



City of San Dimas
Public Works Department
Traffic Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes
WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2009, at 10:00A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Committee Members Present: Krishna Patel (Traffic Safety Committee Chair, Director of Public Works), John Campbell (Street Maintenance Superintendent, Public Works Dept.), Gary Bishop (Street Maintenance Supervisor, Public Works Dept.), Gayle Hampton (Acting Traffic Safety Committee Secretary/Administrative Secretary, Public Works Dept.), Warren Siecke (Traffic Engineer), and Deputy John Rodriguez (San Dimas Sheriff's Dept.), Cheryl Seifert (Director of Transportation, Bonita Unified School District).

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02-09-01 VALLEY CENTER DRIVE

REQUEST FROM STEVEN KILLEBREW, RESIDENT: Post "20 mph Speed Limit" sign and "Watch for Pedestrians" signs at south end of Valley Center Drive road entrance. Repeat signs one-half way down road for both traffic directions. Add speed bumps. Replace "5 mph Speed Limit" sign on bridge. Review traffic sign conditions and street maintenance schedule for roadway. Speeding cars ignore signage and disregard pedestrian safety.

DISCUSSION: Even though a site inspection was conducted by the TSC, the TSC had foreknowledge by reviewing City and County maps that this area was in LA County's jurisdiction.

At the TSC Meeting, Mr Killebrew stated that the traffic situation is a safety issue and the conditions of the road need to be improved. He added that the road is narrow, curvy, congested at times and there's much speeding in that area. He believes the speed limit sign is not in a conspicuous place. He feels there should be a painted yellow line. In addition, the road needs to be maintained; there's lots of debris. He would like there to be speed bumps on that road.

Chairman Patel informed Mr. Killebrew that from the bridge downward is church or private property and that area is within LA County Public Works' jurisdiction, so his concerns will be forwarded to them.

RECOMMENDATION: The TSC recommended request to be forwarded to LA County.

02-09-02 WALNUT AVENUE ADJACENT TO EKSTRAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REQUEST FROM SHERIFF'S DEPT.: Install "No-U Turn" signage on Walnut Ave. adjacent to school. Motorists traveling NB on Walnut Avenue make unsafe u-turns at 4th and 5th Streets to SB Walnut Ave.

DISCUSSION: A site inspection was conducted by the TSC. Deputy Rodriguez informed TSC of reports he had received from Sheriff personnel on duty at the school that a number of motorists make unsafe u-turns at 4th and 5th Streets during the drop-off and pick-up weekday hours. These u-turns are hazardous during these times on this congested street.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The TSC recommended the following:

1. Install two (2) "No U Turn" signs on the east side of Walnut Avenue:
 - a. one (1) "No U Turn" sign at 4th Street on the "No Parking" sign pole
 - b. one (1) "No U Turn" sign at 5th Street.
2. Notify Ekstrand School about adding the proposed changes so that they can put in their newsletter.

02-09-03 BONITA AVENUE AT IGLESIA STREET

REQUEST FROM SHERIFF'S DEPT.: Install "No-U Turn" signage on Bonita Avenue at Iglesia Street. Motorists traveling west on Bonita Avenue make unsafe u-turns at Iglesia Street.

DISCUSSION: A site inspection was conducted and the TSC observed the painted median on the south side of Bonita just east of Iglesia Street. Deputy Rodriguez informed the TSC that there were a couple of incidents observed by Sheriff personnel where motorists made illegal u-turns by driving into the painted median. It was determined that since this a newly controlled intersection it will be monitored by the Sheriff's Dept.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The TSC recommended monitoring this newly controlled intersection.

02-09-04 PUENTE STREET FROM AVENIDA MONTE VISTA TO VIA VERDE

REQUEST FROM RENE ORNELAS, RESIDENT: Reduce speed limit (currently 45mph) on Puente Street from Avenida Monte Vista to Via Verde to minimize racing and screeching tires at every stop sign.

DISCUSSION: The Traffic Engineer (TE) stated that a speed limit cannot arbitrarily be reduced. Speed limits must adhere to the California State guidelines which includes the 85th percentile of a street and on this street the 85th percentile is in the 50's. As such, the current speed limit on Puente Street meets the State guidelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The TSC recommends the 45 mph speed limit remaining as is.

02-09-05 650 EAST BONITA AVENUE, MOUNTAIN VIEW APARTMENTS

REQUEST FROM DJ ROSS, MANAGER, MOUNTAIN VIEW APARTMENTS: Allow continuance of 10-15 feet of green curbing by Mountain View Apartments for "future resident parking" at 650 E. Bonita Avenue. Trim trees on San Dimas Canyon Road between Arrow and Bonita as they are blocking street lights and creating an unsafe environment at night. Install signs indicating "No Parking during hours of 2:00 am -5:00 am" at Bonita Avenue and San Dimas Canyon Road.

DISCUSSION: The TSC conducted a site inspection. As previously stated in the February 6, 2009, letter to the Mountain View Apartments, the green curbing is unauthorized and all curb painting is conducted by City personnel

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Letter to Mountain View Apartments informing them of the following Committee recommendations:
 - a. Mountain View Apartments to obtain proper permit to sandblast and remove the illegal green and red curb painting.
 - b. Mountain View Apartments may provide designated on-site parking for current and prospective tenants.
 - c. Since the overnight parking restriction is a City ordinance and all of the overnight parking signage meet the City standards, Mountain View Apartments should inform tenants of current overnight parking restriction at the signing of the lease. Restriction states: No Parking on City Streets between the hours of 2:00 and 5:00 AM. Mountain View Apartments may install an on-site sign stating the same.
2. Request Parks & Recreation Dept. to trim trees on San Dimas Canyon Road adjacent to the Mountain View Apartments.

02-09-06 LONE HILL AVENUE AND COVINA BLVD.

REQUEST FROM MARK YACON, RESIDENT: Provide a crossing guard at the east side of the intersection to assist junior high students immediately before and after school in crossing intersection.

DISCUSSION: At the TSC Meeting, Mr. Yacon, who lives at Lone Hill and Covina addressed the Committee. He said his daughter goes to Lone Hill Middle School and he walks her to the crosswalk every day. According to Mr. Yacon, there are lots of the students who don't pay attention to their surroundings; they only look at the traffic light. He noticed that there is lots of traffic plus other activity in the vicinity of the intersection and cars stop in the middle of the crosswalk. He would like to have a crossing guard. He said he heard one student was hit there at that intersection last year. (This information will be verified by Deputy Rodriguez.) He is concerned about the students' safety.

The Traffic Engineer stated that there are guidelines for crossing guards and currently California State guidelines cover elementary school only. He commented that there may be some violators in that intersection and recommends that the Sheriff's Dept. monitor the intersection in order to refocus motorists and students' attention.

Deputy Rodriguez has a unit at the high school but will have a unit monitor the junior high school area. He can have the unit at the NW corner of the school 8:30 to 9:00 AM.

Chairman Patel suggested that the Sheriff's Department monitor this area more frequently as teenagers tend to forget about traffic safety and frequent presence of the Sheriffs would be a reinforcement.

Chairman Patel informed Mr. Yacon of some of the current safety measures in operation such as speed feedback signs and upgrade of the wording on the signage to be in compliance with the new MUTCD.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The TSC recommends the following:

1. Sheriff's Dept. to monitor regularly the junior high school traffic area and report back to the Committee.
2. Deputy Rodriguez to look up past accident history in that area.

02-09-10 BONITA AVENUE EAST OF IGLESIA

REQUEST FROM STAFF: Consider removal of mailbox east of Iglesia on Bonita due to safety issues resulting from new median and dedicated right-turn lane.

DISCUSSION: The TSC conducted a site inspection and observed that the position of the mailbox was very close to traffic making right-turns at Iglesia due to the new median.

Chairman Patel asked: How often is the mailbox used? Is the mailbox needed? Maybe it was a remnant from where the post office used to be on San Dimas Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION: The TSC recommends contacting both the Senior Commission and the Post Office as to a new proposed location for the mailbox based on the use of the mailbox.

Note: Since the February 18 TSC meeting, the Post Office independently moved the mailbox further east in front of the City Hall steps. This is not a desirable location. Staff has contacted the post office to consider other locations.

CONTINUED ITEMS

09-08-12 DPRB CASE NO. 05-08 - 205, 223 AND 237 CANNON DR. (ALSO TR02-09-08)

REQUEST FROM PLANNING STAFF: Review circulation, maneuvering space and encroachment of parked vehicles on private driveways onto public right-of-way. For the three proposed two-story houses (sizes range from 5,124 to 5,813 S.F.) on vacant, steep hillside lots on Cannon Drive just north of the Tiburon Condominium complex. TSC to review the revised plans for the Cannon Drive project.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Patel recapped that in the previous plans the cars were backing onto public right-of-way. The revised plans now meet City standards.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The TSC recommends approval of currently revised plans.

01-09-01 EUCLA AVENUE AND SECOND STREET (ALSO TR02-09-09)

REQUEST FROM ALLEN DELAFOSSE, RESIDENT: Require employees and customers of LA Signal to park inside company parking area. Extend red curbs further (60 feet) north and south from 2nd Street along Eucla to create a line of sight for oncoming cars. After receiving concerns from local residents to reconsider prior recommendations, Staff to review 2-hour parking restrictions on Eucla Avenue.

DISCUSSION: The TSC conducted a site inspection. At the TSC meeting, Chairman Patel commented that the business south of the residence at Eucla and 2nd Street is fairly new and employees are parking on the street causing visibility concerns. He added that it was requested to restrict parking by adding red curbing, although the TSC recommended the following at the January 21 meeting:

1. *Restrict East side of Eucla Avenue to 2 hour parking from R/R crossing to Alley North of 2nd Street.*
2. *Restrict West side of Eucla Avenue to 2 hour parking in front of 205 and 209 Eucla.*

Susan Fator mentioned that she received a letter from the City a couple of weeks ago but her letter wasn't as detailed as her neighbor's letter.

Four homes are impacted by the recommended parking restrictions and felt LA Signal should provide on-site parking for their employees.

Chairman Patel reiterated that LA Signal should provide on-site parking. He added that there were some visibility concerns for people exiting the alley and adding red curbs on the east side of Eucla should resolve the visibility concerns. He stated that the parking and visibility concerns would be monitored and residents should contact the City if they observe problems.

Another resident mentioned a speeding problem. Chairman Patel suggested the residents stop by the Public Works counter to pick up a Traffic Investigation Report if they had other concerns that weren't on the agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The TSC amends prior recommendations (1) and (2) of January 21, 2009, meeting and recommends the following:

1. Add 50 feet of red curbing on east side of Eucla Ave. from BCR existing red south of 2nd Street.
2. Add 50 feet of red curbing on east side of Eucla Ave. south of the alley.
3. Add 10 feet of red curbing on east side of Eucla Ave. north of the alley.

01-09-03 SAN DIMAS AVENUE AT AVENIDA LOMA VISTA

REQUEST FROM JOHN MARGIS, RESIDENT: Check signal operation at this intersection, re: with no traffic, light defaults to red on San Dimas Avenue, which carries more traffic than Avenida Loma Vista.

DISCUSSION: John Margis presented to the TSC his own traffic counts and observations. He started the counts on February 17, 2009 at 2:00 pm and ended at 3:00 pm.

Direction/Signal	Count	Percent	Direction/Signal	Count	Percent
SB Green	78	52.3	NB Green	98	63.2
SB Cross Traffic Red	42	28.2	NB Cross Traffic Red	23	14.8
SB Rest in Red	29	19.5	NB Rest in Red	34	21.9
Total	149	100.0	Total	155	100.0

- He informed the TSC that 20% of traffic was stopping for no reason.
- NB signal changes spontaneously to green (approx. 3/hour)
- SB right-turn traffic causes green for SB thru traffic which reduces SB rest in red count.
- He would like the light changed so that traffic doesn't have to stop.
- The TE also observed the traffic and reported that 13 cars stopped on San Dimas Avenue due to the red light during peak morning traffic.
- Detectors are approx. 50 feet from intersection for NB and SB traffic.
- Chairman Patel added that it also depends on the speed of the vehicles.
- Deputy Rodriguez informed TSC that citations were given for 4 illegal right turns at the intersection.
- The traffic-calming features have successfully slowed down the traffic.
- The TE informed Mr. Margis that if the metering system is malfunctioning, then it will be repaired.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The TSC recommended the following:

1. TE and City's signal maintenance company (Computer Services Company) to verify that the conductors are registering for the rest-in-red signal sequence to work.
2. TSC will continue to monitor the intersection.

01-09-09 CIENEGA AVENUE/LONE HILL AVENUE (also TR02-09-07)

REQUEST FROM KATIE RENNER, RESIDENT: Review intersection of Lone Hill/Cienega Ave. Resident believes this is a dangerous intersection due to dip in pavement causing visibility issues. Left-turn signals requested for north and southbound traffic on Lone Hill. The Traffic Engineer to report on his findings from traffic counts and warrants for left-turn signals.

DISCUSSION: TRAFFIC ENGINEER summarized his Traffic Report:

- Currently there are traffic signals at this intersection with push buttons for pedestrians but there are no left-turn signals.
- Crest of a vertical curve is approximately 200 feet north of Cienega on Lone Hill
- Sight distance is approximately 400 feet which provides a safe stopping distance for speeds of 45-50 mph
- Vertical alignment south of intersection for southbound left-turners has sight distance over 400 feet (closer to 500 feet which provides safe stopping distance for speeds of 55 mph)
- Eight accidents in the last two years although none involved NB or SB left-turn movements conflicting with opposing through movements.
- LA County guidelines for left-turn phasing were used which are based on accidents and delays:
 - Accident warrant is 5 left-turn accidents/yr. – no left-turn collisions were reported in past 2 yrs.
 - Delay is left-turn motorist having to wait for 2nd green light to enter intersection. Delay warrant is left-turners are delayed 40% or more of signal cycles during two 1-hr periods/day – delays for north-south left-turners did not approach the 40% threshold during peak hours
 - Concluded that neither accident nor delay warrant was satisfied

- Conflicts are the product of left-turn volumes X sum of opposing through and right-turn volumes which is a guideline that is sometimes used.
 - Peak hour conflicts exceeding 100,000 are an indicator that left-turn signals may be needed.
 - Traffic counts were made 2/4/09 with counts done 7-9 am, 4-6 pm (for commuter peak hours) and 2:30-3:30 pm (for dismissal of nearby schools).

Direction	Item	7:15-8:15 AM	2:30-3:30 PM	5:00-6:00 PM
Northbound	Left-Turn Volume	46	81	79
	Opposing Thru + Right-Turn Volume	405	425	481
	Conflicts	18,630	34,425	37,999
Southbound	Left-Turn Volume	67	47	72
	Opposing Thru + Right-Turn Volume	331	116	168
	Conflicts	22,177	5,452	12,096

The highest conflicts (37,999) involve NB left-turn movements which are well below the 100,000 threshold.

- It is concluded that installation of north-south left-turn signalization is not justified.

RECOMMENDATION: Since existing conditions do not satisfy any of the guidelines, The TSC does not recommend installation of left-turn signals at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

/gdh