

**REGULAR MEETING  
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Thursday, August 28, 2003**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Traffic Operations Committee (T.O.C.) was held on Thursday, August 28, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. in the temporary Council Chambers at the Police Facility Emergency Operations Center. Present were Robert Hutton, Ed Walton and Scott Huth. Kim Raddatz represented the absent John Traylor and Ed Kleeman represented the absent Tony Peña. Also present were Assistant Engineer Dave Johnson and Traffic Sergeant Elizabeth Brett.

1. Minutes of the June 26, 2003 Meeting – Mr. Huth moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Walton. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Oral Communications – None.
3. Recommendation Regarding the Request to Install a Handicap Blue Curb Zone in Front of the Residence at 911 Ninth Street – Mr. Johnson reviewed the report. The requestor has provided a copy of a handicap placard and a note from her doctor. There was no on-site parking identified, so the recommendation is to approve the request. Margaret Adkins, 911 Ninth Street, said that she has “episodes” that started three years ago. She was told that it was heart problems. She has scarring from pneumonia on both lungs, has chronic bronchitis and a collapsed lung. She had to stop working estate sales because she could not lift heavy items. Pat Osborne, who accompanied Ms. Adkins, said that she believes the request is justified. Mr. Walton moved to approve the staff recommendation to install a blue curb handicap zone at 911 Ninth Street and Mr. Huth seconded the motion. Mr. Hutton explained to Ms. Adkins that this would go to the City Council for final approval and Mr. Walton said the date would probably be September 16. Mrs. Adkins thanked the Committee.
4. Recommendation Regarding the Request for a 12-Minute Parking Zone at 1015 Isabella Avenue – Dave Johnson explained that this request was made by Mr. Wayne Fox, proprietor of Fox Dry Cleaners, 1015 Isabella Avenue. Mr. Fox is concerned about the lack of available short-term parking for customers visiting his business. Mr. Johnson’s field reviews indicated that parking is difficult in the area and most of the available parking spaces in the area are fully utilized. There seems to be quite a bit of competition for parking between the businesses, residences and persons wishing to visit the beach. Two other dry cleaners in the City have 12-minute zones (826 Orange Avenue and 1109 Ninth Street). Conversion of one metered space would benefit not only this establishment, but also other businesses in the area. Mr. Kleeman asked if the zones at the other cleaners were metered and Mr. Johnson responded that there is a curb with no meter at 826 Orange Avenue and he wasn’t sure about Ninth Street. Mr. Hutton asked if the curb could be used for longer parking after 6:00 p.m. and Mr. Johnson responded that it could. Mr. Kleeman wondered why a metered space would be recommended over a

non-metered space and Mr. Johnson responded that it would be to continue a source of revenue.

Mr. Fox spoke and said that he feels that people might ignore a green curb if there is no meter and this would not benefit the surrounding businesses. He would like to be competitive with the other cleaners. Mr. Johnson noted that Sgt. Elizabeth Brett had jogged his memory that there are no 12-minute meters in town. [For the record, after the meeting, it was learned that there is a 12-minute parking meter 826 Orange Avenue.] One-half hour is the minimum per the Municipal Code. Sgt. Brett said the City would have to purchase a 12-minute meter. The current meters cannot be altered to a 12-minute configuration.

Mr. Walton noted that there is a narrow driveway on the property and asked if this is used for business. Mr. Fox responded that it is reserved for the residents upstairs.

Mr. Kleeman asked who would pay for the meter and Mr. Hutton said the final decision would be the City Council's, but it makes sense that since the meter would generate revenue for the City, the City would pay for it.

Mr. Huth moved to install green striping and have staff research the 12-minute meter issue. Mr. Raddatz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Walton added that he would like to see the Municipal Code cleaned up to add 12-minute meters.

5. Recommendation Regarding the Request to Install Pedestrian Access Ramps on Antigua Court – The requestor, Mary Ann Perry, 56 Antigua Court, was not present. Mr. Huth moved the staff recommendation to install pedestrian ramps on Antigua Court and added that the Engineering Department should work with the Cays Homeowners Association to determine the location(s) of the ramps. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Recommendation Regarding the Request to Remove the Fire Access Lane Striping in the Alley of Block 163 – Mr. Johnson said that Robert Paseman, 114 J Avenue, requested that the red striping in the alley behind his residence be removed, as well as any other half alleys in the City. Mr. Johnson reviewed the September 2001 Traffic Operations Committee action to not stripe an alley due to lack of parking hardship for residents. Mr. Paseman reported that before 1990 the alleys were not striped, but there were “No Parking” signs. Now there is striping and the “No Parking” signs have been taken out. Sometimes he cannot access his garage and sometimes he has difficulty backing his car out because of a vehicle parked opposite his garage.

Mr. Raddatz said he drove the area just before the meeting and asked if there are violators now, how will taking away the red striping solve the problem? Mr. Paseman said he thinks people will honor “No Parking” signs more than red striping, because they ignore that. Mr. Raddatz observed that, because of the width of the striping, if someone parked opposite Mr. Paseman's garage, they would have to be over the red line and in violation. Mr. Kleeman asked whether this wouldn't be an enforcement issue. Mr. Walton said that what Mr. Paseman is discussing would be a fairly obvious violation and could be a

ticketable offense. Mr. Paseman said he calls the Police to report violations, but the Police are slow in arriving.

Mr. Hutton said that what alley striping was supposed to accomplish was to provide emergency vehicle access while maintaining some parking, because parking is an issue in this town. He asked if the seven other properties in this alley support the request. He said there might be more Committee support if all of the residents supported Mr. Paseman's request. Mr. Paseman said he would contact the other residents and get them to sign a letter with their names and addresses.

Mr. Hutton made a motion to continue the item and let the applicant return with letters of support. Mr. Huth seconded the item and it passed unanimously.

7. Discussion Item – Peak Hour Traffic Conditions at the Intersection of Orange Avenue and Second Street – Mr. Johnson said the Police Department has been getting complaints that this is a problem area for congestion during the peak hours (2:30-5:30 p.m.). It appears that cars not wanting to deal with the congestion at Third and Orange come up Glorietta to Orange and Second, an uncontrolled intersection. Lane striping configuration might help drivers position themselves, but won't help the capacity. If the intersection is striped properly, there would be capacity for four vehicles. He distributed sketches of several alternative designs.

Sgt. Brett said that a four-way stop is not considered an alternative because First Street gets so backed up going southbound on Orange. She thinks the ideal solution is hash marking the intersection for driver awareness. Currently, if officers go out to enforce, traffic only gets backed up more and there's not always a place to pull over.

Mr. Huth said he likes Alternative 2, which employs a through lane and a left-hand turn lane within the median, but he feels that most of the impact on this intersection has been since the closure of A, B and C Avenues. Mr. Johnson said he did not know if the diverters would be coming out, but this could be a good trial for other intersections in town. Fifth and Orange is one of the highest accident locations in town, but it has higher volumes, so Second and Orange seems a better trial candidate.

Mr. Hutton expressed his concern about doing anything with signs or extra lanes until the Major Traffic Study is completed and the semi-diverter issue is resolved. Mr. Walton said that he fears that putting in a turn lane would reduce the queuing capacity. Mr. Johnson concurred and said that having a through lane only could affect the capacity of the intersection to store vehicles wishing to turn. Mr. Raddatz felt the public reaction to striping would be negative.

Mr. Hutton asked Sgt. Brett the nature of the complaints that have been received. She replied that one resident is a chronic reporter who says no one is yielding to pedestrians and drivers are gunning their motors. As she noted earlier, when an officer sees a violation there's often nowhere for a vehicle to stop safely for the officer to write a ticket.

Mr. Hutton said he would be interested in knowing what it would cost to put in striping and “Do No Block Intersection” on Orange Avenue and what the maintenance would be. If a cost can be obtained, it might be worthwhile seeing if City Council is interested. Mr. Walton asked Sgt. Brett if she felt this might help her officers and she responded that it would.

It was decided that this item would be brought back to the Committee after further study has been conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.