



City of San Dimas
Public Works Department
Traffic Safety Committee

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012 at 9:30 A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL
245 East Bonita Avenue, San Dimas

Committee Members Present: Krishna Patel (Director, Public Works), Shari Garwick (Senior Engineer, Public Works Dept.), John Campbell (Street Maintenance Superintendent, Public Works Dept.), Warren Siecke (Traffic Engineer), Dave Randall (Bonita Unified School District), Rhonda Abangan (Committee Secretary, Public Works Dept.)

* * * * *

Chair Patel called to order at 9:37am. Committee and Audience introductions.

#06-12-01 BONITA AVENUE (SHERRIFS BOOSTER CLUB, CAR SHOW EVENT)

REQUEST FROM STAFF, to review submitted Traffic Control Plan for Sunday, July 29, 2012 Sheriff Booster Car Show.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Patel opened discussion on this annual event confirming the City had received the application and TSC would be reviewing the traffic control plans (TCP). Chair Patel confirmed he understood the TCP remained the same from last year. Ms. Alvarado (Sheriffs Boosters) confirmed the TCP's were the same, with one small exception, to remove the use of the municipal parking lot from plans (page 1- behind Roadies, 154 W Bonita Ave.). Ms. Alvarado explained previously they needed the 'overflow' lot for additional show cars and this would not be case this year. Chair Patel clarified her request was to revise the TCP by removing the 'over flow' lot indicated on the plans. Ms. Alvarado confirmed. Superintendent Campbell asked who will be performing the set up for the event. Ms. Alvarado indicated they will be using a professional company for the set up & equipment and currently are out to bid for the project, however, she feels confident Right-Of-Way will probably be the winner of the bid due to their competitive pricing (and familiarity with the event and City). Superintendent Campbell asked Ms. Alvarado to advise the City of the successful bidder. Ms. Alvarado also submitted to TSC the event's resident/business owner notification letter, notification flyer and Site Plan for further review. Superintendent Campbell inquired what is the event's time frame for the event (in the conditions of approval). Ms. Alvarado said 5:00am-5:00pm.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the traffic control plans for Car Show event as submitted, including minor adjustments. TSC will advise Ms. Alvarado of changes required to the notification letters and Site Plan separately.

#06-12-02 LONE HILL AVE./COVINA BLVD.

REQUEST FROM STAFF, to request additional signage "No Right Turn on Red" be posted on the far side of each corner (original TSC item 06-11-02).

DISCUSSION:

Chair Patel reviewed items history and advised that the No Right Turn on Red signage was initially installed approximately June 2011. After further review of this intersection, TSC recognized that additional signage on **far side** of each approach assist drivers to adhere to the no right turns on red. BUSD Randall concurred with

the additional signage and also confirmed the first day of school for the upcoming 2011-12 school year will be August 20, 2012. He confirmed school-generated traffic would begin approximately two weeks to opening day.

RECOMMENDATION:

To install additional No Right Turn signage at the far side of each intersection approach prior to August 20th.

#06-12-03 2187 TERREBONNE (NEAR GOLF COURSE)

REQUEST FROM SHRI THAKUR, RESIDENT, to review extending red curb from south side of street, across from center median up to 2187 Terrebonne. This will prohibit parked vehicles along street due to the curvature of street.

DISCUSSION:

Item was reviewed on-site by TSC. It was agreed after the review that due to the street curvature, southbound vehicles have difficulty seeing the start of the median island when vehicles are parked on the south side of the street in front of 2187 Terrebonne. Red curb at this location will begin in line with the property line across the street at 2182 Terrebonne. Resident Thakur also advised of an additional issue with regards to golf carts being double parked in the street. Chair Patel confirmed the golf carts do have to comply with California Vehicle Code and in the event Resident Thakur witnesses the double parked golf carts he should contact the Sheriff's Department for enforcement.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) TSC will notify 2187 Terrebonne homeowners of the proposed red curb installation.
- (2) Schedule the red curb painting to begin in line with the property line at 2182 Terrebonne (completion date is approximately 30 days after receiving no objection confirmation from the resident at 2187).

#06-12-04 TERREBONNE/SD GOLF COURSE PARKING AREA

REQUEST FROM CHARLES GALE, RESIDENT, to paint red curb nearest the n/w parking lot exit. The portion of sidewalk allows for one vehicle to park which causes a potential line of sight issue.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Patel confirmed location was reviewed on-site. It was revealed with new construction of curb, the red curb painting was omitted in error. TSC confirmed red curb oversight should be corrected. Resident Gale thanked City for all the work, enhancements they have done. Superintendent Campbell confirmed red curb will be scheduled as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION:

To paint red curb section of parking lot exit (northwest portion).

#06-12-05 EKSTRAND ELEMENTARY

REQUEST FROM PRINCIPAL NEWTON, to review traffic engineering feasibility of changing bus drop off lane from Walnut (west side of school) to Staff parking lot on Juanita and utilize the drive-through lane on Walnut as parent drop off area.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Patel indicated a request to review parking at Ekstrand was received from Principal Newton. Location was reviewed on-site and on GIS map. BUSD Randall commented this request seems a bit difficult and he did meet with Principal Newton prior to school ending for summer. He approached this review from 2 points. First he reviewed the Staff parking lot and believed the one bus the school uses could be parked within the staff parking lot (with the elimination of 1 parking stall). He further stated that he understands the parking for this school has been moved many times in its history. BUSD Randall believes this is one alternative to the traffic issues created on Juanita by the bus pulling out and the need to make the right-hand turn and thus making a left-hand turn on Walnut.

Chair Patel inquired what is wrong with the current layout of the parking and with the school down to one bus. BUSD Randall could only confirm that he believes Principal Newton would like a free flow approach for the pickup and drop off of students. He was not privy to any of the previous meetings held by Principal regarding this parking request. Their request was to initiate dialogue for possibilities. BUSD Randall advised Principal Newton during his initial preview meeting with her that the City would require a pass through lane on Walnut (created by widening the current drive thru lane) and the fence would be removed. He further advised Principal Newton there are many things to overcome to get this request to work. However he would like to explore the possibility of having a bus drop off in front of the school's multipurpose room.

Chair Patel asked if the school was ready to spend money in terms of the construction to widen the lanes for an additional pass thru lane to achieve an effective the pickup/drop off area. He noted his concern at this point if the Walnut driveway is turned into the pickup/drop off lane, there is inadequate room for queuing of cars on the street. This will cause gridlock and will introduce the possibility of kids crossing the street between cars that are stacked up on the Juanita/Walnut intersection.

In reference to relocating bus pickup/drop off on Juanita; he could not support that concept due to conflicts being created between pedestrians walking to school and kids lining up to board the bus, or getting off the bus. Furthermore, moving the bus on the street would result in the loss 3 to 4 parking spaces and ability of parents to pick or drop the kids off during school times. Chair Patel's concern is that using the street as a drop off is not as safe as using an on-site driveway. For him the safety issues would be the priority before moving forward. He advised Staff would need the Traffic Engineer's review and feedback of the proposed area and changes.

BUSD Randall added this new potential set up would require additional supervision at the arrival and dismissal times which he believes could be a staffing issue.

TE Siecke noted his priority would be the safety during the peak hours. The proposed new queue of parent vehicles would create more problems than solve any (parents doing u-turns, double parking, and competing for spots).

Chair Patel offered a historical reference point for Ekstrand school – he recalls at one point there was a thought of sharing the City parking lot (on Juanita) which included a pickup and drop off area. But that idea did not get very far.

BUSD Randall is of the opinion that a pickup/drop off should not be on a busy street (i.e. Walnut). He will speak with Ann Sparks (BUSD) and advise if the school district believes this transportation/traffic issue is worth continuing.

RECOMMENDATION:

Requested change is not feasible due to the following:

- Current length of Walnut drive thru lane would only accommodate 6 to 7 vehicles (during the peak arrival and dismissal times). This queue would be greater than that and could extend southerly to the vicinity of the crosswalk at Juanita causing severe blockage and would entail pedestrians to have to walk through queue of cars and thereby exposed to more danger.
- BUSD would be required to undertake the construction and widening of the current drive thru lane to accommodate a pass thru lane as well.
- Proposed change does not address the concern about children crossing Walnut midblock as southbound parents will continue to drop off on the west side of street.
- Some southbound parents will attempt u-turns to get into the drop off lane. This will block the southbound lane and cause more congestion on Walnut.
- Some eastbound parents on 4th Street will attempt to cross Walnut into the drop off lane. They will compete with the northbound parents for spaces in the lane and potentially block northbound and southbound lanes on Walnut. This could be addressed with signage that restricts eastbound movements to right and left turns only. However, its effectiveness would be dependent on enforcement.

- Additional red curb would be required on the east side of Walnut south of the exit driveway to provide sight distance for drivers in cars. Under present conditions, sight distance is not as much of an issue because bus drivers sit higher and can see over parked cars.
- Parking on Walnut is important for after school activities (i.e. Soccer and Little League games). Cars are parked on both sides of street from south of Juanita to north of Payson Street.

#06-12-06 CALTRANS DIRECTIVES AND POLICY

REQUEST FROM STAFF, to review directive received from Caltrans regarding bicycle and motorcycle detection on all new and modified approaches to traffic-actuated signals.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Patel confirmed City is still waiting for specific details from Caltrans. Upon receipt he will inform TSC of the proposed directives. BUSD Randall commented he would like to participate in this review so he can relay information to BUSD in reference to bicycles.

RECOMMENDATION:

Item will be continued to date uncertain.

CONTINUED ITEMS

#08-11-02 1027, 1021, 1025 PUENTE STREET/HEATHERGLEN HOA

REQUEST FROM HEATHERGLEN HOA, RESIDENT, request repeal of TSC May 2011(Item 05-11-03) decision to not red curb across the street from homes on Puente Street.

UPDATE: Review item on effectiveness of the additional monitoring and larger no parking signage at Via Verde Park/Puente as per November 22, 2011 City Council Agenda item.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Patel opened discussion of this item with background update. The Via Verde Park is surrounded by 2 major streets (Via Verde and Puente Street). It is a popular park in that community. As viewed on GIS map, Puente Street is wider and gets narrower traveling south up into the Heatherglen HOA neighborhood. Parking restrictions have been in place in the area for some time. The original notification of the red curb issue came to TSC through the HOA in May 2011 and it was understood 3 houses on Puente Street were requesting red curb; however in July 2011 it was clarified that the red curb request was for the area *across the street from these homes* and it was approximately 1,300' of red curb where there was existing no parking signs. TSC reviewed the area and realized the existing no parking signage was older and set behind the walkway (and trees were hiding some of the signs). Typically, the City does not install red curb in a residential neighborhood due to detrimental impact on the aesthetics as well as additional maintenance expense of continual painting. It was decided to relocate signage closer to curb and increase the signage size. This item eventually went to Council for their input/decision of the red curb for the area or a imposed trial review period to give the new location and size of signage an opportunity to deter parking violators. Council supported the review period of time. Staffs, along with additional deputy patrols of the area, were set to observe the location from October 2011 and reconvene in July 2012.

Chair Patel reported on the details and statistics from the additional Sheriff's patrols in the area specifically on weekends. The totals were as follows: 131 visits were counted from August 2011 thru June 2012. 16 total citations issued, with 7 pertaining to parking citations. It should be noted that on June 12th four citations were issued on this one day (special event?). Chair Patel stated he was surprised no representatives from Heatherglen HOA attended today's meeting.

BUSD Randall commented he was in agreement regarding being selective with red curb paint throughout San Dimas. He added the additional burden of maintenance of red curbs should always be taken into consideration. After listening to the statistics provided by Chair Patel, he also said it seemed the larger signage was working. Superintendent Campbell concurred that the review leans towards the signage being effective.

Chair Patel stated that Via Verde Avenue is scheduled after July 4th holiday to be slurried from Puente Street to San Dimas Avenue, it will be re –striped to include a right edge line to define parking lanes. Staff will work with the Parks and Recreation department to create entrances in the fence from the new parking locations.

TE Siecke inquired of the Sheriff's patrol statistics, what facts surrounding Easter weekend since he recalled the HOA and residents were adamant about the parking during this holiday. Chair Patel reviewed the chart and confirmed nothing was reported for Easter weekend in the park. Records show six patrol visits to the park and zero citations.

SE Garwick commented the signs are a much better look for the City; red curbs are reminders of industrial areas.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff will update Council of the TSC details and statistics which indicate the larger signage and additional patrolling has been effective and no further action is required.

Adjourned – 10:25am

Notes:

- No additional comments made by residents, audience members with respect to traffic items other than specified above.
- Next Traffic Safety Meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2012