

1/28/2023

Justin Kirk
Planning Division Manager
OC Development Services

The community of Trabuco Canyon is having a real issue with street racers and reckless drivers. They start at Cooks Corner and drive recklessly through the canyon and end at some point just beyond O'Neil Park. Since the beginning of Covid this problem has gotten steadily worse and is now approaching catastrophic levels. We are working on trying to get all of the deadly and non-deadly accident statistics from the CHP so we can be more specific in sharing the complete story.

We had a second accident victim pass away in front of our mailboxes back in November. Both died just before or in the arms of our same neighbor. The residents here are terrified because one of these days these reckless drivers are going to kill them, or a member of their family. The mailboxes where the last person died is where my neighbors and I all pull out onto Live Oak every day. If any of us had been there waiting to make a left turn the unthinkable may have happened.

Currently the CHP only posts a car in the canyon every once in a while, we rarely see them. When they do come, they stay for an hour or two during the daytime on a weekday which isn't helpful as most of the reckless driving occurs on nights and weekends. At the accident scene in November a CHP officer told one of my neighbors that they have one car that patrols from Ortega Hwy to Santiago Canyon Road. Reality is that even if the CHP boosts their patrols it won't really help. There is only one entrance and one exit for our canyon road. All the street racers have to do is send a car to drive through the canyon to check for CHP, then post lookouts at each end to report back if a patrol car enters the canyon.

My reason for this letter is that I would like to be a part of the solution. I know that problems like this exist everywhere, and this is just something we will have to work through as a community. Our Foothill / Trabuco Specific plan calls out in great detail the desire to limit traffic and ensure safety throughout the canyon. At the time the plan was drafted they were mostly concerned about excessive numbers of cars cutting through the canyon to or from RSM. But now our world has changed, and it isn't only the number of cars it is the Fast & Furious driving styles of those who think our canyon is a race track.

I believe that the only way to truly resolve this issue is to make this stretch of road unappealing to the reckless drivers. After speaking with many members of our community my recommendation is that we put approximately ten, 25 MPH speed humps in between Hamilton

Trail and O'Neil Park. I believe this will both reduce reckless drivers and also reduce the amount of people using the canyon as a shortcut from RSM to Santiago Canyon Road.

I am pretty sure that OC Public Works spends a decent amount of money each year constantly repairing guard rails and other road damage, and SoCal Edison is regularly replacing telephone poles. So beyond the safety improvements, there should also be some ongoing cost savings to the county. In addition, we might even be able to get SCE to help with the cost of the improvements.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear me out and I would greatly appreciate any guidance you can provide on appropriate next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bob Borland', written in a cursive style.

Bob Borland
Secretary, Foothill / Trabuco Specific Plan Board

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