

**MINUTES
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
February 18, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Highland was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Hamerly at the Donahue Council Chambers, 27215 Base Line, Highland, California.

Present:	Chair	Randall Hamerly
	Vice Chair	John Gamboa
	Commissioner	Tamara Zaman
	Commissioner	Michael Hall

Absent: Commissioner Richard Haller (arrived at 6:05 pm)

Staff Present: Lawrence Mainez, Community Development Director
Kim Stater, Assistant Community Development Director
Dennis Barton, Project Engineer
Shannon Wisniewski, Administrative Assistant III

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Hamerly.

COMMUNITY INPUT

No public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.0 Minutes from the January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission

A MOTION was made by Vice Chair Gamboa, seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried, 4-0, with Commissioner Haller absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

2.0 Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Public Works Project 'Highland Redlands Regional Connector Project'; Environmental Review No. ENV-19-004.

At 6:04 PM Vice Chair Gamboa recused himself from the meeting as he lives within 500 feet of the project.

Assistant Community Development Director Stater gave a brief review of the staff report.

Chair Hamerly asked if a percentage of the slated improvements will be dedicated to the roadway and not just for the bike path; such as speed feedback signs.

Assistant Community Development Director Stater stated yes, that is correct.

Chair Hamerly asked what percentage will be general street improvements and what percentage for the pathway.

Project Engineer Barton stated most of the work and the expenses will be for the pathway.

Chair Hamerly asked if there are one or two bridges included in the report.

Project Engineer Barton stated there is one bridge, and it is located across from Plunge Creek.

Chair Hamerly opened the Public Hearing for public comment.

Kathleen Cramer a resident who lives on Glenheather was invited to the dais for comment.

Ms. Cramer stated that vehicles are reaching speeds in excess of 55-60 miles per hour on Glenheather. She also stated multiple speed related vehicle accidents have occurred throughout the years, even with the use of speed feedback signs. Ms. Cramer requested that City Staff conduct further research into the traffic speeds on the street, because increased use of bicycle pathways on the street could result in fatalities if current speeding issues are not addressed.

Chuck Peterson a resident who lives on Glenheather was invited to the dais for comment.

Mr. Peterson stated that he enjoys bike pathways and appreciates the benefits they provide for transportation and recreational use. Mr. Peterson mentioned that it appeared the Public Hearing Notices have different streets and addresses than the Staff Report, which could mean that residents reviewing the notice may not understand what the document entailed. He also stated that he is in favor of the improvement of bike paths; however, he is concerned about the issue of speed violations on the street. He has witnessed via his home camera system and speed monitoring device, vehicles reaching speeds reaching in excess of 70 miles per hour. Mr. Peterson stated he did not find statistics or a complete study conducted by City Staff on traffic speed within the report, and requested the City conduct further analysis on the issue. He stated his concern had led him to speak with the Sheriff's Department in an attempt to increase traffic enforcement in the area. Mr. Peterson stated that unfortunately, he was advised that due to low staffing, the area cannot be continuously monitored. He suggested that City Staff also consider the use of speed bumps.

Steve Gomez a resident who resides on Glenheather was invited to the dais for comment.

Mr. Gomez stated he has witnessed motorists traveling at a high rate of speed while distracted by food and mobile devices. Mr. Gomez stated that a few years ago a nearby neighbor child was struck by a vehicle, but was luckily not too seriously injured. He also stated that he is in favor of bike pathways; however, it is imperative for City Staff to conduct further research on speed violations on the street and consider adding speed bumps.

Cindy Peterson who resides on Glenheather was invited to the dais for comment.

Mrs. Peterson stated that she would like for the City to resolve the issue of speeding before adding bike lanes, and that the addition of bike lanes will worsen an already dangerous situation for pedestrians. She stated that earlier in the day she was exiting her driveway heading West on Glenheather. She encountered a motorist who was seemingly traveling to Highland Grove Elementary; the motorist drove aggressively near pedestrians as if frustrated to be slowed down. Mrs. Peterson stated that this is common driver behavior in the area, when drivers are slowed down by responsible motorists or pedestrians, they become angry and drive more reckless. Mrs. Peterson stated that while she supports bike pathways, she is concerned and feels City Staff should first resolve the matter of speeding before adding bike paths.

Glenn Budd who resides on Glenheather was invited to the dais for comment.

Mr. Budd stated that he is a Civil Engineer and agrees with Mr. Gomez's suggestion to implement speed bumps on Glenheather. He stated that he is in favor of the bike lane, however, the wide open street has been used as if it is a freeway, and the speeds are reaching an excess of 60 miles per hour. Mr. Budd stated that he is very concerned that if the City adds a bike lane, and does not slow down the traffic, the pedestrians traveling on the street on a daily basis are at an increased danger.

Chair Hamerly thanked the residents who provided comments on the project, and requested Project Engineer Barton provide a brief background on what the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process entails.

Project Engineer Barton provided a brief background on the CEQA process. He stated that the CEQA process is to address environmental concerns related to endangered species and air quality, which has currently been addressed. Staff has also completed the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process. He also stated that he has previously met with Mr. Peterson regarding his speed safety concerns, and assured him that Staff is taking these concerns into account. Additionally, Staff has inquired with other cities regarding their speed bumps used on residential streets.

Discussion took place between Project Engineer Barton and the Planning Commissioners regarding the report.

There was no further comment or questions from the Planning Commissioners for Project Engineer Barton.

Chair Hamerly closed the Public Hearing at 6:55 P.M.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Haller, and seconded by Commissioner Zaman to adopt Resolution No. 2020-001. Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Public Works Project "Highland Redlands Regional Connector Project"; Environmental Review No. ENV-19-004. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Vice Chair Gamboa abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Community Development Director Stater announced the next meeting of the Planning Commission will have the Annual General Plan and Housing Element update. The Planning Commission will also receive an update on recent revisions to the Municipal Code.

On Saturday, March 28th the City will have the Annual Citrus Harvest festival in the Historic District.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Hamerly declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Camille Goritz,
Administrative Assistant III

Randall Hamerly,
Planning Commission Chair