MINUTES TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMISSION MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011, 4:00 P.M. City Council Chamber, City Hall

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Robert Duncan

Loren Doll

Ma'Ayn Johnson John Kunselman Rick Alvarez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Rob Hallstrom

John Carroll

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer

Heather Allen, Planning Manager

Dave Langstaff, Traffic Engineering Analyst

Scott Rudisil, Police Lieutenant

Becky Stevens, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Duncan. He acknowledged the two newest members of the Commission: Rick Alvarez and John Kunselman.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CONSENT

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

SELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

MOTION by Commissioner Doll, seconded by Chair Duncan, and carried unanimously by voting members present, that Commissioner Johnson be appointed as Vice Chair.

ITEM NO. 1

CONSIDERATION OF A NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF HARBOR BOULEVARD AND HILL AVENUE

Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer, reported that over the past several years, the City has prepared a signal priority list for the City's top 10 non-signalized intersections, which meet state warrants for a signal. This intersection has ranked No. 1 and No. 2, in the last two studies, and an analysis was conducted to determine if a signal would be warranted.

- Warrant No. 1 (minimum vehicle volume) satisfied
- Warrant No. 2 (interruption of continuous traffic flow) satisfied
- Warrant No. 3 (pedestrian volumes) not satisfied

- Warrant No. 4 (school protection) was not applicable
- Warrant No. 5 (progressive movement) not satisfied
- Warrant No. 6 (accident history) was satisfied
- Warrant No. 7 (system warrant for traffic control networks) –not satisfied or applicable

Mr. Miller noted just because certain warrants are satisfied does not necessarily mean that a signal should be installed, because there are other circumstances which must be taken into consideration. Staff found that most accidents occurred when traffic crossed over Hill Avenue heading northbound on Harbor; and when traffic exited the shopping center heading southbound. The cost of a traffic signal would be approximately \$200,000. For the interim, staff proposes to stripe a median prohibiting left turns from Hill and the shopping center, while allowing northbound left-hand turns into Hill, and prohibiting southbound left turns into the shopping center. Staff added that the striped median would also have reflectors and signage. If successful, staff would recommend constructing a raised median island, which is still far less expensive than a traffic signal.

Commissioner Johnson noted that the warrant for the number of pedestrians crossing Harbor was not satisfied, but wondered if a raised median would encourage them to cross Harbor Boulevard to get to it as a halfway point. Mr. Miller said signage would be installed stating that pedestrian movement would be prohibited.

There was no one from the public who wished to speak on this matter.

MOTION by Commissioner Kunselman to accept staff's recommendation. Chair Duncan seconded and the motion CARRIED unanimously by voting members present.

ITEM NO. 2

CONSIDER A STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE THE "2-HOUR" PARKING AND "NO STOPPING ANYTIME" PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF WALNUT AVENUE EAST OF WALNUT WAY.

Traffic Engineer Miller reported on the request to provide additional parking for the Transportation Center. Because of the installation of a third rail, parking in and around the area was displaced. Staff located a section of Walnut Avenue that is wide enough to provide parking on the north side only. Industrial buildings do exist on the south side, but there is very little business activity. Parking would be on first come, first served basis and the "two-hour parking" and "no stopping anytime" signs would be removed.

Commissioner Duncan asked why only the north side was being considered for additional parking. Traffic Engineer Miller replied that staff did not want to encourage all-day commuter parking which would interfere with the existing businesses.

Commissioner Kunselman inquired if, because it is so isolated, would there be more chance of vehicles being burglarized. Officer Rudisil clarified that because most people would park during normal business hours, the likelihood of theft would not increase.

Commissioner Johnson asked if staff had received any comments from the adjacent property owners who were notified, and staff replied that they had received one phone call from Tony Bushala.

Public hearing opened.

Richard Albarran spoke on behalf of George Bushala, property owner for 310 E. Walnut who did not support the request. Currently, no parking is permitted and for tenants it should remain as such. This small section of Walnut Avenue is heavily used by industrial traffic, and additional parking would present a hazard. It would also prohibit trailers from backing into the driveways of industrial buildings. In conclusion, a new parking structure is in the process of being built on W. Santa Fe and will provide the necessary commuter parking with over 800 spaces.

Analyst Langstaff reminded the Commission that the north side of the street was predominately "No Parking Anytime", with the exception of 380 feet which had been posted for two hours of continuous parking. This has been in effect for many years; however, the signage had been removed by unknown persons.

Chair Duncan asked how many spaces this would provide for commuters, and Analyst Langstaff answered possibly 30-40.

Commissioner Doll felt that staff should talk with the property owner to see if more parking can be opened up without affecting business operations.

Traffic Engineer Miller explained that staff will already have to replace the signs which were taken down, and if parking is to be removed, the existing resolution would have to be changed.

Analyst Langstaff said the City right of way is 60 feet, which places the property line right up to the wall of the existing building. Semi-trucks that used to park there did so illegally – they would parallel park and unload. Staff did not observe any semi trucks loading or unloading during recent visits.

MOTION by Commissioner Doll, seconded by Chair Duncan and CARRIED unanimously by voting members present, that this item be CONTINUED until the next regularly-scheduled meeting.

ITEM NO. 3 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Planning Manager Allen gave a brief presentation on the General Plan Update.

Commissioner Doll thought it was difficult to determine impact of the document.

Chair Duncan inquired if the document was "set in stone" relating to whether someone had comments or corrections in the future. Planning Manager Allen stated that once the Fullerton Plan is adopted by the City Council, it becomes final. She suggested that after this meeting, the Commission continue to review the document and forward any comments/questions/concerns to her.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the Bicycle Element was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and Manager Allen answered affirmatively and gave a list of all the committees which had already reviewed the document.

Chair Duncan listed the following elements and asked for feedback from the Commission:

- Mobility
- Bicycles
- Growth Management
- Community involvement
- Other

Commissioner Johnson referenced Table 13 in the Short Term Action Plan, page 227, pertaining to dedications of right of way of real property to provide bicycle paths and asked if this was specific to local corridors or City wide. Manager Allen replied that could be either, but this section addresses the right of way for automobiles and multi-transportation modes. Consideration of property rights would be part of any future ordinance development.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if the Plan was only considered to be a guideline, and Planning Manager Allen answered that it would be reflected as a long-term policy document.

There were no other Commission comments relating to the elements listed above.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Traffic Analyst Langstaff gave a brief report on recent City Council matters.

STAFF/COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

Chair Duncan reminded the two newest Commissioners that someone from the Police Department would contact them regarding serving on the Parking Hearing Board.

Commissioner Alvarez indicated that he would be willing to assist on the Bicycle User's Sub-Committee as an alternate, should Commissioner Carroll be unavailable to attend a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting of the Transportation & Circulation Commission will be held on November 7, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 303 West Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, CA.