TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 10, 2015

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present:	Chairperson:	Ken Elwin, City Engineer
	Committee Members:	Shawn Henry, Fire Chief
		Mike Miller, Director of Public Works Designee *(arrived at 2:11 p.m.)*
		Julie Nelson, Planning Manager Designee
Absent:		Jacob Struble, Police Chief Designee

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Citizens WAYNE EISENHART and VICTORIA EISENHART detailed their concerns with the removal of stop signs on West 21st Street at K Street, specifically describing their concerns for the safety of children crossing the street unsupervised.

Chairperson ELWIN explained the stop signs are installed based on the number of traffic accidents at a particular intersection, and that the intersection of 21st and K Street did not meet the minimum requirements. Mr. ELWIN further explained the stop signs were installed on an interim basis during the construction of the G Street Undercrossing, and that the stop signs were a concern for the Fire Department due to a reduction in response times. Mr. Elwin noted the Traffic Committee officially approved their removal, at the request of a City of Merced resident, at a previous meeting and that the ordinance had been adopted by the City Council.

Clerk's Note: The oral communications section was reopened after the close of the Consent Calendar to allow for Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhart to speak, at their request.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Traffic Committee Minutes of September 8, 2015

RECOMMENDATION:
Approve and file.

Shawn Henry Moved, Ken Elwin Seconded

Vote: 3-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson

Absent: Mike Miller, Jacob Struble

Clerk's Note: Staff recommendation approved.

E. REPORTS

1. Committee Member Reports
(At this time, it is appropriate for any Committee Member to give an informational report of any work completed, training, or other item to share with other members. Please be brief, and no action may be taken on these items.)

None.

F. BUSINESS

1. Request #14-005 – Request for Crosswalk on Childs Avenue at Manzanita Avenue (Kevin Swartwood / Golden Valley High School)
(Golden Valley High School requests the addition of a crosswalk on E. Childs Avenue due to safety concerns for students crossing E. Childs Avenue. This item was previously discussed at the May 13, 2014 and November 12, 2014 Traffic Committee meetings.)

Golden Valley High School Principal KEVIN SWARTWOOD explained there are approximately 200 kids per day that cross at the Childs and Manzanita intersection, plus another 350 cars that pass through. Mr. Swartwood expressed his concerns for the safety of the children crossing, and requested a crosswalk similar to Parsons and Merced Avenue be installed. Mr. Swartwood also stated the school could provide a crossing guard for the crosswalk before and after school.

Committee Member NELSON stated the Planning Manager does not support a crosswalk at the requested location, and suggested the school direct students to cross at the Parsons and Childs Avenue signalized intersection.

Chairperson ELWIN expressed his concern with the turning movements at the intersection, as well as the issue of creating a false sense of security for individuals crossing Childs Avenue. He specifically noted the issue drivers face with the sun obscuring their view, making it difficult to see individuals in the proposed crosswalk location. Mr. Elwin also explained the crosswalk on Parsons at Merced Avenue is twice the distance from a signalized intersection as compared to the requested crosswalk on Childs Avenue at Manzanita.

Mr. Swartwood state the students will not walk to the signal at Parsons and Childs, and will continue to cross at Manzanita. Ms. Nelson suggest the school have an employee direct students to cross safely at the signal, preventing them from crossing at Manzanita.

Chairperson ELWIN again expressed his concerns for making the situation worse by installing a crosswalk, and stated he would not be in support of adding the requested crosswalk.

MOTION: To deny the request for a crosswalk due to the Committee's concerns for the safety of children crossing a busy street, with the installation of a crosswalk making the situation worse.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Ken Elwin Moved, Julie Nelson Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Mike Miller, Julie Nelson

Absent: Jacob Struble

Clerk's Note: Director of Public Works Designee Mike Miller arrived at 2:11 p.m. during the discussion of item F-1 and was present to vote.

2. Request #15-025 – Request for Approval of the Construction of Bus Turn-Outs and Addition of Related Signage for Bus Stops Located on Austin Avenue and Loughborough Drive (John Ainsworth / Transit Joint Powers Authority)

(The Transit Joint Powers Authority requests approval to construct, at their expense, bus turn-outs and install "Bus Turn-Out Only, No Stopping – Vehicles will be towed" signs at two bus stops located on Austin Avenue and one bus stop located on Loughborough Drive.)

Transit Joint Powers Authority / Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) representative JOHN AINSWORTH explained his request, specifically noting the existing ordinance for bus stop locations.

Committee Member NELSON commented that not all MCAG Bus Stop Locations are in the Merced Municipal Code.

Chairperson ELWIN commented on the Public Utility Easements (PUE), noting these would need to be addressed prior to the installation of the bus turnouts. Mr. Elwin also commented on the location of the bus turnouts, stating one needed to be installed on the east side of Loughborough Drive, across from the proposed location due to the traffic congestion the current bus stop creates, and that the addition of this turnout was a priority. Mr. Ainsworth agreed, and stated MCAG would add it to their list for the next cycle of turnouts to be installed.

Committee Member MILLER, Chairperson ELWIN, and Public Works Employee JUAN OLMOS discussed the style, size, and location of the proposed bus stop signs, specifically focusing on conformity to MUTCD requirements. Chairperson ELWIN, with concurrence from Mr. Ainsworth, stated MCAG / the Bus would add the City-approved signage in addition to a modified version of the proposed signs.

MOTION: To approve the location of the bus turn-outs and the addition of signage, with the noted changes to the signs and contingent upon MCAG obtaining the required easements.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Shawn Henry Moved, Julie Nelson Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Mike Miller, Julie Nelson, Shawn Henry

Absent: Jacob Struble

3. Request #15-026 – Request for Resolution of Parking Issues at Canal and West 25th Street (Gina Love)
(Citizen details issues of vehicles blocking residential driveway access to 459 West 25th Street due to the close proximity to an office complex.)

Chairperson ELWIN suggested eight (8) feet of no parking on each side of the driveway entrance facing Canal Street to alleviate the parking conflicts.

MOTION: To approve an 8-foot No Parking Zone on each side of the driveway entrance to 459 West 25th Street.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approve amending the current ordinance to add the no parking zone.

Ken Elwin Moved, Julie Nelson Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Mike Miller, Julie Nelson, Shawn Henry

Absent: Jacob Struble

4. Request #15-027 - Request for Speed Bumps on Alley South of West 25th Street Bounded by M and Canal Streets (Donnie Loewen / La Sierra Care Center)
(La Sierra Care Center requests the addition of speed bumps along the alley, which is connected to the parking lot of multiple businesses, due to their concerns of vehicles speeding.)

Chairperson ELWIN stated the City is not responsible for Traffic Calming, and in agreement with the committee members, stated the citizen would need to refer to the Traffic Calming Guidelines.

MOTION: To deny the request for speed bumps and refer the citizen to the Traffic Calming Guidelines.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Ken Elwin Moved, Shawn Henry Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Mike Miller, Julie Nelson, Shawn Henry

Absent: Jacob Struble

5. Request #15-028 – Request for Alteration of Striping on Turning Lanes at the Intersection of Parsons Avenue and Yosemite Parkway (Tonya Gonzalez)
(Citizen requests the striping be altered on Parsons Avenue at the Yosemite Parkway intersection due to confusion of vehicle right of way when approaching the two left turn lanes.)

Public Works employee JUAN OLMOS stated the striping was fairly new and highly visible. He also questioned if the intersection was City controlled or under Caltrans jurisdiction.

Chairperson ELWIN stated Highway 140 (Yosemite Parkway) belonged to Caltrans and that they installed the striping. Mr. Elwin went on to state he did not see any concern with the current striping.

MOTION: To deny the request for alteration of the turning lane striping at the intersection.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Julie Nelson Moved, Mike Miller Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Mike Miller, Julie Nelson, Shawn Henry

Absent: Jacob Struble

6. Request #15-029 – Request for Crosswalk on West 20th Street at N Street (Shelbi Perino / Merced County Courts)
(Merced County Courts employee requests crosswalks on West 20th Street at N Street due to the increased amount of pedestrian traffic as a result of the relocation of the County Traffic Division to 720 West 20th Street.)

Merced County Courts employee SHELBI PERINO explained the court moved to the old Merced Irrigation Building on West 20th Street, creating more pedestrian traffic at the intersection of West 20th and N Streets. Ms. Perino stated there was construction happening at the intersection, and requested if the crosswalk could be installed as part of the work being done.

Chairperson ELWIN stated the work was not related to a City project. Mr. ELWIN also stated the curbs at the intersection would need to be made ADA compliant before crosswalk striping could be installed. Committee Member MILLER affirmed City crews would have to inspect the intersection to determine if it is ADA compliant.

MOTION: To approve the request for the addition of a crosswalk, with installation timeline contingent upon the City Engineer determining if the curbs are ADA compliant.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approve amending the current ordinance to add the two-hour parking zones on a portion of Barclay Way.

Julie Nelson Moved, Shawn Henry Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Mike Miller, Julie Nelson, Shawn Henry

Absent: Jacob Struble

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.

By:

Jamie Cruz
Secretary II/Recording Secretary

Approved:

Ken Elwin
City Engineer/Chairperson