivers do sometimes exceed the speed limit, but since there is no evidence that this has caused a problem rising to the level of an actual collision it seems that making modifications based on only anecdotal data is unwise.

The proposed modification is unlikely to cause the reduction in speed that is being sought. While striping modifications can work on larger streets with higher average speeds, to my knowledge it has not been shown to be very effective on smaller residential streets. Moreover, in our area the most likely speeders are local residents, since Calle de Arboles is not particularly known as a cut-through street. Thus, painting lines, if it is effective at all, would only work for a short time until people got used to the line and began to ignore it and the 25 mph signs. There is also some evidence to indicate that the line painting can increase speed due to the perception that the street is designated as a more major street than it actually is.

The line striping project seems to have been set in motion after some concerned residents asked for speed humps and were denied. Because of the lack of evidence of striping efficacy, this strikes me as a way for the city to placate the residents that have voiced concern and to show that the city has "done something". But if the striping is not effective, then what? We have an ineffective stripe that diminishes the bucolic feel of the neighborhood so many people prefer, and still have speeders.

Also, consider what unintended consequences could occur if a line was painted without proper research and justification. As noted, there are no sidewalks in that area and therefore pedestrians must walk in the street. Forcing vehicles closer to the right side could increase the potential for a number of different kinds of accidents, the least of which is hitting a mirror or car door that opens up, the worst of which is hitting a pedestrian (even if the vehicle was traveling 25 mph).

Speeding can be a problem, and the fact that there have been no speed-related accidents in that stretch of road does not prove that there will never be such an accident, but effective traffic engineering uses data-driven solutions to problems, not suppositions. Just painting a line down a street in hopes it "does something" is not an appropriate response.

Thank you,  
Andre Beverly

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Igor Nataskin [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2021 7:30 AM  
**To:** PWTraffic  
**Subject:** FW: Yellow Line  
**Attachments:** Completed Petition with signatures against yellow center lines on Calle De Arboles - as of 2-28-2021.pdf

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Hi Steve,

Attached is an additional comment from the resident at [REDACTED]. I am also resending you the petition against the striping of the street that includes additional homeowner's signatures (see Page 3)

Thanks

Igor Nastaskin

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mark@grantham.net [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Yellow Line

Hi Igor,

Thank you for stopping by tonight regarding the proposed yellow center-line on Calle De Arboles. I've live at [REDACTED] since 2009. After you left, it occurred to me that I actually have hard tangible experience as to what happens when the line gets painted. I've walked dogs on these streets for more than 12 years. My first hand experience is that when there is a center-line at least 75% of the drivers attempt to pass a dog walker by remaining between the yellow line and the dogs and I. On streets with no centerline 75% of the drivers will happily give you a wide birth. I fear these percentages will hold for kids riding bikes, kids walking their pets, and kids walking to a friends house. Should I get a chance to speak at the Zoom on Monday night, I will express my experience, but if not please use your influence to share this information. Again, thanks for taking a personal interest in our street!

Stay Well,

Mark Grantham

February-2021


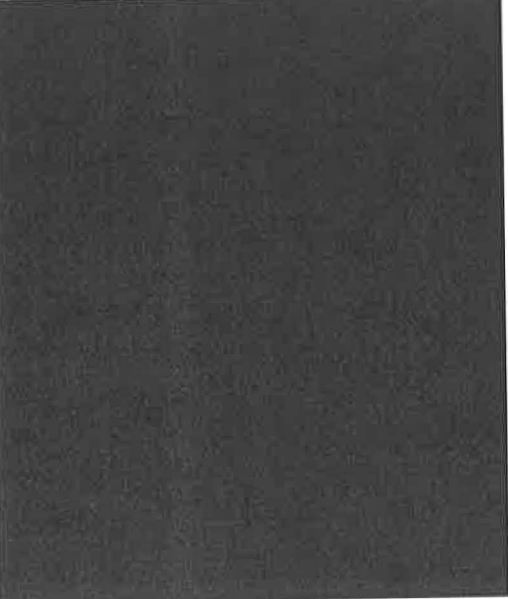
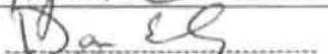

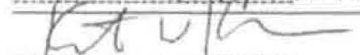
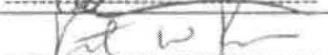



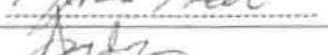
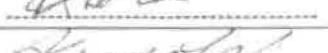
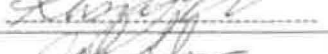
PETITION AGAINST PUTTING YELLOW STRIPED LINES ON CALLE DE ARBOLES

To: Steve Finton, City of Torrance Public Works Engineering Manager

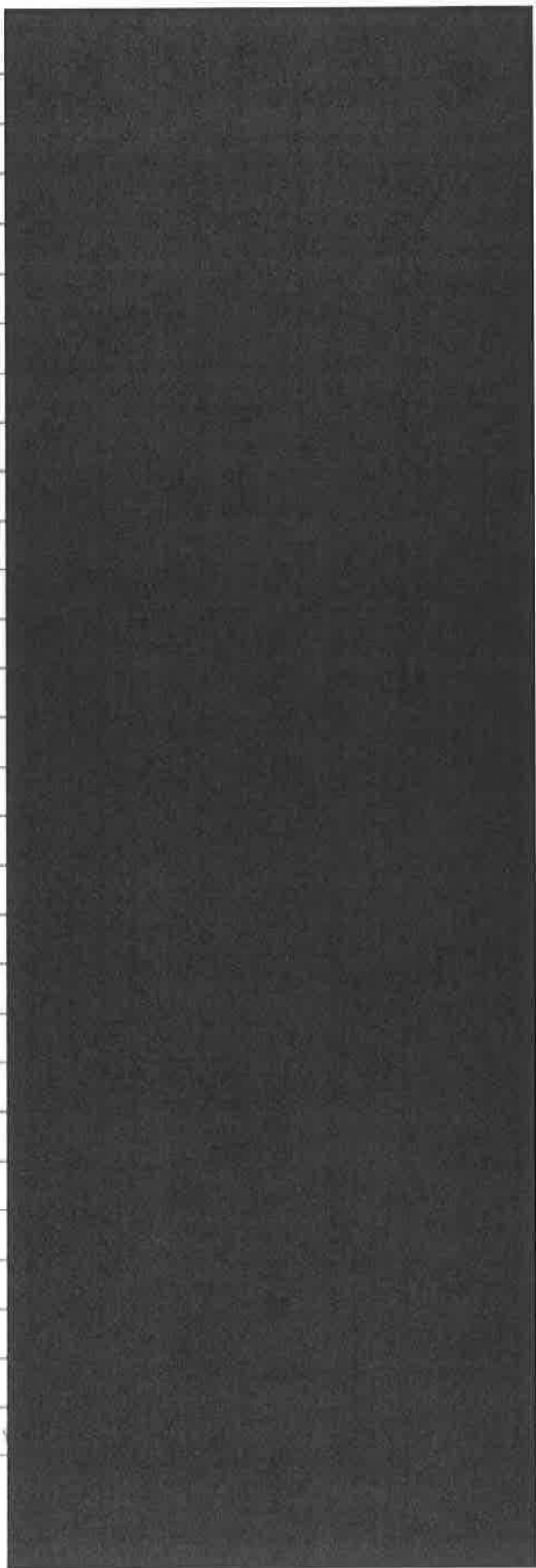
We understand that the city of Torrance is contemplating adding yellow lines down the middle of Calle De Arboles in the hope of reducing car speeds on the street. While we wholeheartedly agree that reducing vehicle speeding on Calle De Arboles is a worthwhile endeavor, we vehemently disagree with the proposed solution of adding yellow lines on the street for the following reasons:

1. We don't believe that adding yellow lines on the street will result in lower speeds, as such lines do not provide a physical or other impediment to speeding. In fact, there appears to be evidence that adding yellow lines on residential streets may actually increase average speed and cause drivers to be more complacent
2. Having yellow lines will negatively impact the special neighborly feel that the street currently enjoys
3. Having yellow lines on the street will result in lower property values, as it would signal to potential buyers that they are purchasing a house on a busy thoroughfare

We also believe that a decision of this magnitude requires a public hearing so that the opinions of all stake-holders, in particular homeowners on Calle De Arboles, can be heard.

Name of property owner	Signature of property owner	Address of property owner
LOR NASTASKIW		
Dean Earley		
Celia Carmel Beaudin		
		
Ind. Mark Kam		
Charles Smith		
James Gear		
Andra Angolini		
Kasey Wickasa		
John Selmon		

Karen Cardenas	Karen Cardenas
Chad D. Cardenas	Chad D. Cardenas
Sarah R. Cardenas	Sarah R. Cardenas
Shing Hong Lee	Shing Hong Lee
BEN PINKERSON	BEN PINKERSON
DANNAL PINKERSON	DANNAL PINKERSON
Linda Shannon	Linda Shannon
Mourzen March	Mourzen March
Terry Herzik	Terry Herzik
Rick Perius	Rick Perius
Dana Peaves	Dana Peaves
Rex Ito	Rex Ito
Mark A. Grafton	Mark A. Grafton
Karen Duskil	Karen Duskil
DOUG STEARNS	DOUG STEARNS
Randy Belding	Randy Belding
John P. Wood	John P. Wood
Sheridan M. Ward	Sheridan M. Ward
Danielle Henry	Danielle Henry
Cris Colquhoun	Cris Colquhoun
WENDY TSUJI	WENDY TSUJI
Joe Basseri	Joe Basseri
Marc Sabelli	Marc Sabelli
Brittany Sabelli	Brittany Sabelli
Sarah Tehran	Sarah Tehran
Amy Blomgren	Amy Blomgren
ANDRE BEVERLY	ANDRE BEVERLY
Melita Beverly	Melita Beverly





Rainer N

Jennifer Gott

Josip Andrus

Pill Andrus

Christine Von Helms

KEN VON HELMOLT

Karl Geinger

*[Handwritten signature]*

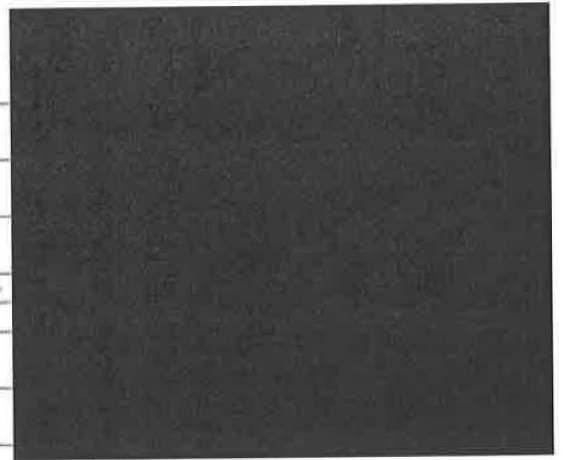
*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

Christine Von Helms

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*



[REDACTED]

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**From:** bill andrus personal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 7:24 AM  
**To:** PWTraffic  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** calle de arboles proposed lane striping Against

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RE: Calle De Arboles lane striping AGAINST

I'm a 20 year resident along the portion of Calle De Arboles that is proposed to be striped in order to reduce vehicle speeds. Internet searches for the articles Igor referenced show that striping the road will increase vehicle speeds and possibly increase the amount of traffic as well.

I'm all for enforcement of the 25 MPH speed limit. Tell the police to post up with some motorcycle units and start giving out citations. As a matter of courtesy, do this in the PM so the speeders won't be late for work while they wait for their speeding ticket. This has been asked for in the past but it doesn't happen. The Torrance PD lieutenant told me, essentially, that he'd put a note on the doughnut box in the breakroom. They never showed up. Mayor Scotto told the Riviera HOA that "tickets are not the answer". He just didn't want to get the calls from residents who got the tickets. I mean, really, either enforce the speed limit or put up signs that say "25 MPH, Compliance Voluntary".

I'll add that striping will also increase blight in our area, just like those no parking / street sweeping signs did. They blighted the street, caused unnecessary inconvenience and did near zero in terms of keeping the streets cleaner. They were already clean.

Quote on why striping will backfire in regards to reducing vehicle speeds below.

"The second line striping is painted, the general perception is that the roadway real estate has been "assigned" to a particular variety of user, and users are more likely to become agitated or more aggressive when "others" infringe on "their" territory. It also stands to reason that if a driver feels that a certain corridor within the street is "theirs" and other users should not be there, they will then be more comfortable increasing their travel speed. And yes, providing lane striping also provides a visual cue that the street is expected to be used as a through street. And if it actually does attract new through vehicles, average travel speeds will almost certainly rise, as it is well known that people will drive through other neighborhoods faster than they drive through their own."

Full article:

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2016/10/31/ask-r-moses-does-center-line-striping-make-streets-safer>

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bill andrus personal. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]