

ACONA January 24, 2023 Meeting Notes

After introductions, the following topics were presented.

Preparing for fire and earthquake; disaster prep for pets

Speaker: Deb Halberstadt, LASD CERT Coordinator

Make a plan for your family and your pets in the event of a disaster. Need to be self-sufficient for at least three days, optimally two weeks. Don't be in denial about wildfires. They *can* happen here. If you are told to evacuate, leave immediately. Slides are very comprehensive; review them for more details (available at [ACONAOnline.org](https://www.aconaonline.org)).

Two pedestrian deaths in Altadena

Speakers: Capt. Jabari Williams, Altadena Sheriff's Station

Jeremy Keller, California Highway Patrol

Officer Jonathan Boyd, CHP Public Information Officer

Officer Bryan Bay, CHP

Last year there were two pedestrian fatalities: Fair Oaks just above Altadena Drive, and Mendocino/Holliston, near the country club. Investigation still ongoing. When reports are available CHP can release more information. Altadena doesn't have many sidewalks so pedestrians are less safe. Wearing bright colored clothes, reflective clothing at night, can help. Where there are no sidewalks, walk as close to the side of the road as you can, and walk against traffic. Bill taking effect this year AB2147 Freedom to Walk Act — no longer need to cross at a crosswalk: pedestrians and drivers need to be more alert. CHP has been doing presentations at schools and businesses on pedestrian safety.

Julian Garcia, Public Works: Surveys are used to determine the speed limit. Can use traffic calming measures to lower the speed of vehicles so that the speed limit can be lowered (85% of maximum observed speed is the measure used to set the speed limit).

Q to CHP: Who has primary jurisdiction over traffic? A: Both Altadena Sheriff's Station and CHP have jurisdiction. LA County maps.assessor.lacounty.gov shows who is responsible for policing a street. Yellow is CHP. Captain Williams: Nothing stops Altadena Sheriff's station from doing traffic enforcement. When it comes to collisions, CHP handles those. CHP motorcycle patrols have increased because funding has allowed it. Community concern and information on "problem" areas also drive increased presence.

Q: Have speed trailers been placed where there were fatalities? A: Trailers didn't do well in the winter rainstorms and are being repaired. When they are back in operation they'll be deployed. One is currently on Woodbury close to Casitas.

Q: How/what can we do as a community to take advantage of AB43 legislation and get more traffic safety measures installed (traffic lights; stop signs). A: This would be a Public Works function. Diane Marcussen: Contact your Altadena Town Council member about areas where you think these are needed.

Review of pedestrian and traffic safety in Altadena

Speaker: Matthew Dubiel, PE, Daniel Quintana and Lee Miller, LA County Public Works; also Steve Burger, Deputy Director LA County Transportation

Public Works must report back to the County Supervisors in February on the areas where the two fatalities occurred to see what can be done to make those areas safer.

Because of the short time frame, these are the only two areas of focus for this report.

Primary cause of injury and fatalities is speed.

Daniel Quintana: Public Works makes use of proven traffic safety measures. [See slides for quick-build treatments being considered for Fair Oaks and Holliston: e.g., reflective center lines, red curbs, high visibility crosswalks]

Q: What are high visibility/continental crosswalks? A: Instead of two narrow lines delineating a walkway, the crossing area is marked with broad white bars within the walkway.

Q: What are the traffic light upgrades being contemplated for Altadena/Fair Oaks? Would it include push-to-walk buttons? A: Yes, but because the wiring would need to be upgraded, it won't be an immediate change.

Q: Community engagement: What are your plans to engage the community about these two traffic corridors? A: Hoping to get input from the community. Dorothy Wong has been channeling input to Public Works. Steve Burger: The 45-day report is not the end, it's the beginning.

Comment: Holliston has speed bumps; that didn't prevent the accident. Q: Will the county consider putting in sidewalks? The Holliston intersection has sidewalks on only one side of one street.

Q: Who can we contact to express concerns A: Julian Garcia: jugarcia@dpw.lacounty.gov; 626-476-4023; or visionzero@pw.lacounty.gov

Q: On VisionZero data: What has been done since the county's last presentation to the Altadena Town Council? A: Slow Streets program was launched during Covid as a part of VisionZero and that has reduced some speed.

Q: Can crosswalks only be placed at rectilinear intersections? Can they be placed at skewed intersections? A: We look at pedestrian volume, but we do prefer to use square intersections. For skewed intersections we try to find a way to make a straight crossing because it's shorter so there's less pedestrian risk.

Q: Where can we find collision data? A: <https://tims.berkeley.edu/> or Matthew Dubiel's office can provide that for our area (see slides for his contact info).

Q: Sidewalks: If they are put in, isn't part of the cost assessed to property owners? A: Short answer: we would try to pay for them. Long answer: we don't have the funds to

put them in everywhere. More detail: It's a big lift to put sidewalks in a community that doesn't have them. Funding. Community buy-in. Property setbacks. Felling trees.

Q: If the accident was on Mendocino, why is Holliston being studied? The intersection and both cross streets are being investigated.

Q: When you have a report ready for the Board of Supervisors, will it be made available to the public? Also, how long does a quick-build take? A: As soon as the report is presented to the Board of Supervisors it will be available to the public. Quick-build times vary: weeks to more than a month (because of outreach to get community buy-in).