

CITY OF SAN MATEO

Special Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, August 17, 2020
Remote 5:30 PM
Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Remote: Mayor Goethals, Deputy Mayor Rodriguez, Council Members: Bonilla, Papan and Lee

STUDY SESSION

1. Citywide Traffic Management Update

Bethany Lopez Senior Engineer and Shannon Hagan Police Sergeant provided a presentation and update on the Traffic Action Plan (TAP). Council asked questions of staff.

Public Comment – Rowan Paul, Teilan’s father, commented that data is only as good as what you are measuring and encouraged the use of best judgement. Joshua Hugg stated cars drive too fast on the street to make the turn. Lisa Diaz Nash stated Traffic Action Plans versus data driven analysis is artificial. Michael Weinbauer shared security footage of Teilan being hit and also noted concern with biking downtown and encouraged adopting all four pillars of the proposed Teilan plan. Erika Powell advocated for the TAP. Anna Kuhre stated she is alarmed by impacts and noted North Central as a top priority in the TAP. Tom Lease stated a need for more traffic officers. Richard Hedges encouraged photo enforcement. James Wang spoke in support of traffic calming measures. Drew appreciates the presentation with the data. Laurie Watanuki spoke in support of the Teilan Plan.

Council Members asked additional questions and provided comments. Council Member Papan noted TAP meetings occurred across the City in different neighborhoods and stated her relief that the TAP is not going away and is interested in applying the funds and concentrating efforts where it can yield the biggest safety results and noted she is concerned about North Central as well.

Deputy Mayor Rodriguez appreciated all of the comments and especially hearing from Teilan’s parents. He expressed concern with the discrepancy in traffic data and the community’s feeling of pedestrian safety noting pedestrian safety has to be a top priority and the City could do better. He encouraged the tracking of near misses to get a more accurate picture of safety issues. He looks forward to continuing to revisit this and moving it forward and requested another study session as soon as possible.

Council Member Lee stated her agreement with previous comments and wanted to underscore that a lot of points wedded together the TAP and data-driven technology approach. She noted the need for community voices being at the center of discussion and pedestrian safety and collision data needs to be presented at the forefront. The plans should be weighted to safety for seniors and children. And she noted that all of the master plans need to be synthesized into one cohesive plan.

Council Member Bonilla noted he takes traffic safety very seriously and commented that Vision Zero is our commitment to ensure that human life and health are paramount. TAPs have been driven by public outcry in the past, just the same as now. He encouraged focusing on hot spots and increasing enforcement.

Mayor Goethals noted the historically significant steps the City has been taking, including safe routes to school, and noted he would like to see more speed humps as speed is a big issue and mobile radar units deployed.

Papan encouraged that a robust public information program should be a part of this effort as well and a Public Information section should be added to this plan. Use mobile traffic signage to remind drivers and walkers to be alert.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

Joe Goethals, Mayor

Patrice M. Olds, City Clerk