

April 12, 2023

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Transportation Committee Meeting convened in a regular meeting at 6:09 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, in the LeRoy J. Jackson Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Mattucci, Councilmember Kaji, Councilmember Lewis

Absent: None

Also Present: Staff Liaison Carlos Huizar, Community Development Director Michelle Ramirez, General Services Director Shant Megerdichian, Facility Operations Manager Gerry Pinela, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Nora Duncan, City Attorney Patrick Sullivan, and Management Aide Robert Williams, Management Aide Kimberly Massee.

3. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Kaji.

4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Mattucci provided a brief introduction and requested the committee members and city staff to introduce themselves for the public.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Consideration of Draft Voluntary Letter of Agreement Between Flight Schools and FAA, Landing Fees.

General Services Director Shant Megerdichian provided an update on the draft Letter of Agreement by the Torrance-based flight schools and the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a potential implementation of landing fees at Torrance Airport. City Attorney Patrick Sullivan presented an update on the legality on restricting training flights and prohibiting training flights from outside agencies. This also included an overview of the City's grandfather status from the Airport Noise and Capacity Act (ANCA), safety-based restrictions, and discussion on limiting or prohibiting the use of the south runway, enforcement of the no left-turn ordinance. Community Development Director Michelle Ramirez provided an overview of the Noise Abatement program at Torrance Airport with a discussion on a noise study within the Torrance Hillside Area for the potential of adding

two additional noise monitoring stations. Management Associate Carlos Huizar provided a brief overview of the airport ground leases.

Committee Member Kaji inquired about the expiration dates of the two master ground leases that sub-lease to flight school operations, Great American and Flite Park LLC. Mr. Huizar responded that the Great American ground lease expires in March 2028 and Flite Park in November 2042.

Chair Mattucci opened Item 5A for public comment. A summary of these comments included:

- Air pollution and noise is too much.
- Airport has existed for a very long time.
- Eliminate touch and go on the south runway.
- Request a public briefing from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and County of Los Angeles Public Health regarding the community risks of using leaded gas at airport.
- Reduce number of training flights.
- No landing fees or restriction of early left turn on south runway.
- Ban transient flights.
- The impacts of the north runway are being ignored.
- Voluntary Letter of Agreement will work.
- Noise impacts from airport has worsen over the past four years.

Committee Member Lewis inquired on the Landing Fees proposal on whether the vendor would be able to only bill transient flights. General Services Director Shant Megerdichian responded that the full City Council can consider implementing landing fees only for transient flights as an option, and if so, staff would work with the vendor to program billing only to transient flights. Furthermore, Mr. Megerdichian elaborated that staff could provide the vendor with a list of home-based planes using an aircraft identification number (commonly known as tail numbers) to distinguish those aircrafts from being charged landing fees.

Chair Mattucci inquired regarding transient flights on what the percentage of those flights are from flight schools. Mr. Megerdichian responded that staff did not have those statistics at this time.

Chair Mattucci inquired if the City's noise abatement tracking software allows staff to track flight using the tail numbers. Community Development Director Michelle Ramirez responded that she could research with the Casper Noise Lab software on whether tail numbers can be tracked but cannot confirm at this time.

Chair Mattucci pressed for a need to schedule a meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Committee Member Kaji asked if the City has attempted to contact with our local representatives for assistance in connecting with FAA. City Attorney Sullivan responded that the City had previously contacted Congressman Ted Lieu for assistance. Community Development Director Ramirez further added that the City has send correspondence to both Congressman Lieu and Maxine Waters' office.

Committee Member Kaji inquired on whether the City keeps flight records. Mr. Megerdichian responded that the FAA retains that data and that the City can request them.

Committee Member Lewis inquired about the legal process on banning touch and go flights from the south runway. City Attorney Sullivan responded that he would need to consult with outside counsel regarding this inquiry.

MOTION: The following motion was made by Committee Member Lewis that the Transportation Committee forward a recommendation to the full City Council:

- Implement landing fees for all transient aircraft and Torrance based flight schools/fleets of more than 3 aircraft, with certain exemptions for military, public safety and medical flights.
- Implement the draft Letter of Agreement between Torrance based flight schools and City.
- Conduct a noise study to potentially expand the current number of noise monitoring stations in both the South and North patterns.
- Explore a total phasing out of leaded gas in 10-15 years.
- Direct staff to update the full City Council on the legalities of eliminating touch and go's from both the south and north runways, implementing a moratorium on the allowance of additional flight schools, and a status of discussions with the FAA regarding the enforcement of early left turns.

Councilmember Kaji seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Mattucci asked if any member of the public wished to speak under public comment. No response was received.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Management Associate Carlos Huizar provided a summary of the meeting events and recommendation, including any action items or follow-up that needed to be completed by staff.

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m., Councilmember Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Kaji seconded the motion with unanimous approval.