

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 8, 2016

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson: Ken Elwin, Interim City Engineer
Committee Members: Shawn Henry, Fire Chief
Julie Nelson, Planning Manager Designee
Juan Olmos, Director of Public Works Designee
Jacob Struble, Police Chief Designee

Absent: None

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Traffic Committee Minutes of January 12, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and file.

Shawn Henry Moved, Ken Elwin Seconded

Vote: 5-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,
Jacob Struble

Absent: None

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 #16-004 – Request for the Addition of a No Parking Zone along a Portion of West 14th Street (Site Plan Review Committee)

(The City of Merced Site Plan Review Committee recommends the addition of a no parking zone along the south side of 14th Street at V Street due to the increased traffic expected from the proposed automotive shop to be located at 1535 West 14th Street.)

Chairperson ELWIN asked Fire Chief Henry if the Fire Department had any concerns with the location. Chief HENRY responded that the Fire Department would be in favor of the no parking zone as it would provide additional space for fire response vehicles in an emergency.

Committee Member OLMOS suggested posting no parking signs, as opposed to the installation of red curb, to reduce maintenance costs.

MOTION: To approve a no parking zone along the south side of 14th Street, west of V Street.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to include the no parking zone.

Shawn Henry Moved, Julie Nelson Seconded

Vote: 5-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,
Jacob Struble

Absent: None

2. Request #16-005 – Request for the Installation of a Crosswalk at the Intersection of Yosemite Avenue and Parsons Avenue (Martin Chavez and Sean Quarnstrom)
(Citizens request the installation of a crosswalk at the existing four-way stop intersection of Yosemite Avenue and Parsons Avenue.)

Citizens CHAVEZ and QUARNSTROM were present and detailed their request, specifying they were requesting an L-shaped crosswalk to connect to the existing sidewalks along the west side of Parsons Avenue and south side of Yosemite Avenue. They also questioned the possibility of adding a traffic signal to the intersection in the future.

In response to the question regarding signalization, Committee Member NELSON and Chairperson ELWIN explained the northeast corner of the intersection was currently in the County limits; however, future plans for annexation and development were being discussed, which included signalizing the intersection in the future.

Committee Member NELSON questioned Public Works Director Elwin about the current location of the stop bar striping. Chairperson ELWIN affirmed the existing striping would need to be altered to accommodate for a crosswalk. Mr. ELWIN also stated he was in favor of the L-shaped crosswalk, however the City would need to upgrade the ramps to comply with ADA requirements in addition to the striping changes.

MOTION: To tentatively approve the request for the installation of a L-shaped crosswalk by adding the crosswalk and ramp project to the City's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Julie Nelson Moved, Jacob Struble Seconded

Vote: 5-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,
Jacob Struble

Absent: None

3. Request #16-006 – Request for the Addition of a No Parking Zone Adjacent to the Fire Hydrant Located on West 15th Street near Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (Michael Wilkinson)
(Interim Fire Division Chief Michael Wilkinson on behalf a Merced resident requests the addition of red curb adjacent to the fire hydrant on West 15th Street due to vehicles blocking access to the fire hydrant and Fire Department Connections.)

Committee Member HENRY explained the request, stating the red curb would be necessary 10 feet to the east and west of the fire hydrant location on West 15th Street.

Chairperson ELWIN suggested referring the item to the Police Department for enforcement of the vehicles parking in front of the hydrant. Committee Member STRUBLE agreed, stating it should be referred to Parking Enforcement.

MOTION: To refer the item to City’s Police Department Parking Enforcement Division, with a two-month follow up of effectiveness.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Jacob Struble Moved, Ken Elwin Seconded

Vote: 5-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,
Jacob Struble

Absent: None

4. Request #16-007 – Request for the Installation of Bus Stop Signs and No Parking Zones along Portions of K Street (John Ainsworth / Merced County Association of Governments)
(The Merced County Association of Governments / The Bus requests the installation of bus stop signs and corresponding no parking zones along the east and west sides of K Street near West 18th Street.)

MCAG Representative AINSWORTH was present and described the various improvements they were proposing, including the installation of a bench and trash receptacle to be located in the City’s right-of-way, as well as the installation of a concrete pad on the east side of K Street at the alley approach.

Committee Member NELSON stated the City had previously been working with MCAG to clean up the Municipal Code in respects to the bus stop locations. Ms. NELSON questioned Mr. Ainsworth on the progress. MCAG Representative AINSWORTH stated he was not aware of the status of the cleanup effort.

Committee Member OLMOS questioned whether MCAG planned to install any new curb and gutter at the requested location. Mr. OLMOS stated the various bus stop locations in Merced have created damage to the existing asphalt, curb and gutter, as well as ongoing maintenance issues for the City.

Committee Member NELSON stated the request for adding semi-permanent structures within the City's right-of-way requires the applicant to fill out an Encroachment Permit and obtain separate Council approval.

Chairperson ELWIN informed Mr. Ainsworth that he [MCAG] will need to work with Associate Planner Julie Nelson to identify all the existing and proposed bus stop locations as a condition of the approval for the current request, as well as to complete the Encroachment Permit process.

MOTION: To tentatively approve the requested no parking zone, conditional upon MCAG's cooperation in identifying the bus stop locations throughout Merced and Council approval.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to include the no parking zone.

Ken Elwin Moved, Julie Nelson Seconded

Vote: 5-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,
Jacob Struble

Absent: None

5. Request #16-008 – Request for a Loading Zone along a Portion of N Street at West 18th Street (Leon Waller / UC Merced)
(The University of California, Merced requests the addition of a passenger loading zone / delivery loading zone on N Street at West 18th Street to accommodate the planned UC Merced Downtown Campus Center building located at 655 West 18th Street.)

UC Representatives WALLER and REESE were present and first questioned whether the Traffic Committee has or will be approving the removal of the existing diagonal parking spaces on N Street at 18th Street, as it was their understanding the City's Fire Department was requesting this change.

Chairperson ELWIN stated it was not on the agenda, however, removal of parking spaces in Downtown Merced require Council authorization.

Mr. WALLER and Mr. REESE detailed the request, noting the disabled persons "loading" zone, delivery loading zone, and fire lane / no parking zone to be located on N Street between 18th Street and the alley approach before 19th Street. Mr. WALLER also stated the UC would be adding a curb cut and ramp adjacent to the handicap zone to make it accessible.

Committee Members questioned the time limit restrictions the UC was requesting for the disabled persons parking space. Chairperson ELWIN stated the City would need to do further research on applicable time limit restrictions.

MOTION: To tentatively approve the request for a 20-foot disabled persons space [time limitation contingent upon staff research], a 40-foot loading zone [yellow curb marking], and Fire Lane / no parking zone along N Street at 18th Street, all parking changes contingent upon Council approving the removal of the diagonal parking.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinances to remove angle parking, add disabled persons on-street parking, add a loading zone, and add a no parking zone, all along the east side of N Street north of 18th Street.

Ken Elwin Moved, Shawn Henry Seconded

Vote: 5-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,
Jacob Struble

Absent: None

6. Request #16-009 – Request for Temporary Street Closure of N Street at 18th Street and Sidewalk Closure along both N Street and 18th Street for the Construction of the UC Merced Downtown Campus Center Building (Leon Waller / UC Merced)

(The University of California, Merced requests temporary closure of N Street at 18th Street and the bordering sidewalks along both N Street and 18th Street due to the planned construction of the UC Merced Downtown Campus Center building. The temporary closure is anticipated to be necessary starting June 2016 through November 2017.)

UC Representatives WALLER and REESE described their request, noting the street closure was for the northbound lane of N Street and a portion of the alley, and explained the sidewalk closure included both 18th and N Streets to accommodate the construction activities and ensure safety of pedestrians around the construction site. Mr. WALLER presented a map of the proposed site logistics to the committee.

Chairperson ELWIN asked Mr. Waller whether the UC would have the proper detour signs during the requested construction period of June 2016 through November 2017. Mr. Waller stated the traffic plan was prepared by an outside consultant, but should be included with the construction permit application.

Committee Member NELSON questioned whether the Traffic Committee had authority for this request or if it should be referred to the City Council. Chairperson ELWIN affirmed the item would be brought before the Council for their approval.

MOTION: To approve the request as proposed, contingent upon City Council approval.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approve the request for temporary street and sidewalk closure.

Shawn Henry Moved, Ken Elwin Seconded

Vote: 5-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,
Jacob Struble

Absent: None

7. Request #16-010 – Request for Removal of No Parking Zone and Addition of Loading Zone on East 20th at G Street (Kay Flanagan)
(Citizen requests the existing no parking zone be modified to a loading zone on the north side of East 20th Street at G Street.)

Citizen KAY FLANAGAN was present and detailed her request, stating she was requesting the changes on behalf of her mother [the property owner] due to parking conflicts and traffic congestion caused by large freight vehicles parking within their parking lot. Ms. FLANAGAN stated the addition of a loading zone adjacent to the property would help alleviate some, if not all, of their issues.

Committee Member OLMOS and Chairperson ELWIN agreed the cost for installation and maintenance of the yellow curb marking and sign postings would be the responsibility of the applicant. Ms. Flanagan agreed to the stipulation and was informed that City staff would be in contact with her at a later date to make arrangements.

MOTION: To approve the request for a yellow loading zone on East 20th Street at G Street, conditional upon the applicant paying for the installation of curb markings and applicable signs, and contingent upon Council approval.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinances to remove the no parking zone and add the loading zone on East 20th Street.

Ken Elwin Moved, Mike Miller Seconded

Vote: 5-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Julie Nelson, Juan Olmos,
Jacob Struble

Absent: None

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.

By:



Jamie Cruz
Secretary II/Recording Secretary

Approved:



Ken Elwin
Interim City Engineer/Chairperson