

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2011, 4:00 P.M.
City Council Chamber, City Hall

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Maayn Johnson
 Rob Hallstrom
 Robert Duncan
 John Carroll

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: C. Loren Doll

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer
 Dave Langstaff, Traffic Engineering Analyst
 Gary Sowards, Police Corporal
 Becky Stevens, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chair Duncan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present who wished to speak on any matter.

SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Because there were only four members of the Commission present, the selection of a Vice-Chair was postponed until the next regularly-scheduled meeting.

SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BICYCLE USER'S SUB-COMMITTEE

Member Carroll volunteered to attend the BUSC meetings for July and August, but beginning in September, he has a commitment on Wednesday afternoons and would be unable to continue as the TCC representative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Commissioner Hallstrom SECONDED by Chair Duncan, and CARRIED by a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Johnson abstaining, that the Minutes of the April 4, 2011 meeting be APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ITEM NO. 1

A REQUEST FOR ADULT CROSSING GUARDS ON STARBUCK STREET AT SHAPIRO STREET AND ON HETEBRINK STREET BETWEEN HUTAIN STREET AND GOODWIN STREET

Traffic Engineer Miller reported that this request was made by the Fullerton School District regarding Fidler Elementary School in the Amerige Heights area. At the present time, the City employs 29 crossing guards, with the cost in excess of \$255,000 per year. The District reimburses \$32,000 of that amount to the City. The California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) states that 40 elementary school age pedestrians for each of

any two hours must cross along with 350 vehicle trips across an intersection. In 1977, City Council also adopted warrants for pedestrian crossing guards which required 30 school age pedestrians and 350 vehicles to warrant a crossing guard.

Both locations were evaluated and staff found that Starbuck/Shapiro is a three-legged intersection, with the fourth leg being a driveway into the school. Staff conducted studies in the morning (7:30-8:30 am) and afternoon (2:15-3:15 pm) and noted 63 school aged children crossed in the morning, along with 470 vehicles; and 89 children and 470 vehicles crossed in the afternoon. Based upon those volumes, staff is recommending a crossing guard at this location.

However, Hetebrink, between Hutain and Goodwin is a narrower roadway and 43 children and 166 vehicles were counted in the morning; with 87 children and 226 vehicles crossing in the afternoon. Staff did not feel a crossing guard was warranted at this time, but noted that this intersection could be studied again in the future. Staff also considered a four-way stop at Starbuck/Shapiro, but the accident history warrants were not satisfied.

Commissioner Hallstrom asked how much it would cost to install a four-way stop, and Traffic Engineer Miller answered that the cost is insignificant.

Commissioner Duncan asked for the cost of one crossing guard and staff responded \$20-\$24,000 annually.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the main school entrance was off Hetebrink, and staff indicated that the main entrance was off of Starbuck.

Chairman Duncan asked if there were existing crosswalks at both intersections and staff answered affirmatively, adding that there was crosswalk signage as well.

Commissioner Johnson asked for speed limit in this area and Traffic Engineer Miller replied that the prima facie speed limit was 25 mph.

Public hearing opened but no one wished to speak on this matter.

MOTION by Commissioner Hallstrom, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and CARRIED unanimously by voting members present, to approve staff's recommendation that an adult crossing guard be placed at Starbuck/Shapiro only, and that the request for a crossing guard at Hetebrink be denied.

ITEM NO. 2

A REQUEST TO REMOVE THE 2-HOUR PARKING RESTRICTION ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF COMMONWEALTH AVENUE BETWEEN HIGHLAND AVENUE AND 225 FEET WEST OF MALDEN AVENUE; AND TO INSTALL 30-MINUTE PARKING IN FRONT OF 200 W. COMMONWEALTH AVENUE.

Staff was contacted by the business owners of 242 and 232 W. Commonwealth Avenue because of the need for additional long-term parking for employees and customers. The existing two-hour parking restriction is from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with no overnight parking allowed. Staff was subsequently contacted by the manager of the Fullerton Community Bank, 200 W. Commonwealth requesting 30-minute parking in front of the bank.

All property owners on the south side of Commonwealth were contacted and no opposition was received. Staff supported both requests, including a small amount of red curbing at the intersection of Commonwealth/Malden.

Commissioner Johnson asked how many additional spaces this would provide and staff replied that it would be approximately five additional spaces for the 30-minute parking.

Public hearing opened.

Jane Rands wished clarification that there would be no restrictions from Highland to Malden and Traffic Engineer Miller answered affirmatively, except for the segment of 30-minute parking.

Public hearing closed.

MOTION by Commissioner Johnson to forward staff's recommendation to the City Council. Chairman Duncan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voting members present.

ITEM NO. 3

A REQUEST TO INSTALL 15-MINUTE PARKING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF COMMONWEALTH AVENUE ADJACENT TO 1105 E. COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

Staff was contacted by the business owner at 1105 E. Commonwealth requesting 15-minute convenience parking – similar to the request made for 1109 E. Commonwealth in 2000, which was approved by Council at that time for the loading/unloading of furniture.

In contrast, 1105 E. Commonwealth has ample parking in the rear, with 33 spaces and an average parking occupancy of 18%. There does not appear to be a need for this loading/unloading and there is no access from the office to the curb without traversing the driveway. Drivers would have to exit their vehicles and walk along the driveway to get to the office. After several visits to the site, staff observed one short-term parked vehicle in the afternoon, and ample on-street parking, as well as open parking stalls to the rear of the property.

Based on observations over the past several months, staff did not feel the request should be granted, and may ultimately cause persons to park on the arterial street, rather than utilizing available parking to the rear of the building.

Public hearing opened.

William Dannemeyer has owned the property at 1105 E. Commonwealth since 1962. He also owns 1109 E. Commonwealth, stating it had been a furniture store, but is now a thrift shop operating 3 days a week. He distributed a map to the Commission showing existing a 20' green painted area for 30-minute parking which had been for 15 years, and when the City put in a new curb after removing a tree, the curb was repainted white. He asked that, in addition to the request for 1105, that the green paint be reinstated in front of 1109. The tenant at 1105 has been there for 27 years and is making the request for the short-term parking.

Commissioner Hallstrom said the aerial photo shows ample parking on site and why is tenant requesting the additional parking? Mr. Dannemeyer said people would prefer to park closer to the front door.

Commissioner Johnson asked if there was more than entrance and staff answered there was only one entrance at the front of the building. Commissioner Johnson further questioned if there was access to the entrance from the rear and Mr. Dannemeyer said there is a sidewalk to the front door. She also asked for the cost of painting green curb on the existing unrestricted parking. Traffic Engineering Analyst Langstaff informed her that costs included price for green paint, any signage if necessary, and annual upkeep.

Commissioner Carroll asked if on street parking was allowed now and staff replied affirmatively, including the 15-minute green curb in front of 1109 and the unrestricted parking in front of 1105. There are no restrictions on the north side of Commonwealth all the way to Stanford and Cornell.

Staff will meet with Mr. Dannemeyer and will address the green painted curb in front of 1109.

MOTION by Chairman Duncan, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and CARRIED by a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Carroll voting no, that staff's recommendation be DENIED and that green 15 minute parking be installed at 1105 E. Commonwealth Avenue.

ITEM NO. 4

A REQUEST FOR 1-HOUR PARKING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STATE COLLEGE BOULEVARD FRONTAGE ROAD BETWEEN BALFOUR AVENUE AND THE EAST/WEST ALLEY NORTH OF CLARKE AVENUE.

Staff said this request is a consensus of three property owners for "resident only" parking from 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on the frontage road and the east/west alley as shown on exhibit. The issue is that students from Cal State Fullerton are parking on their residential streets and commercial trucks also park there and give off exhaust fumes.

Staff did a parking utilization study during the week at different times of the day, and this frontage road does serve neighborhood to the east. Many drivers use the frontage road to enter the shopping center. Parking is currently permitted on both sides of the street. The east side of the street has three single-family homes with ample parking; however the property owner at 2401 Clarke Avenue is using off-street parking for storage of vehicles in disrepair. All three property owners have addresses which are not on State College Blvd., and only Balfour Avenue presently has "resident only" parking.

Staff felt the request did not meet the intent of the ordinance and recommended to the residents a one hour-parking restriction on both sides of the street, which would eliminate student and commercial parking. There is sufficient off-street parking and because only three properties are involved, staff felt the one-hour restriction would be the best option.

Commissioner Duncan was afraid Clarke St. would receive overflow parking from CSUF and Analyst Langstaff said staff was anticipating a "resident only" parking request from the residents of Clarke Street.

Commissioner Carroll works for CSUF and was pleased that the “resident only” parking was being utilized because there is ample parking on campus and he didn’t feel students should be intruding on the surrounding neighborhoods.

Commissioner Johnson asked if any other complaints have come in from surrounding blocks and staff answered affirmatively. She suggested meeting with school officials about this problem.

Public hearing opened.

Gus Ferone, 2400 E. Clarke stated that his driveway faces the frontage road and the property owner at 2401 E. Clarke owner felt a one-hour parking restriction would not solve the problem and wanted “resident only” permit parking. Mr. Ferone added that the latter would be easier to enforce by Police Department, and easier for the owner of 2401, who is handicapped to gain access to his front door by parking on the street in front of his house. Mr. Ferone obtained a petition for “resident only” parking from the three property owners in question.

Traffic Engineering Analyst Langstaff explained that the permit parking process did not fall under the purview of this Commission. These requests are initiated at staff level, and may be denied by the Director of Engineering, and ultimately appealed to the City Council. The reason that permit parking was denied at this location was due to the property on north corner, based on its current land use. There is ample parking on site if the owners used their driveways for their intended purpose. Staff did not approve “resident only” parking; however this decision may be appealed to the City Council.

Traffic Engineer Miller added that there were a couple of options: (1) restrict all parking on the west side of the frontage road; or allow permit parking on east side only. Traffic Engineer Miller reminded the Commission that the handicapped property owner does have a driveway in which to park his vehicle.

Commissioner Johnson asked if a handicapped parking space (blue curb) is exempt from a one hour restriction and Corporal Sowards answered affirmatively, but overnight parking would still be prohibited.

Mr. Ferone stated that handicapped access ramps from the street to the sidewalk do not exist.

Traffic Engineering Analyst Langstaff advised that the one-hour restriction parking zone could be shortened so the handicapped person could still park there; however, all City residents will also be able to park there as well. Mr. Miller reminded the Commission that any vehicle with a handicapped placard would be exempt from the one-hour restriction.

MOTION by Commissioner Carroll seconded by Hallstrom and CARRIED unanimously by voting members present that the Commission accept staff’s recommendation and forward to City Council.

ITEM NO. 5

**A REQUEST TO REMOVE THE REMAINING PORTION OF TWO-HOUR PARKING AND
INSTALL NO STOPPING ANYTIME ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF COMMONWEALTH
AVENUE BETWEEN HARBOR BLVD. AND THE NORTH/SOUTH ALLEY WEST OF
HARBOR BLVD.**

Traffic Engineer Miller reported that presently there are two 2-hour parking spaces from the alley going east towards Harbor Blvd. There is a right-turn pocket causing a sight distance issue with vehicles coming out of the alley and turning right to get onto Commonwealth Avenue. Staff proposed removing those two spaces to increase visibility because the Cherch restaurant is no longer in business. Staff also recommended extending the right-turn pocket because of congestion in the area. There is a proposed parking structure is being built to the rear on Santa Fe so there will be ample parking available in the future.

MOTION by Commissioner Carroll, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and CARRIED unanimously by voting members present, that staff's recommendation be forwarded to City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Transportation & Circulation Commission will be held on August 10, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 303 West Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, CA.