

CONTACT:  
Chuck Gibson  
(949) 429-3972

**Survey Says:  
Ladera Ranch Needs More Traffic Patrols**

*Speeding and disregard for traffic and parking laws are top traffic safety issues in Ladera Ranch, according to an annual survey of residents conducted by the Ladera Ranch Transportation Club. Residents see increased law enforcement as the best solution to these problems. School zones and major streets such as O'Neill Road, Sienna Parkway, Crown Valley Parkway, and Antonio Parkway are top priority for enforcement.*

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“The strongest message we received again this year from the survey is that there is an immediate need for more traffic and parking enforcement in Ladera Ranch,” said Chuck Gibson, President of the Transportation Club.

Perhaps comments from one resident sum things up best, “...A majority of safety concerns could be addressed with an increase of law enforcement patrols... An increased police presence could solve parking issues, speeding issues, and give the community a safer feel as well.”

The survey had the highest level of resident involvement to date. Over 360 people responded, including a representative sample from every area of the community. The open-ended responses elicited hundreds of additional comments and many useful ideas, including specific areas where residents seek further studies to improve traffic flow and safety.

“It makes such a difference that residents take time to tell us, very specifically, where they experience concerns in their daily lives around Ladera Ranch,” said Danielle Blugrind a professional market research analyst. Blugrind, who

volunteered her time to the project, was instrumental in survey development and analysis. “We could not have done this without residents acting as our eyes and ears and then sharing their feedback,” said Blugrind.

“The survey informs us on a broad range of issues including specific streets and areas where traffic problems are greatest,” added Gibson. “This can be useful both to law enforcement and to community leaders as they determine where to focus their attention.

Even though the Highway Patrol has been diligent and attentive to our community, it has been clear for some time we need more traffic enforcement patrols,” said Gibson.

Parking enforcement remains a very low priority of CHP, though residents see this to be something that is sorely needed.” Gibson noted that enforcement of parking is essential to the health and safety of the community. It supports an effective street sweeping program, which helps control water pollution. Parking enforcement is essential to ensure fire lanes are clear for emergency vehicles.

“Traffic congestion and pedestrian safety around the schools, particularly during school drop off and pick up times, is an issue that is a high priority concern of most residents,” Gibson added.

Authorities would like to see more children walking to school, since many people live within walking distance of a school. Some parents indicate they would allow their children to walk to school if conditions were safer, including more crossing guards and law enforcement.

“Today, the traffic issues survey gives us lots to think about – including many ideas from open-ended responses. Community leaders will be mining this information for insights for some time to come,” added Gibson.

Among other findings from the survey is that failure of motorists to yield right of way within roundabouts is seen as a significant safety problem. This is an area requiring us to do more to inform the public,” said Gibson.

Recently, the Transportation Club posted a video on driving roundabouts that can be viewed by the public at <http://www.laderalife.com/> - the community intranet. Plans call for expanding the video and adding answers to frequently asked questions. “This video will be updated and improved soon,” said Gibson.

“Ladera Ranch has 15 roundabouts and they have contributed to the tremendous safety record of our drivers including only a handful of accidents over the last few years. Most accidents are non-injury with property damage to one versus two vehicles involved. In some places, roundabouts serve as a replacement for a four-way intersection. Roundabouts reduce potential points of conflict between vehicles from 32 for a four-way intersection to just 8 for a roundabout. In addition, there are virtually no t-bone or 90 degree type collisions in a roundabout. This means that both the severity and the frequency of accidents are reduced by roundabouts,” Gibson concluded.

Overall, residents seem satisfied with traffic calming features and amenities of Ladera Ranch.

A majority (54%) of residents regularly walk within the community. Lighted crosswalks are the top solution to improve pedestrian safety, according to those surveyed. A number of people expressed a desire for more trails and protected pedestrian crossings.

Others indicated the community’s system of street lights needs to be better maintained and improved. As one resident put it, “Ladera Ranch needs operating street lights 100% of the time.”

“Reliable street lighting is important to residents for safety and security,” said Gibson. “I would like to get the views of LARMAC on this matter, though it is not their area of responsibility, he said. “The subject bears further research.”

The second annual survey expanded on the first survey by asking questions on several transportation topics such as use of Metrolink and alternative modes of transportation.

Gibson noted that less than one in 10 residents use Metrolink. The survey also confirmed that there are very few residents interested in acquiring Neighborhood Electric Vehicles for a wide variety of reasons. These included economics, storage space, and the lack of a comprehensive system of safe routes for these small electric cars. On the other hand, those that own the vehicles would like to use them more. It seems that meeting the needs of existing owners of NEV would require a major commitment from county and community leaders,” said Gibson

A number of people want to explore an intercommunity tram system. At the same time, some are wary of the added cost this might place on residents. “These findings suggest the need for further study and possibly a follow-up survey of some sort,” said Gibson.

“I want to especially thank Danielle Blugrind. She voluntarily dedicated many hours to help design and plan the survey,” said Gibson. “In addition, we owe much to Town Manager Dennis Javens, Community Director Sue Shaver and other LARCS staff who worked diligently on the survey.”

Ladera Ranch Community Services – or LARCS – is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that plans and implements programs, events and the

LaderaLife Web site. Its goal is to connect neighbors, foster friendships and allow for shared experiences.

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