

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 8, 2018

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson: Steven Son, City Engineer

Committee Members: Michael Hren, Planning Manager Designee
Juan Olmos, Director of Public Works Designee
Michael Wilkinson, Fire Chief

Absent: Jacob Struble, Police Chief Designee

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Traffic Committee Minutes of March 13, 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and file.

Michael Wilkinson Moved, Michael Hren Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Steven Son, Juan Olmos, Michael Hren, Michael Wilkinson

Absent: 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.)

2. Update on Red Curb Ordinance (Steven Son)

Chairperson SON indicated that Staff will draft the new ordinance pertaining to all curbs except red curbs at this time and will then submit it to the City Attorney's Office for review and approval. Staff will work with the Fire Department to update the red curb ordinance at a later date.

F. BUSINESS

1. Request #18-006 – Request for Installation of Speed Bumps on 25th Street, Between M and R Streets (Joshua Eber)

(Citizen requests the installation of speed bumps on 25th Street, near Applegate Park for the safety of children at play. Vehicles consistently speed through area.)

ATHENA GONZALES, who reside near the vicinity of Applegate Park, was present to speak on behalf of Applicant Joshua Eber. Ms. GONZALEZ stated that heavy traffic occurs on 25th Street; drivers use 25th Street as a detour when a train is crossing the nearby railroad tracks and they speed through at a rate between 40 – 45 mph. Ms. GONZALES also indicated that neighborhood residents have tried placing safety cones out on the street to slow down traffic and protect children at play, however it has not been successful; drivers still speed through the area creating a safety hazard.

Chairperson SON informed that a traffic study is in progress and based on the traffic study, there are approximately 50 vehicles traveling in the area per hour. Mr. SON also informed that speed bumps will be ineffective due to the fact that vehicles will maneuver around the speed bumps or slow down when going over the speed bumps and then accelerate when they have passed the speed bumps.

Committee Member HREN agreed that speed bumps will be ineffective. Mr. HREN provided Ms. GONZALES a copy of the "Summary of

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Guidelines Process”. Mr. HREN also specified that the Committee is familiar with the noted issues on 25th Street as the subject has been brought up in past Traffic Committee meetings. Mr. HREN also indicated that the neighborhood traffic calming guidelines require the neighborhood to pay for any kind of traffic calming that is approved.

Mr. SON stated that increased police enforcement in the area would be an appropriate resolution until the current speed study is completed.

Ms. GONZALES concluded that a resolution needs to be done to slow down traffic in the area and it needs to be done for the children, especially near the park.

MOTION: To take no action until a speed study is completed.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Michael Hren Moved, Juan Olmos Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Steven Son, Juan Olmos, Michael Hren, Michael Wilkinson

Absent: Jacob Struble

2. Request #18-007 – Request for Improvement of Pedestrian Crosswalk in the Intersection of 16th and Canal Streets Crosswalk (Cecilio Solano)
(Citizen requests the alteration of a regular pedestrian crosswalk to “controlled” crosswalk for pedestrian safety in heavily-trafficked intersection.)

CECILIO SOLANO was present at the meeting. Mr. SOLANO voiced that there needs to be some sort of protection for pedestrians who are attempting to cross the busy intersection at 16th and Canal St. He indicated that many drivers do not stop for pedestrians making it complicated for pedestrians to cross safely; many times pedestrians run across barely reaching the other side of the street, and some pedestrians are disabled therefore getting across is more of a challenge for them. Mr. SOLANO suggested installing flashing lights on the pedestrian crosswalk to alert

drivers to stop for pedestrians.

Committee Member JUAN OLMOS responded that installing a lighted crosswalk is not going to fix the problem; it creates a false security for pedestrians and places them in greater danger because drivers do not always stop when they see the flashing lights. Mr. OLMOS also indicated that the safest option for pedestrians is to cross at a signal light.

Mr. SOLANO responded that the crosswalk is in constant use; nothing flags a driver now and he has witnessed numerous distracted drivers - this is always going to be an issue and improvement is warranted.

Chairperson SON recommended the Public Works Streets Division repaint the crosswalk with high-visibility/thermoplastic paint.

MOTION: To repaint the crosswalk on Canal and 16th St. with high-visibility/thermoplastic paint.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Steven Son Moved, Michael Hren Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Steven Son, Juan Olmos, Michael Hren, Michael Wilkinson

Absent: Jacob Struble

3. Request #18-008 – Request to Post “No Parking” Signs in the Alley Behind Merced City Hall (Steven Son)
(Deputy Director of Public Works / Interim City Engineer Steven Son requests the posting of “No Parking” signs due to vehicles blocking access to City Hall.)

Chairperson SON discussed the issue of vehicles impeding the alley way behind City Hall and blocking the fire lane. Mr. SON advised that with the Downtown structural improvements, now is the time to install “No Parking” signs and paint red curbs where necessary.

Committee Member OLMOS identified that the Municipal Code exclusively lists the alley way as a loading/unloading zone.

MOTION: To install “No Parking” signs at both entrances of the alley way behind City Hall.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Michael Hren Moved, Michael Wilkinson Seconded

Vote: 3-0

Voting Aye: Juan Olmos, Michael Hren, Michael Wilkinson

Abstain: Steven Son

Absent: Jacob Struble

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

By:



Nancy Lee
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Steven Son
City Engineer/Chairperson