

CITY OF CORONADO
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Thursday, August 27, 2009

A special meeting of the Traffic Operations Committee (T.O.C.) was held on Thursday, August 27, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Lou Scanlon and Ed Walton were present. Ed Hadfield represented the absent John Traylor and Kim Godby represented the absent Scott Huth. Assistant Engineer Dave Johnson was also present. Rachel Hurst was absent and unrepresented.

1. Minutes of the July 23, 2009 Meeting – Approval – Mr. Scanlon moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Hadfield seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously.

2. Oral Communications – Bea Hamby, 411 C Avenue, said that Fourth Street has a lot of traffic and drivers are always looking to the left to make a right-hand turn. The light can be with you but it doesn't mean anything. She said that she is blind and several other people in town are too. The traffic lights are a block away and can't be seen. She wondered if an adjustment could be made.

3. Recommendation Regarding a Request to Install 25-mph Speed Limit Signs on Isabella Avenue – Mr. Johnson said that a request was receiving suggesting that Isabella Avenue between Orange Avenue and E Avenue could be made safer with 25-mph signs. Coronado is guided by Vehicle Code section 23352, prima facie speed limits. In the City's Circulation Element Isabella Avenue is considered a local street and therefore 25 mph is the prima facie limit. He explained that speed limits are set based on the 85th percentile speed of drivers; an engineering and traffic survey is done to look at the prevailing vehicle speeds and set a reasonable speed limit. Mr. Johnson performed an informal spot speed survey and found that vehicles approaching the intersection of E Avenue on Isabella had speeds of 21 mph in the eastbound direction and 20 mph in the westbound direction. These speeds are below the prima facie speed limit here. It appeared to him, because of the constrained roadway widths due to parallel parking on either side and median diagonal parking, that drivers are using caution and driving reasonable speeds in proceeding through that area. In 2005 the TOC recommended that a marked crosswalk be placed at E Avenue across Isabella; in doing this parking was eliminated in the three westernmost diagonal spaces so that pedestrians crossing there would have adequate sight distance to oncoming traffic and vice versa, so that vehicles coming down Isabella could see pedestrians. The City's standard is to not sign the prima facie speed limits of 25 mph on residential streets.

Mr. Scanlon moved to accept the staff recommendation to deny the request to place 25-mph signs on Isabella; Mr. Hadfield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Recommendation Regarding the Request to Install a Blue Curb Zone in Front of 411 C Avenue – Mr. Johnson said that Virginia Martin, the Administrative Services Director for the Center for the Blind, requested that a blue curb zone be installed on behalf of Bea Hamby

at 411 C Avenue. Proof has been provided that Ms. Hamby has a disability that limits her mobility. The property is not served by a driveway or a garage, but there is a carport off the back of the alley that is specifically assigned to the unit at 411 C Avenue. The warrant for the installation of a residential blue curb zone states that the requestor must be in possession of a blue handicap placard; that they must have a disability that severely limits their mobility and lastly, that they do not have a location on their property which could be converted to handicap parking. Ms. Hamby meets two of the three requirements. The staff recommendation to install a blue curb zone is in disagreement with the warrant. Ms. Hamby's disability requires her to use public transportation like a taxicab or have a friend pick her up and get her to her destinations. A lot of times there is no place on the curb line to wait to pick Ms. Hamby up; therefore, she must walk into the street to access a waiting vehicle. Staff felt that this is an undesirable situation given her disability. Mr. Johnson reviewed the location of the carport and there are a couple of steps to get down to it which may make it difficult for Ms. Hamby to access. Therefore, in spite of the fact that she has a carport on site it is staff's recommendation that a blue curb zone be installed.

Mr. Walton said the City's warrant doesn't address the situation where an applicant doesn't have a car, so it's hard for staff to evaluate that. In this case he sees the reasoning for the recommendation, but he thinks the warrant needs to be revisited to address the case when an applicant doesn't have a car and doesn't have a parking need, but there's a need to have availability to get assistance. He asked if Ms. Hamby has a caretaker or someone who lives at her residence who uses the carport and was informed that there is no caretaker or anyone else living in the home. Mr. Walton said that in his experience the City has not put a blue curb in front of a condo unit; they've typically gone in front of single residences, so it's directly in front of one family; this is a little different and the warrant does not address that. He'd like to see that looked at as well.

Mr. Scanlon wanted to make sure that the applicant is aware that the blue curb does not preclude anyone else who is handicapped from parking there. Ms. Martin said that Ms. Hamby is aware of that.

Mr. Hadfield moved to approve the staff recommendation; Mr. Scanlon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Recommendation Regarding the Request to Install a Blue Curb Zone in Front of 151 F Avenue – Mr. Johnson said the requestor has a valid handicap placard and proof that she has a disability that severely limits her mobility, but her property is served by a detached garage at the back of the property. There is no driveway servicing the front. Based on the conditions here it is felt that it is a hardship for this resident to travel from the house back into the garage where the vehicle is parked. Staff recommends that a blue curb zone be installed at this address.

Mr. Hadfield asked about the resident's disability and Mr. Johnson felt she is getting frail.

Mr. Walton said this is another situation where the warrant does not specifically address the particular case. In this case, the property is served by a garage which would disqualify her from a blue curb zone. There should be some provision in the warrant if an applicant can't make it into the garage or the garage does not have an accessible path and can't be modified with a reasonable cost effort on their part. He'd like this to be looked at when the blue curb warrant is looked at again. Mr. Scanlon agreed and said that the warrant could be rewritten to take into account certain exceptions that weren't previously considered and to look at things that should be disallowed.

Mr. Scanlon moved to approve the staff recommendation; Mr. Hadfield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. 2008 Annual Traffic Report – Mr. Johnson said the Annual Traffic Report addresses accident trends and traffic volumes. Some highlights for 2008 are that accidents decreased slightly from 2007. There were 184 collisions versus 195 in 2007. Injury collisions were slightly higher than the five-year accident history and there was one fatal collision. Traffic counts for the bridge are unchanged and traffic volumes on the Strand decreased slightly. There was a slight decrease overall in the traffic coming in and out of the City over the last three years. He noted that the collision map is missing from the report but he will include it when this goes to the City Council for approval.

Ms. Godby had noted a possible error in Graph C, the Bridge Five-Day Average Traffic Volume, and Mr. Johnson said it appears that there is a typo for the month of September. He believes the number should be lower and will look into this. It was also noted that Graphs D, E and F show several months with “No Data Available” while Graph C had only one month with “No Data Available.” He will address this.

Mr. Hadfield asked if bicycle and motorcycle accidents are included in injury collisions and Mr. Johnson said they are. All “complaints of pain” are considered injury accidents.

Mr. Hadfield moved to forward the Annual Report to the Council with corrections; Mr. Scanlon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.