

**SPECIAL MEETING
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, January 22, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Traffic Operations Committee (T.O.C.) was held on Thursday, January 22, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in the temporary Council Chambers at the Police Facility Emergency Operations Center. Present were Scott Huth, Paul Crook for the absent Robert Hutton, Tony Peña, Alan Nowakowski and Ed Walton. Also present were Dave Johnson, Assistant Engineer and Elizabeth Brett, Traffic Sergeant.

1. Minutes of the December 11, 2003 Meeting –The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Oral Communications – Sgt. Brett stated that Engineering and Police are working on two separate grants for funding through the Office of Traffic Safety. The Police Department’s request addresses crossing guards, bicycle crossings and skateboard issues. If obtained, this would give the department up to three extra personnel to restart some programs that used to be in place, such as bike offender diversion programs. The City is also spending \$75,000 a year on crossing guards; this could offset that. She would like a letter of support from the T.O.C. The deadline is January 31. Mr. Huth felt that the request met the goals of the Committee, so he would be willing to sign such a letter. Mr. Johnson noted that a report about a similar grant for traffic collision reporting software was presented to Council on Tuesday and they approved it.

3. Recommendation Regarding the Request to Convert a Portion of a Yellow Curb Zone to a Blue Curb Zone in Front of 111 Orange Avenue – Mr. Johnson summarized the report. Reverend Gillchrest asked if a blue curb zone could be provided in front of the Coronado Baptist Church at 111 Orange Avenue. At present, there is a loading zone which is not enforceable on Sundays or holidays and the church finds that cars park there on Sundays. The Engineering Department’s recommendation is to convert a portion of the yellow zone to a blue curb handicap space. Converting a metered space to a handicap zone could also be considered. There are no handicap parking spaces in the general vicinity. The church has two off-street spaces in the alley, but they are not desirable to convert to handicap because of their location and the difficulty in getting to the church from there. Mr. Huth asked if there is any other loading zone on that side of the street and Mr. Johnson responded that there is not.

Mr. Crook asked Rev. Gillchrest if it was his intention to put the church van in the proposed handicap space and Rev. Gillchrest said it was not. The space would be used for pick-up and drop-off operations. He also said that there is a handicapped woman who works in the vicinity and every day she parks her vehicle in a metered space eight hours a day during the week. This means no revenue for the City. He also described the various uses of the loading zone; many trucks use it for loading and unloading, including businesses across the street. Delivery people and tourist buses rely on this zone to park

in. In a couple of months the City will gain a couple of metered spaces where driveways will have been eliminated by construction. He would prefer that one of the metered spaces be converted to a handicap space. The handicapped woman who parks in the metered space could use this space during the week.

Mr. Walton brought up the idea of a temporary sign, but wasn't sure about its enforceability. Mr. Crook said that the Vehicle Code requires a painted blue curb and a sign to be erected to be enforceable. He and Mr. Huth both expressed concerns about reducing the loading zone. Reverend Gillchrest had noted earlier that a couple of spaces will be picked up after a construction project is completed, but Mr. Walton noted that demand will also increase after the project is completed. Reverend Gillchrest commented that the project's completion will also increase the need for commercial vehicles.

Mr. Huth said he didn't know if there was a driving need for the handicap space and there is a high demand for parking in this area. So, if the lady who works nearby leaves, the stall might be underutilized most of the week. Sgt. Brett suggested that there could be yellow or green curbing with other wording on the signage. Mr. Crook recommended not cutting the yellow zone or taking out a meter; he'd like to see a little research done on temporary handicap parking. Mr. Nowakowski suggested looking into how valet pick-up and drop-off is handled with white curbs in La Jolla.

Mr. Huth made a motion not to move forward with the recommendation, but to send the request back to the Engineering and Police Departments for examination of additional alternatives. Mr. Walton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.