

MINUTES  
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMISSION  
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012, 4:00 P.M.  
City Council Chamber, City Hall

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Robert Duncan, Chair  
Ma'Ayn Johnson, Vice Chair  
Loren Doll  
John Kunselman  
John Carroll

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Rick Alvarez  
Rob Hallstrom

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer  
Dave Langstaff, Traffic Engineering Analyst  
Lt. Scott Rudisil, Police Department  
Becky Stevens, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Duncan

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no one from the public present who wished to speak.

**CONSENT**

MOTION by Commissioner Carroll, seconded by Commissioner Kunselman, and carried unanimously by voting members, present that the Minutes of the February 6, 2011 meeting be APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

**ITEM NO. 1**

**A REQUEST TO CONSIDER A DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 3142 PEARL DRIVE**

Traffic Engineer Miller reported that staff recommended approval of the request and the installation of 25 feet of blue curb. Pearl Drive is lined with apartments and parking is unavailable much of the time. There is an alley to the rear, but access from the alley is difficult. Staff reviewed the location around the alley and found this to be true. Staff supported the request.

Commissioner Kunselman inquired if there was access from the garage. Analyst Langstaff said access is available from the rear, but is difficult for the tenant to go that way to get to their residence because of their disability.

Commissioner Carroll wished clarification that the blue curb is not JUST for the person making the request, but for anyone with a disabled placard, and staff answered affirmatively. Traffic Engineer Miller added that when the person requesting the blue

curb moves out of the apartment, the property owner would most likely ask to have it removed.

MOTION by Commissioner Kunselman, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and carried unanimously by voting members present, that staff's recommendation be approved and forwarded to the City Council.

Upon request from the applicant of Item 2, Item No. 3 was heard out of order.

**ITEM NO. 3**

**TO CONSIDER STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO ELIMINATE THE MARKED CROSSWALKS AT SIX (6) UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS**

Traffic Engineer Miller reported that staff was continually looking for safety issues regarding traffic signals, four-way stop signs, and crosswalks. Eleven crosswalk locations were reviewed, and staff recommended that six be removed because the City's warrants for crosswalks were not being met. The six locations are:

1. Basque Avenue & Oak Avenue
2. Brookhurst Road & Oak Avenue
3. Brookhurst Road & Southgate Avenue
4. Gilbert Street & Loma Verde
5. Pioneer Avenue & Sunny Ridge Drive
6. Commonwealth Avenue & Annin Avenue

The City of Fullerton has been using warrants established by the City of San Diego, since the 1960s. The CAMUCTD and the Federal MUCTD do not have warrants for marked crosswalks on public streets. It is usually up to the Traffic Engineer of each city to determine crosswalk necessities by a traffic study.

There are no specifics as to what a traffic study of crosswalks should entail, except for schools. There has been no new criteria since the 1960's; Long Beach did a study in 1986 and found more accidents in marked crosswalks than unmarked, and came up with modified warrants. In 2005, the Federal government did a study also—there were no warrants listed per se, but mentions pedestrian volumes should exceed 20 pedestrians per hour.

Staff looked at how long it took a pedestrian to cross the road, the speed of vehicles, and lighting. Based upon pedestrian counts not meeting warrants, staff felt that further study was not necessary and that marked crosswalks at the six intersections should be removed. All of these crosswalks are marked, but do not have proper lighting for nighttime crossing.

California law states that crossing at an uncontrolled intersection is legal, whether marked or unmarked. Staff also noted that oftentimes the pedestrian gets a false sense of security with marked crosswalks. There have been collisions with pedestrians at a few of the six locations -- Brookhurst/Southgate, Brookhurst/Oak, and Commonwealth/Annin.

The 2012 CA-MUTCD states: "Crosswalks should not be used indiscriminately. An engineering study should be performed before a marked crosswalk is installed in a

location away from a traffic control signal, or on approach to a Stop or Yield sign. There should also be a substantial number of pedestrians crossing the street.”

Commissioner Doll stated his concern with crosswalks all along. He wondered if the City should be more aggressive in removing those in question to reduce liability. Traffic Engineer Miller indicated that the Council would have to decide because they have the final word for all traffic control devices in the City.

Commissioner Johnson asked if pedestrians have the right of way in both marked and unmarked crosswalks. Lt. Rudisil answered that when a pedestrian is in the roadway they do have the right of way, in either instance.

Commissioner Kunselman questioned if staff looked at traffic speed and density in these areas? He noticed high speeds at some of these locations, and perhaps those two white are a little helpful. Mark said that because of higher speeds you have to be even more cautious of putting in a marked crosswalk. AT 45 mph, a driver’s sight distance is 400 feet; a pedestrian could move out of the way more quickly. At larger intersections, a median is advisable so the pedestrian would have a “refuge” halfway across the street. If there is not 16 second “gap” time between vehicles because of the high volume, a crosswalk should probably be installed. A traffic study by “Gibby” studied 10,000 intersections and found pedestrian crash rates at 380 unsignalized intersections were 2-3 times higher in marked, as opposed to unmarked, crosswalks

Commissioner Johnson inquired as to why these six particular intersections were chosen. Traffic Engineer Miller answered that he has a list of all uncontrolled crosswalks in the City, has studied them since 1998, and there are very few left. Commissioner Johnson also asked if there were any counts of how many people crossed in the middle of the street at these intersections. Analyst Langstaff stated that three pedestrians at three different locations were observed crossing out of the crosswalk, at least 50 feet away.

Commissioner Carroll questioned if previous studies were done years ago which warranted these six crosswalks, and if the conditions had changed. Traffic Engineer Miller said they were installed prior to 1998, the year he was employed by the City of Fullerton, so he did not have that data.

MOTION by Commissioner Doll, seconded by Commissioner Kunselman, and carried unanimously by voting members present, that staff’s recommendation be approved and forwarded to the City Council.

**ITEM NO. 2**  
**TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A DISABLED PERSON’S PARKING SPACE AT 1219 PASEO DORADO**

Analyst Langstaff reported that the property owner made this request, and at present the only parking is to the rear of the property. Staff recommended approval of the request.

Mr. Rubisa, applicant, spoke in favor of the request due to a medical condition.

Analyst Langstaff reiterated that the space will be on a first come, first served basis, and is not exempt from the overnight parking exemption.

MOTION by Commissioner Carroll, second by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously by voting members present, that staff's recommendation be approved and forwarded to the City Council.

### **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

Staff reported on recent actions taken by the City Council with regards to Transportation & Circulation Commission recommendations. The City Council has directed that the truck route issue be remanded back to the Transportation & Circulation Commission.

### **STAFF/COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS**

Traffic Engineer Miller reported that his next study will be for the City's trail crossings. There are approximately 6-8 such crossings in the City, but the signage is different for most of them. He will be ordering new signs to be consistent within the City, and is going to recommend that both markings and signs should be installed at the majority of the crossings.

Traffic Engineer Miller also reminded the Commission about the upcoming Traffic Commissioner's workshop on March 17 at Buena Park.

Traffic Engineer Miller reported about a recent accident involving a mother and her children while in the crosswalk at Beechwood/Puente (in front of Beechwood School). He is going to discuss with the crossing guards who work at that location about crossing both children and vehicles to prevent gridlock.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.