

CITY OF CORONADO

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2006

The regular meeting of the Traffic Operations Committee (T.O.C.) was held on Thursday, February 23, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were Scott Huth and Paul Crook. Ed Kleeman represented the absent Tony Peña, Rick Sitta represented the absent Kim Raddatz and Dave Johnson represented the absent Ed Walton.

1. Minutes of the January 26, 2006 Meeting – Mr. Crook moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Sitta seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Huth and Mr. Kleeman abstaining.
2. Oral Communications – None.
3. Recommendation Regarding a Request to Install a Marked Crosswalk at the Intersection of First Street and B Avenue – Mr. Huth asked if there could be three marked crosswalks. The current proposal is to have it on the east side and across B. He'd like to see it done also by the side of the "3-in-1," so there would be sort of a "C" of crosswalks. Dave said this is not a problem; he had felt that because of the metered parking at the corner near the Kentucky Fried Chicken there was better visibility for pedestrians on the east side of the intersection, but there is nothing that would preclude marking either side of First Street. Mr. Huth isn't quite sure a crosswalk is needed across B; there's a cross drain there and it's kind of a high visibility area. This item was approved on consent.
4. Recommendation Regarding the City Council's Direction to Analyze the Applicability of Diagonal Parking in the 700 Block of F Avenue – Mr. Johnson reported that about two months ago there was an issue about whether to add a blue curb zone on the 700 block of F Avenue and the recommendation from the Traffic Operations Committee was to not install one. That decision was appealed and subsequently heard by Council. During discussion of that item it was realized there might be some parking issues on the 700 block of F Avenue, with congestion and maybe not enough on-street parking for the demand of the residents in the area. As a result, Council asked staff to analyze the warrant for installation of diagonal parking at this location. The five criteria looked at in the warrant are: (1) Street width – F Avenue has a curb-to-curb width of 48' which limits the application of diagonal parking to only one side of the block face in order to give the proper amount of travel lane width on the other side of the street. F Avenue, therefore, qualifies for 60-degree diagonal parking on one side; (2) Traffic volumes – Average daily traffic should not exceed 5,000 vehicles on a daily basis and here it is much less, about 852 vehicles per day. The volume criteria is met; (3) Block length – Diagonal parking must be installed along the entire block length, so with only one curb cut on either side of the block face, that can be easily done here without affecting too many diagonal parking spaces; (4) Traffic speeds – Angle parking zones should not be placed in streets with a speed limit of 35 mph or greater; this is a residential

zone with a prima facie speed limit of 25 mph so this qualifies; and (5) Any conditions that may warrant a judgment call by the Engineering Department – Concerns include cars backing into traffic and school zones where there are children that may not be seen because they are not as tall as adults. Based on the analysis, it does meet all the criteria; therefore it could be installed in the 700 block of F Avenue.

He said one of the advantages of diagonal parking is that it increases the number of on-street parking spaces, in this case an existing 23 parallel spaces on either side of the street could be converted to 29 spaces with the implementation of 60-degree diagonal parking, yielding an additional six spaces. Diagonal parking can be a controversial issue, so the City wanted to get some feedback from the residents as to whether they felt it would be a good idea to install diagonal parking and distributed surveys to residents asking them whether they want diagonal parking. He received 19 surveys, 11 against the idea and eight in favor. The staff recommendation is, with the residents' concurrence, to install diagonal parking if there is neighborhood support.

Mr. Crook asked how many surveys were distributed and Mr. Johnson said approximately 50 were hand-delivered last week.

Phil Kincaid, 736 F Avenue, #2, stated that in the alley behind his residence there are 10 single garages and three double and nobody parks in any of those garages; they're either rented out or used for storage. Now the City is trying to force the residents to have diagonal parking out front when the people who are probably complaining are either renting out their garages or they're storing things in them. He is dead set against diagonal parking. He has underground parking where he lives and the residents in his building very seldom park on the street.

Mr. Kleeman said that if residents have a complaint like that they can take it to John Swanson in the City's Community Development Department. You can fill out a complaint in writing and he can verify if those garages are being maintained for cars or storage or other uses.

Gene Kemp, 736 F Avenue, #3, said that he and Mr. Kincaid were the applicants for the blue curb zone. At 1:30 p.m. he noticed that there was not one spot open on the 700 block of F Avenue on either side. You'd think that he would support diagonal parking, but he doesn't. He drove up D Avenue again and every time he drives up D between Seventh and Ninth he cringes that somebody's going to back out as he's driving there. It narrows the street considerably, so there's a safety issue. Also, you'd end up pitting neighbor against neighbor in a situation like this because you have to put it on one side or another and neither side will want it on their side. In the condo next door they have tandem parking and probably about two of them are being used for automobiles. He thinks the real problem is an enforcement issue; the City is not enforcing its rules. When you construct something the City says you have to have so many garages per unit and you can't use them for storage, only for parking. There are also school people parking on this block. He thinks once the construction next door is done that will help alleviate the parking problem and a harder look at how the rules and regulations that the City passes would be a step in the right direction.

Jeannette Organ, 744 F Avenue, wants to bring up safety of children and the narrowing of the street.

Debbie Schiffer, 763 F Avenue, asked if the letter her husband faxed last night had been received and was told that it had been. Their main concern is safety; she has two children and there are a lot of children living on that street. The traffic flow for cars may not be that great, but there are certain times of the day when it's very great and there

are kids on bicycles, scooters and skateboards. It's hard to see on streets with diagonal parking. She is worried about her kids. Having lived there for several years, she thinks that most of time most of the cars fit fine. It's her understanding that you have to have two off-street parking spaces per address and she doesn't understand why people with off-street parking would need that much on-street parking. It's her observation that most of the extra spaces that are taken up, especially at the school end of the street, other than for a special occasion like a football game or something like that, are for construction which has been going on for months and months for a couple of different addresses. At 4:30 or 5:00 at night the spaces ease up and when people come home from work they typically have a place to park. During the day she thinks it's high school kids, not staff, parking there. She thinks this is a horrible proposition and she wouldn't vote for it on her side of the street or any other side.

Mark Blumenthal, 755 F Avenue, said his home was one of the homes being built last year and typically there would be two or three extra vehicles on the street during this time. Another project next door picked up where they left up and in the past 18 months there's been more of an intensity of parking spaces not being available, but also, there's one man on the block who has five very long vehicles that he parks in different places. He might have two places, but he has three other vehicles that he rotates around. There's an inflated impression of what's going on on that street that prompted the idea that there's a need for six more spaces. He doesn't think that's the answer; he thinks some people need to have a little more courtesy about the space they use. His parents lived at 756 F Avenue in 1979 and he has not seen, when there's no construction, that much change in parking over that period of time. He asked Ms. Organ, who's lived there even longer, to concur and she indicated that she did. When the occupancy permit is given to the people across the street you'll see things level off and things will be fine. On the weekends there's plenty of places to park unless there's a sporting event going on. On the down times when everything moves back to its normal level it's comfortable for all of us. Six months from now it will be the same as it was in 1979.

Joseph Galvan, 711 F Avenue, has lived there since 1967. F Avenue had diagonal parking at one time and he doesn't know why it was changed to parallel. He agrees that one neighbor has five cars plus his daughter's SUV, so actually, this family has six automobiles. He parks two in the alley and plays musical chairs with the others every three or four days. At this time he's not really against a change, but he has noticed that next door, at the corner of Seventh and F, there is a four-unit condo. The residents there don't park in their off-alley parking spots; they park on F Avenue. They're not using their parking areas like they should. High school kids usually take five or six parking spaces in the morning.

Mr. Crook said there doesn't seem to be enough support for him to vote positive on the recommendation. Mr. Johnson said diagonal parking has its pros and cons and the residents are the ones who would have to live with that; it's apparent that these residents don't think it's a good idea and he doesn't feel it would be a good idea to forward a recommendation to the Council.

Mr. Kleeman felt it would be good to be receptive as long as residents can provide a petition that had more than half of the property owners in the area signing it. At this point, he's not sure they could get more than half of the property owners to sign, so that might be part of the recommendation to Council that if there are people in the community who want diagonal parking, those people should be encouraged to provide a petition showing that more than half of the property owners are in favor before it would even be

considered. Mr. Johnson responded that maybe that's something that should be put into the warrant; this is something that affects the residents' direct frontage the most.

Mr. Huth said he drove the area and saw someone come from the school who was parked in the area. He didn't see any parking spots at 1:30, but he did see what appeared to be a lot of construction activity; there was a dumpster which alone can block one or two spaces. He doesn't hear a compelling outcry from the residents to do it, so he sees this as a status quo thing. There may be a benefit of having diagonal parking, but there's no compelling argument to do it; in fact, everyone who showed up doesn't want it.

Mr. Crook made a motion not to support the staff recommendation and it was seconded by Mr. Kleeman. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Recommendation Regarding a Request to Install Crosswalk Markings at the Intersections of the Bike Path from the Tennis Center to the Coronado Cays – This item was approved on consent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES – Item No. 4 Only

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