

Traffic Commission Meeting of
April 5, 2021

SUPPLEMENTAL #2

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:
8 emails from Residents.

[REDACTED]

From: Amy Josefek [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2021 1:01 PM
To: PWTraffic
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Traffic Commission, 4/5/21,
Attachments: 20210331_181907.jpg; 20210331_150809.jpg; 20210331_151116.jpg; 20210331_150745.jpg

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Driving south on PCH thru Redondo Beach, the very first thing you see when crossing Palos Verdes Blvd, is signage announcing Hollywood Riviera, Torrance, and TREE CITY USA!

As if to prove the veracity of that statement, fewer than 90 steps on, in the middle of PCH, stands a large, beautiful, healthy, welcoming old tree.

I approached Torrance in the very early days of the Legado project being presented to RB. The City made it clear that they had no intention to get involved with this project.

In the amount of time spent standing on, looking at or discussing that median, it seems to many of us that there are alternative ways to deal with the difficult intersection situation:

- lengthen the left turn pocket so that it starts immediately north of the tree, essentially cutting the median to the concrete / Hawthorne Bush circle surrounding it. It seems clear that would allow for an additional three, even four more cars to enter that pocket.
- we've seen other intersections where a left turn is allowed from both the specific pocket and the middle of three lanes.
- while digging continues, construction has not yet begun on the Legado property. I don't know if there's an opportunity to negotiate with them at this point to get any additional footage for additional street footage.

We understand that no one's goal has been directly to remove this very majestic tree, but rather to better the traffic flow so that it allows drivers to stay on PCH, and out of the narrow Riviera streets, until they can make the left onto PVB.

However, the worst case scenario that so many of us envision and dread, is to see the tree removed, but the drivers continue to cut through Colinas and Delicias, just out of habit.

The Sacramento zoning issues that many of us are currently dealing with, that are not in your purview but will affect us all, include serious loss of the tree canopy. It feels quite wrong to go directly to an extreme solution before trying other things that would be less harmful to the environment.

While we hope to see the City planting more mature trees in place of ones that are removed, but even if much more mature trees were planted rather than the very very very young ones currently going into the ground, it takes dozens of years before a tree has a canopy that will help to prevent the dangerous heat island affect.

We appreciate that the city first tried the pork chop (or is it lamb chop?) approach with no left turns into Colinas going north on PCH. But just because that didn't work, we request that you not automatically go to the most extreme notion, but keep looking for ways to resolve this issue that will be less harmful to our environment.

Thank you for genuine efforts in trying to come to a better solution for our community. We look forward to hearing from you at tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,
Amy Josefek
Hollywood Riviera



TREE CITY USA
More Green. More Sustainable.




TREE CITY USA
Arbor Day Foundation






HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA TORRANCE



[REDACTED]

From: Andy Shelby [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2021 4:14 PM
To: PWTraffic
Subject: Input on item 7a for April 5, 2021 traffic commission meeting

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To Whom It May Concern,

My thoughts regarding the proposal for the westbound PCH left turn lane extension at PCH and PVD. Item # 7a on the Traffic Commission April 5, 2021 agenda.

I live at [REDACTED] and walk/drive through this intersection and area a great deal of the time. The corner of PCH and PVD can be treacherous to cross and is getting more congested each year.

My suggestion:

- 1) Please do not cut down the beautiful tree on the medium. It contributes to the ambience of the area whether you are driving westbound or eastbound on PCH. In addition, the oxygen it provides to our environment is invaluable.
- 2) Extend the westbound PCH left turn lane up to the tree as applicable which will allow an additional car or two to enter the lane.
- 3) Add a formal right turn lane on westbound PCH at PVD. This will pull off cars from the main lanes and help with the traffic flow. It was my understanding that the City of Redondo Beach obtained some rights to the sidewalk next to the Legado properties for that purpose.
- 4) Alter the sequence of the traffic lights at the corner of PCH and PVD so that the westbound traffic on PCH (including the left turn lane) all flow at the same time. Then allow the eastbound PCH traffic (including the eastbound left turn lane to flow at the same time). This would reduce the congestion and backup of the left hand turn lanes in both directions.

Thanks for listening!

Andy Shelby
[REDACTED]

From: April Telles [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2021 9:37 AM
To: PWTraffic
Subject: Public Comment Regarding the Torrance Traffic Commission Agenda Item 7a 4/5/21

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Regarding: **Torrance Traffic Commission Agenda for 4/5/2021:**

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

a. Discussion of Westbound Left-Turn Lane Extension on Pacific Coast Highway between Palos Verdes Boulevard and Camino de las Colinas

I understand there is congestion at that intersection, especially the backing up of the left turn lane onto Palos Verdes Blvd. I am also aware of the fact that some drivers cut through onto Camino de las Colinas as well as Paseo De Las Delicias and that the city has tried previously to discourage drivers from cutting through on those residential streets.

I understand why an extension of that left-turn lane is being proposed but was saddened to learn in February that it included the chopping down of a beautiful 50+ year old ficus tree in the median. I have sat in that left turn lane and looked at the current configuration compared to the extension being proposed. A few more car lengths will be able to be in the left turn lane but I don't think it will make enough of a difference to alleviate the problem. It therefore does not justify killing the tree.

What analysis was done to suggest that this is a viable solution? Was a traffic study done modeling the proposed lane extension to see if the gain would be significant enough to warrant this action? Was the fact that drivers cut through nearby streets and probably will continue to do so, taken into consideration? Is there a way to make the left turn in question 2 lanes wide or perhaps have the middle lane go straight as well as turn left? Can the signal light be changed to lengthen the time for each instance of the left turn lane allowing more cars to turn? For those turning left to go up to Palos Verdes, can drivers somehow be encouraged to use Calle Mayor rather than Palos Verdes Blvd? My greatest fear regarding this proposal is that the tree will no longer exist but the traffic problem will remain. Then what? You can't put the tree back!

Respectfully,
April F Telles
Torrance, CA

[REDACTED]

From: Candace Allen Nafissi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2021 1:06 PM
To: PWTraffic
Subject: Support for Frankie

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Hello, I am writing in support of Frankie the beautiful ficus tree on PCH and PV Blvd. I urge the commission to please consider alternative solutions that will support leaving the tree as is. Thank you.

At your service,

Candace Allen Nafissi, MPA
Los Angeles County Beaches & Harbor Commissioner
Redondo Beach Library Commissioner
Redondo Beach General Plan Advisory Committee Member

[REDACTED]

4-2-21

In regards to the tree and median on PCH and Camino de las Colinas.

I am very much opposed to the removal of the tree. As a concerned citizen about the environment, I think we need far more trees....not removal of trees. That tree has been there for many years,. It provides a noise buffer, a piece of privacy for the home owners across from the new development, it enhances the area, it provides a home for birds and brings us cool breezes. It has a much more positive effect on the neighborhood than the upcoming development.

I have lived on Colinas for 49 years. We have watched as traffic has increased. However, I think there can be other solutions rather than cutting down a tree. Make the light longer, make a lane for dual purpose...forward or left turn, move the lanes over more to rightthere is an easement on the right hand side of PCH that some people use to make right hand turns on to PV Blvd. now. Frankly, no matter what you do, it won't save Colinas. They are going to use it to avoid the lights and intersections on PCH. Why wait when you can zoom down Colinas.

It is very discouraging to watch as our beautiful Riviera is turned into more and more concrete. This section of Redondo was so lovely and unique. The Village had lots of old-gnarled trees and wooden benches around them and got 100% for charming. Now it looks like an overbuilt and sterile beach city ...much of the charm is gone. Preserving this tree will help to preserve a bit of charm which is likely to be much appreciated by future residents of both the Riviera and the new development.

Please save this tree !!!!!

Thank You,



From: Jeffrey Edwards [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2021 12:59 PM
To: PWTraffic
Subject: 4/5/2021 Traffic Commission Agenda item 7a regarding tree removal for left turn lane extension -- I OBJECT

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Regarding: *Torrance Traffic Commission Agenda for 4/5/2021:*

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

a. Discussion of Westbound Left-Turn Lane Extension on Pacific Coast Highway between Palos Verdes Boulevard and Camino de las Colinas

I am adamantly opposed to the removal of the giant 70+ year-old tree at this intersection simply to extend the left-turn lane onto Palos Verdes Blvd. This drastic measure would be an expedient "band-aid" for the city council but will provide VERY little long term benefit.

The tree is beautiful, shade-giving, temperature-lowering, and CO2 absorbing -- lengthening the left-turn lane will NOT address, let alone solve, the underlying traffic situation at that intersection. The tree's removal is a knee-jerk, "line of least resistance" measure by the city that will ultimately solve nothing.

I have read in detail the letter provided by S.Finton (Deputy Public Works). By his own statement the proposed changes (i.e. removal of the tree) were initially motivated by input from "A citizen report" (one person). While that number may now include a few other local residents living on the involved streets, I suspect that *a survey of the LARGER community (not just those on Colinas or Delicias) would overwhelmingly demonstrate a preference to leave the tree in place and request Torrance to pursue different solutions.*

In particular, I very much advocate the simple and relatively inexpensive return to the Traffic Commissions original solution of implementing left-turn restrictions at both Colinas and Delicias/Parque.

I object to the view of those few residents on those streets that essentially "want their cake and eat it too" -- they want to maintain the current easy access to their street but rebel at "non-locals" likewise using their street. These residents fail to consider the demonstrated desires of the larger community -- *this larger neighborhood community has vociferously and adamantly protested the tree's removal both in person at the site as well as by direct comment to the Torrance City council.*

BOTTOM LINE: Removal of the spectacular tree at that location will NOT provide a long-term traffic solution, and will serve only to dramatically damage our community environment, history, and quality of life. It will serve only to placate a handful of "locals only" residents in an effort by the Torrance City Council to quickly & easily brush the underly traffic problem under the carpet.

DO BETTER. PRESERVE THIS TREE. FIND A BETTER SOLUTION.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A Edwards <<--- 61 year resident

 <<--- 680 yards from this treasured tree

[REDACTED]

From: Patricia Johns [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2021 10:28 AM
To: PWTraffic
Subject: Left turn pocket construction at PCH/PV Blvd

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Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. We are in support of this construction project as it will improve safety, reduce cut-through and improve the flow of traffic in our area. We have reviewed the proposal and given the constraints think that it is the best solution. As 30-year residents of Paseo de las Delicias, we are strongly in favor of this improvement.

As a civil engineer involved in this type of work, I think that I have a unique understanding of the time and effort that it takes to get a project like this designed, approved/permitted bid and ready to begin. Any changes to the design will take months or even years to implement because of CALTRANS involvement, and it is my opinion that is too late in the process to derail it over a few resident's concerns about one tree. The removal of the tree is, unfortunately, necessary.

Respectfully,

Patricia K. Johns, PE
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2021 8:37 PM
To: PWTraffic
Subject: PCH/PVBLVD LEFT-TURN & 'SAVE THE TREE' SOLUTIONS
Attachments: IMG_7867.jpg

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Torrance Traffic,

Note: having recently discussed this issue with
Torrance Engineering Manager, Steve Finton,
here is my follow-up suggestions.

Torrance is in an embarrassing position, being
designated "TREE CITY USA" yet possibly having
to remove a large stately tree, the first tree
that visitors entering Torrance would admire.
(See attachment)

Also as this tree is located on PCH, (a Caltrans highway)
Torrance does not have final say in this matter.

To save this tree, The City could propose a revised plan
to Caltrans that would resolve the tree issue and hopefully
provide a workable solution to the left-turn problem.
This new proposed solution, is to provide two left-turn lanes,
instead of the city proposal of just one left-turn extension.
This idea would solve the tree and left-turn traffic issues.
To add this extra lane, will require utilizing "creative ideas",
less than 8ft wide lanes, but still be practical for traffic flow
as suggested below:-

Suggestions include incremental and one major changes:-

Incremental changes to accommodate two turning lanes:-

- o Center median- minimize width.
- o Torrance Side: Locally Cut into grassy verge to widen PCH
- o Modify/Relocate Traffic Light/Pedestrian edge area
- o Thinner traffic lanes but still a "wide enough" solution.
- o Increase left-turn lanes length, but without impacting tree.
- o Redondo Side: Reduce width/Eliminate right-turn lane.

Major Change

o The Redondo Side is currently under Legado construction. During the prolonged negotiations with Redondo Planning, Legado, in a good faith gesture, offered a sliver of their property to widen PCH for better traffic flow. If this offer is no longer on the table, Legado might like to reconsider, and demonstrate some much needed community support and goodwill. This would solve these issues. I believe Redondo would want to assist here, as they have demonstrated strong support for saving this tree.

I hope Torrance Traffic takes an in depth study of the above. It could be a win-win solution!

Richard Norris





TREE CITY USA
Arbor Day Foundation