



September 10, 2008

**City Council**  
Stephen A. Del Guercio, Mayor  
Laura Olhasso, Mayor Pro Tem  
Gregory C. Brown  
David A. Spence  
Donald R. Voss

Mr. Douglas R. Failing  
District Director  
California Department of Transportation  
District 7  
100 S. Main Street, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Doug:

As we discussed today, I am writing to express concern regarding the recurrence of run-away vehicle accidents on Angeles Crest Highway (ACH) State Route 2.


On Friday, September 5, 2008, we experienced the latest of such accidents when an 18-wheel semi-truck plowed through the parking lot of Hill Street Café (located at the bottom of ACH at Foothill Boulevard) when its vehicle brakes gave-way. Fortunately, there were no fatalities in this incident and only one minor injury. While the building was spared potentially devastating damage, seven vehicles were demolished in the collision.

As you are aware, the grade of ACH lends itself to the potential of these types of incidents. At present, there are no run-away vehicle escape lanes or other means for slowing vehicles in an emergency. With the opening of the new Town Center development (also located at the bottom of ACH at Foothill Boulevard), we anticipate increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic that may also increase the likelihood of more devastating results should such incidents occur in the future. I would ask that Caltrans explore what options, if any, might be available to mitigate run-away vehicle risks on ACH.

In addition, I'd like to re-emphasize the City's interest in continuing our work with Caltrans to assume landscaping and maintenance responsibilities of the center medians of ACH in order to improve the aesthetic appearance of the highway. I am hopeful that whatever determinations are made by Caltrans with respect to the safety considerations on ACH can be integrated with the City's planned efforts to effectuate aesthetic improvements in a manner that is mutually beneficial.

Please feel free to contact me or Director of Public Works Edward Hitti should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

  
Mark R. Alexander  
City Manager

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****DISTRICT 7**

100 S. Main Street, Suite 100, MS-15

Los Angeles, CA 90012

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*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

November 19, 2008

Mr. Mark R. Alexander  
City Manager  
City of La Canada Flintridge  
1327 Foothill Boulevard  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-2137

Dear Mr. Alexander:

**REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION TO MITIGATE RUNAWAY VEHICLE RISKS ON  
WESTBOUND ROUTE 2 APPROACHING FOOTHILL BOULEVARD**

This is to follow-up on our prior response to your letter of September 10, 2008, requesting that Caltrans review available options to mitigate runaway vehicle risks on westbound Route 2 approaching Foothill Boulevard. We are still investigating this location and anticipate completing our study within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Should you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Sameer Haddadeen, Office Chief of Traffic Investigations, at (213) 897-9102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank L. Quon".

FRANK L. QUON

Deputy District Director-Operations

c: Mr. Edward Hitti, Director of Public Works  
City of La Canada Flintridge