

Claremont Traffic and Transportation Commission

League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area Observer Report

By Observer Anne Bellemin

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Change in Commissioners

Within the past year, Julie Medero, Jack Blair and Jennifer Stark have joined the Commission. The current Chair is Evan Rutter; Chuck Freitas is Vice-Chair and the other members are Zachary Courser and Walter Farmer.

The Commission has met 11 times in the past year mostly on the designated 4th Thursday but on alternative days to accommodate special meetings and holiday conflicts. **The Foothill Boulevard Master Plan Improvements and the proposed Quiet Zone consumed most of the Commissioners' attention.** Also, the impact of the Gold Line on Indian Hill traffic and parking continues to be of great concern to the Commissioners as well as the community.

The Foothill Bl. Plan on the agenda in July 2016 drew a full house and much community interest. The Commissioners had many, many clarifying questions and comments--a long meeting. The improvements, or lack of improvements, to the south side of Foothill between Mountain and Berkeley Avenues was just one of the concerns. In February 2017 another part of the Plan again elicited many questions and comments.

The issue of the Quiet Zone and sub-committee recommendations was dealt with several times: in June and October 2016 and January 2017. This issue also brought above-average resident comment: the June meeting had overflow out the door.

The more routine items brought forward this past year were Speed Surveys on Baseline Rd. and Foothill Bl., a traffic study around Keck Institute, the Dial-a-Ride Transportation Plan and a report from the Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee.

During "Commissioner Comments" the Commissioners always take the opportunity to bring issues and concerns to the attention of Staff, often for specific action or for inclusion on future agendas. Several Commissioners have also asked for more information about the coming Gold Line and the issues that will have to be dealt with so they can read now and be prepared for the deluge of material and decisions.

I attended 4 meetings in the last year. Although I've reviewed the agendas and minutes of the meetings I missed, I am keeping my comments brief and not adding information that I have not personally heard. At all the meetings that I attended this year, everyone did their job and meetings were efficiently run.

There has been an almost complete turnover in Commissioners since I started observing July 2011. Chuck Freitas is the singular exception. I want to acknowledge here that Mr. Freitas has consistently provided a voice for the students in Claremont and the traffic issues that affect our schools.