



City of San Dimas
Public Works Department
Traffic Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009, at 9:30 A.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.), Lisa Monreal (Traffic Safety Committee Secretary/Environmental Coordinator, Public Works Dept.), Warren Siecke (Traffic Engineer), Deputy John Rodriguez (San Dimas Sheriff's Dept.), and Cheryl Seifert (Director of Transportation, Bonita Unified School District).

03-09-01 TRI EVENTS INC TRIATHLON AT BONELLI PARK

REQUEST FROM CAROLYN FULT WOLK, TRI EVENTS TRIATHLON: Seeking approval for 27th Annual L.A. TriSeries triathlon events at Bonelli Park. Review attached traffic control plans regarding Triathlon Event to be held on April 26, May 17, June 07 and October 04, 2009.

DISCUSSION: TSC reviewed submittal provided by applicant and determined it lacked sufficient detail. Review of 2008 plans showed timing and hours of events. Ms. Garwick indicated the applicant was given a copy of the previous year's package prior to submittal. The route has not changed from previous years. The Traffic Engineer indicated that traffic control shall adhere to previous year's plans, and Chairman Patel concurred. Mr. Campbell stated a re-submittal is necessary.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. TSC approved event to City Council, with understanding applicant is to resubmit with additional information to include specific race dates and times.
2. Applicant to re-submit a package similar to 2008, with the addition of mapped locations of temporary signage notifying the public of the event details to be posted one week prior to the events. Applicant shall provide proper insurance information. Applicant shall submit copy of letter to be sent to residents notifying them of the race.

03-09-02 EUCLA AVENUE BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD STREETS

REQUEST FROM LARRY FATOR, RESIDENT: Consider installation of a 4-way stop sign at 3rd Street and Eucla Avenue. Concern for children exiting alley between 2nd and 3rd and residents entering driveways are in danger from speeding traffic on Eucla Avenue.

DISCUSSION: TSC conducted a site visit. Chairman Patel stated there are no stop signs and southbound traffic is a downhill grade. Requesting resident declined opportunity to speak, and asked to hear TSC discussion before he addressed the room.

Traffic Engineer stated that stop signs not supposed to be used as speed control but for ROW assignment. Studies show speeds increase after unwarranted 4-way stops. Drivers speed up to make up for the "unnecessary" lost time. Warrants for determining stops signs installations are based on traffic volume, accidents, and unusual conditions, none of which are met on Eucla.

Mr. and Mrs. Fator shared concerns regarding speed of traffic on the street and danger to children who come out of the alley without looking.

Chairman Patel stated the TSC has heard resident's concerns. The street does not meet warrants for stop sign at 3rd Street, but speed limit and warning signs will be installed. In addition, request to Sheriff's Department to increase enforcement.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Install two "Speed Limit/Watch Your Speed" Signs for north bound traffic. A "25MPH" sign in front of 305 N. Eucla and a "25MPH/Watch Your Speed" sign north of the property line at 213 N. Eucla. Install one 25MPH sign for south bound traffic on light pole on Eucla, south of 2nd Avenue.
2. Sheriff to increase enforcement.

03-09-03 EXCHANGE PLACE NORTH OF BONITA AVENUE

REQUEST FROM STAFF: Consider installation of a stop sign on Exchange Place at the first alley north of Bonita Avenue. With changes in the parking lot circulation vehicles are observed driving south towards Exchange Place and then west into the alley.

DISCUSSION: TSC conducted a site visit. Observed northbound traffic on Exchange Place is traveling on the west side of the roadway due to parking stalls on the east side. Visibility for these travelers to see alley traffic is extremely restricted at this intersection. Due to the 20' width of the alley and buildings adjacent to the property line, installation of a stop sign for eastbound traffic is impractical. Therefore a stop sign should be placed on northbound Exchange Place at the alley intersection. TSC determined that moving the existing "Do Not Enter" sign to the southern end of the planter and adjusting the height would increase its visibility. An additional directional arrow at the south to eastbound drive aisle would provide better orientation for drivers. trash receptacles continue to be placed in alley, which restricts ability of traffic to move through intersection.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Move the "Do Not Enter" sign north of the alley to the southern end of the planter.
2. Place a Stop Sign on northbound Exchange Place at the alley intersection.
3. Add a right turn arrow at the west to northbound drive aisle.
*NOTE: Items 1,2,& 3 will be added to project plans.
4. Send a letter to Waste Management regarding trash receptacle placement.

03-09-04 MONTE VISTA NORTH OF BONITA AVENUE

REQUEST FROM STAFF: Consider red curbing on Monte Vista north of Bonita Avenue. New bulb outs may create a potential safety issue when cars are parked at this location.

DISCUSSION: City Public Works Department has placed traffic safety cones to prevent unsafe parking until red curbing can be painted. TSC conducted a site visit and determined that red curbing would prevent parking on the corner.

RECOMMENDATION: Paint red curbing on Monte Vista north of Bonita Avenue at access ramps. Limits to be determined in the field, not to exceed 15'.

03-09-05 EXCHANGE PLACE AND FIRST STREET PARKING LOT

REQUEST FROM STAFF: Consider red curbing adjacent to Water Company drive aisle to prevent vehicles parking or waiting.

DISCUSSION: TSC conducted a site visit and determined that red curbing would prevent idling at this location and discourage wrong way turns into Exchange Place by westbound and southbound drivers.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Paint red curbing on south curb adjacent to Water Company, parallel to First Street.

2. Add double yellow striping and westbound right turn arrow pavement marking on drive aisle north of Bank of America, east of Exchange Place to First Street.
3. Add southbound left turn arrow pavement marking.

03-09-06 FIRST STREET EAST OF IGLESIA STREET TO CIVIC CENTER PARKING LOT

REQUEST FROM STAFF: Request to close First Street east of Iglesia Street to the Civic Center parking lot from 8:00 am-3:00 pm Saturday April 18th for Earth Day event.

DISCUSSION: TSC approved request. Public Works to take request to Council to approve this closure request for First Street east of Iglesia Street, and additionally request that City Departments have discretion to close this section for future City sponsored events without need for Council approval.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve closure request.

03-09-07 FIRST STREET BETWEEN SAN DIMAS AVENUE AND ENTRANCE TO MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT

REQUEST FROM FESTIVAL OF ARTS, RON KRANZER: Request to close First Street between San Dimas Avenue to entrance to Municipal Parking lot from 7:00 am Wednesday April 22nd to 5:00 pm Monday April 27th. The five day closure is being requested to allow Festival of Arts to erect a large tent to conduct their programmed activities. Request for parking on San Dimas Avenue in front of Walker House (red zone) during event. Review traffic control plans regarding extended street closures and detour plans.

DISCUSSION: TSC conducted a site visit. Chairman Patel outlined the request and stated the requested closure would allow the Festival to have its event at the Walker House. Proposed site plan was submitted to TSC for review. Chairman Patel asked the TSC to consider the unusual request to close First St. for 5 days for this community event in a historical building. Proper barriers must be installed for safety, such as water filled or concrete K rails.

Mr. Kranzer stated uses for the tent, and that the Festival understands the street closures and requirements and will comply. They are looking at types of barriers to meet codes and meet protection for people in tent areas. Mr. Kranzer indicated the rental cost for water filled barriers would be \$1000 for 5-6 days, and they would like to look at other barriers such as large potted trees, to be donated by a landscape company for use. Mr. Kranzer stated if concrete K rails were affordable that he would consider, but are already running into unexpected costs.

Chairman Patel stated the TSC shares the concerns regarding mounting costs. Chairman Patel asked applicant to also look at signage for business access for NB traffic wanting to turn onto First Street, and consider downtown business access. Some stalls in the municipal lot shall be designated for business parking for the bank, hair salon and antique shop. 5-6 spots should be signed "Customer Parking Only. No Festival Parking". In addition, Festival vendors need to park at the municipal lot at First and Iglesia.

Mr. Kranzer stated he would send a letter to vendors and artists on how to gain access and will advise they are to use alternative lots after unloading to get away from congestion and would work with Fire Department to ensure they have adequate access.

Chairman Patel indicated the TSC would review working plan and help address all items, finalize and approve. Temporary parking for loading/unloading may be allowed, pending investigation of Traffic Engineer of sight issues for turning traffic. Further questions regarding pedestrian connection and bracing of the tent were addressed.

Mr. Kranzer affirmed Hometown Rentals will be providing the tent and are aware no holes are to be drilled in street/sidewalks

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Review revised traffic plan when submitted. Plan shall include all proposed traffic signs, barricade specifications, parking signage.
2. Move forward to Council for approval.

03-09-08 BONITA AVENUE CLOSURE FOR FARMERS MARKET EVENT

REQUEST FROM ADVOCATES FOR HEALTHY LIVING, MAURICE CUELLAR: Review traffic control for closure of Bonita Avenue (between Walnut Avenue and Iglesia Street) for the 2nd annual Farmer's Market Event to be on Wednesday evenings from April through September from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The proposed street closure request is from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm to allow time for set up and clean up.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Patel stated that Maurice Cuellar, has run a Farmer's Market on Bonita every Wednesday from April to September for the past couple years. The event is given one hour to set up /clean up event and traffic controls. The new signal light and median at Iglesia Street are new this year.

Mr. Cuellar made the following requests to the TSC. 1. Lights at Bonita/Iglesia and Bonita/Walnut be set to flashing red to give people a visual cue that the road is closed. 2. Consideration of putting up a sign similar to that on Entrada indicating that the road would be closed from this 4-10 pm, for the six month period. 3. Consideration that April 15th is tax day with people needing to get to the post office, and possibly in a rush. 4. Requested a police officer at Iglesia Street. He indicated as volunteers are setting up barricades, vehicles have cut through vendors when in process of closing the street.

Senior Engineer Garwick stated concern that with the Walnut signal set to flashing red, southbound traffic will back up beyond Juanita. Street Maintenance Superintendent indicated that this is not wise during peak time.

Senior Engineer Garwick expressed concern that vehicles are not parked in front of bounce house in time, exposing children to risk of errant motorists. Mr. Cuellar indicated he will ensure car is there prior to kids occupying the bounce house.

Street Maintenance Superintendent stated that vendors take up whole south lane before closure, are careless with traffic and should not be there until barricades are set up. Parking is available east of Iglesia and on Iglesia. Urged organizer to provide these options for vendors and encourage legal parking until event is set up at 4:00.

Chairman Patel addressed applicant's requests. A six month street closure sign becomes part of street furniture. The temporary traffic control signs are more effective. Setting signals to flashing red compromises pedestrian safety as pedestrian crossing is not operative. Also, flashing red will back peak hour traffic on Walnut Avenue.

Senior Engineer Garwick commended Mr. Cuellar on his realization the market will fall on tax day.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Update traffic plan to reflect intersection improvements
2. Use cones at Iglesia to direct eastbound traffic
3. Sheriff to increase patrol prior to event set up to ensure adherence to law for vendors illegally staging on the south side of Bonita prior to street closure.

03-09-09 BONITA AT SAN DIMAS AVENUE

UPDATE FROM STAFF: Information regarding phasing schedule at intersection.

DISCUSSION: Traffic Engineer recommended revised signal time as too much time was given to north/southbound traffic. Observed afternoon traffic queuing east bound, as many as 20 cars, but all clear through the intersection. Currently the north/south traffic gets 40 sec, and east/west gets 40, plus left turn. The total cycle is 120 sec. Reducing down to 65 second range will get more traffic moving. Reduce maximum time to 28 sec and decrease east/west traffic from 40 to 32 sec. This will give a little more time for east/west and a lot less for north/south. Left turn phasing should stay at 12-15 seconds. Traffic should still clear intersection, and pedestrians will not have as long to wait with the quicker cycle. Street Maintenance Supervisor indicated DVRs were installed at this intersection to monitor shadow effects.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Traffic Engineer to complete timing sheet.
2. Signal timing to be updated per specifications.

CONTINUED ITEMS

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

UPDATE FROM STAFF: Update of communication with computer service company to verify conductors are properly registering rest in red.

DISCUSSION: Street Maintenance Supervisor to give adjustment results to Traffic Committee Secretary. Indicated they have adjusted detection to respond to alternative use of signage.

RECOMMENDATION: Street Maintenance Supervisor to give adjustment results to Traffic Committee Secretary. Revised timing sheet submitted and filed with TSC minutes.

01-09-04 ALLEN AVENUE AT AMELIA AVENUE

REPORT FROM TRAFFIC ENGINEER: Update of study and/or report identifying net reduction in speed and traffic levels.

DISCUSSION: Traffic Engineer reviewed traffic count results, and when signal is set with proper timing, peak hour traffic moves properly with the "platoon" effect. Daylight Savings Time starting a few weeks earlier affected the automatic timing system, and therefore the system was an hour late with the change over.

RECOMMENDATION: Street Maintenance Supervisor to look into clock settings.

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

REPORT FROM SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

1. Monitoring of the junior high school traffic area.
2. Past accident history of the area.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Patel asked Sheriff Rodriguez for report. Sheriff Rodriguez indicated there was initial confusion following left turn installation, but now is working well. A small number of accidents have occurred at this intersection, nothing to warrant additional measures.

Mr. Yacon thanked the TSC for considering his request and noted the effectiveness of increased sheriff presence. He reiterated his concern about 6th graders immaturity and vulnerability. Mr. Cuellar stated he saw a kid get hit on bike in the last year or two. Showed on map where accident occurred. Stated he has seen sheriff monitoring, and encouraged continued patrol of the area.

Chairman Patel indicated the TSC had previously recommended a deputy patrol every quarter to reinforce. Asked Traffic Engineer about possibility of a crosswalk sign that says "Stop when occupied". These cannot be used at signalized intersections, but can have "turning traffic must yield to pedestrians". Committee discussed possibility of installing such signage, as well as signage for pedestrian to remind them "only cross when safe".

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Place sign giving "No Turn on Red" restrictions sign during peak school traffic times mounted on traffic signal at Covina for east/westbound traffic.