



# Transportation & Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 5, 2020  
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
\*\* Virtual Meeting \*\*

Members:	Present:	Absent:	Commence: 5:32 PM Adjourn: 6:05 PM
Peter Kwon, Chair	X		
Pam Fernald	X		
Takele Gobena	X		

Other Councilmembers participating: CM Tombs; CM Hill

Staff Coordinators: Will Appleton, Public Works Director; Florendo Cabudol, City Engineer

Other Staff Participating: Mary Mirante-Bartolo, City Attorney; Mark Johnsen, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Public Comment	None
1. Approve Prior Meeting's Minutes	Oct 15 Minutes were approved
2. Noise Variance Code Language	<p>Discussion/Recommendation</p> <p>Will Appleton, PW Director, presented the topic proposing to amend City code to formalize our ability to approve necessary variances to our noise ordinance to accommodate certain construction related work performed in the right of way, when safety is an issue.</p> <p>Examples of construction related activities often requiring work to be performed outside of normal working hours include utility related relocations that require road closures or work that must be completed without interruption to minimize impacts to the public. One example was installing the overhead pedestrian walkway over International Boulevard at the Airport Light Rail Station. This work was performed at night to minimize impacts to the traveling public on International Blvd.</p> <p>Staff explained that scrutinizing requests for variances, and approving them with limited time duration is something we are doing now and have been doing. Staff is asking to formalize within code our ability to continue doing this.</p>

	<p>Looking ahead, Sound Transit and SR509 freeway extension construction will be ramping up and this necessary code housekeeping will formalize our ability to keep approving those variances that are necessary for safety and minimization of impacts to the public.</p> <p>A question was raised if there were differences in noise ordinance between commercial and residential construction. Staff answered that there is no distinction currently within our code between the two. The noise ordinance limits construction to the hours of 7AM to 10PM Monday through Friday, and 9AM to 10PM on weekends. Approval of noise variances for residential construction would be very rare. There has to be a compelling reason to grant a variance, and not for the purposes of approving an accelerated construction schedule.</p> <p>Staff mentioned that Council could choose to create separate approved construction hours to be codified for residential or commercial construction, at a later date.</p> <p>Another question raised was whether a long term noise variance would be granted (for instance, for a two-year construction schedule). Staff answered that that would not be the case. The variance must be for a compelling reason, and the duration of time would be limited to that reason only.</p> <p>A question was raised about fees. Staff answered that a noise variance fee of \$219 is in place in our current fee schedule. The fee is a realistic amount due to the staff time it takes to review, and either reject or approve a variance.</p> <p>The Committee approved moving the noise variance code changes forward to full council, when a complete draft ordinance would be available for Council to review.</p>
<p>3. Temporary Speed Reduction in Construction Zones</p>	<p>Discussion/Recommendation</p> <p>The topic of a temporary speed reduction in construction zones was presented by Florendo Cabudol, City Engineer.</p> <p>The City has received a request for a reduced speed limit from our contractor on the South 200<sup>th</sup> Street Shared Use Path project, This is due to the workspace along South 200<sup>th</sup> being constrained with not much room on the shoulder. This request is for safety reasons for the public and construction workers within the construction zone.</p> <p>State law allows the City to post speed signs, but does not allow for much enforcement.</p> <p>Staff is requesting this new code language that allows us to both post a lower speed limit in a construction zone, and allow for Police to enforce the lower limit.</p> <p>The Committee raised a question as to how the lower speed would be enforced. Staff answered that an off-duty officer and vehicle are on site at the construction zone, and could either pursue a speeding vehicle or dispatch a call immediately to Police.</p>

	<p>The urgency to attend to this matter now is that construction is underway on the South 200<sup>th</sup> Path and safety is currently an issue for workers and the traveling public.</p> <p>The Committee approved moving this to full Council on the consent agenda.</p>
4. Adjourn	Adjourn Meeting