



Staff Report

RESOLUTION DENYING REQUEST TO MOVE TWO SAMTRANS BUS STOPS ON HILLER STREET AT NESBIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

City staff requests City Council to deny establishment of the previously approved Samtrans bus stops on Hiller Street in the vicinity of the Nesbit Elementary School.

Background

On July 8, 2008, City Council approved establishment of two Samtrans bus stops on Hiller Street and authorized a 50-foot no parking zone in the northbound direction and a 6-foot no parking zone in the southbound direction. City staff requests City Council deny establishment of said bus stops, due to opposition from residents.

Discussion

The chronological history of the Samtrans requests to establish bus stops on Hiller Street in the vicinity of Nesbit Elementary School is described as follows:

Samtrans Request #1

October 2007 – Samtrans submits a request to establish two bus stops on Hiller Street with two 50-foot long no parking zones: northbound stop to be located south of Biddulph and southbound stop to be located south of Biddulph at 801 Hiller Street. If these bus stops were approved, Samtrans would remove bus stops on Hiller Street and Cambridge Street.

- The item was discussed at the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (PTSC) meeting. The Police Department recommended moving the northbound stop to be located north of Cornish (at 418 Cornish Way) to prevent traffic back-up.
- The issue was taken to City Council on November 13, 2007 (with notices being sent to the residents within 300' of proposed bus stop locations), but the item was pulled from of the agenda because a resident of 801 Hiller Street has a concern.
- City staff contacted Samtrans to get input on other available options for bus stops.

Samtrans Request #2

February 2008 – Samtrans submits another letter recommending only one bus stop in the northbound direction at 418 Cornish Way with a 50-foot long no parking zone between 6:30am and 6:30pm.

- City staff puts the item on the agenda for the March 11, 2008 City Council Meeting.
- City staff notified all residents within 300' radius of the proposed bus stop locations about the upcoming City Council meeting where the issue would be discussed.
- Samtrans withdrew the request prior to the meeting.
- City staff notified all residents within 300' radius of the proposed bus stop locations that the item was withdrawn from the City Council agenda.

Samtrans request #3

Late March 2008 – Samtrans submits another request to revert back to the establishment of two bus stops with 50-foot no parking zone between 6:30am and 6:30pm. The proposed locations are: 418 Cornish Way and 719 Hiller Street (north of Biddulph Way).

- City staff mails notices to residents in vicinity requesting feedback. Two responses are received: one in favor, another one opposing bus stop at 717 Hiller.
- PTSC reviews this issue again. The Police Department's recommendation is to move southbound bus stop to the exit side of the intersection with Biddulph Way (801 Hiller Street) to reduce traffic congestion as much as possible.
- Item is taken to the City Council on May 13, 2008 (with notices being sent to the residents within 300' radius of the proposed bus stop locations) and is pulled from the agenda for discussion. One resident recommends moving bus stop to the Nesbit school parking lot. The staff report recommended two solutions: installation of two bus stops or one bus stop in northbound direction in front of 418 Cornish Way (there was no opposition to this location).
- City Council refers this issue to the Green Advisory Committee for review and discussion.
- Green Advisory Committee reviews this issue at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 21, 2008 and rejects the request by majority vote.
- Infrastructure Committee reviews this issue on May 28, 2008 and recommends taking this issue to the City Council on June 10, 2008.
- On May 30th, City staff met with Mayor Lieberman to review feasibility of the bus stop establishment and get input from the neighbors.
- City staff met with Samtrans staff on June 3, 2008 to discuss feasibility of the bus stop location at 807/805 Hiller Street, which was recommended during a site visit conducted by the City staff and Mayor Lieberman on May 30, 2008. The following was discussed:

- i. There are shrubs and a fully grown tree at 807/805 Hiller Street, which should be removed to provide clearance for bus doors to open and wheelchair access.
 - ii. Preferred location for the bus stop is 805/803 Hiller Street, where the bus stop will start at the south end of the driveway approach at 805 Hiller Street extending across the north end of this driveway approach continuing across the driveway approach at 803 Hiller Street ending 6 feet north of the driveway approach at 803 Hiller Street.
- On June 16, 2008, the Infrastructure Committee reviewed updated locations of the proposed Samtrans bus stops and recommended taking this issue to the City Council on July 8, 2008.
 - On July 8, 2008, City Council approved establishment of Samtrans bus stops in northbound and southbound directions.
 - In August 2008, City staff was contacted by the resident adjacent to the proposed southbound bus stop requesting a meeting to discuss the bus stops.
 - On September 4, 2008, the Infrastructure Committee met with residents in the vicinity of the proposed bus stop. Residents unanimously objected establishment of the bus stops.
 - On October 20, 2008, the Infrastructure Committee unanimously voted to deny bus stops establishment and advised staff to take this issue to the City Council as part of the consent calendar.

General Plan/Vision Statement

This project is consistent with the General Plan General Community Goals and Policies section (Paragraph 1015), which states “To provide public services efficiently and at a level adequate to serve an ultimate population of about 28,000.”

Fiscal Impact

There will be no fiscal impact.

Public Contact

Public contact included posting of City Council agenda.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council deny establishment of the previously approved Samtrans bus stops on Hiller Street in the vicinity of the Nesbit Elementary School.

Alternatives

1. Take no action.
2. Refer back to staff for further information.

Attachments

A. Resolution

Respectfully submitted,

Bozhena Palatnik, PE
Associate Civil Engineer

Raymond E. Davis, III, PE, PTOE
Director of Public Works

Jack R. Crist
City Manager

Staff Contact:

Raymond E. Davis, Public Works Director
(650) 595-7459
rdavis@belmont.gov

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT DENYING
REQUEST TO MOVE TWO SAMTRANS BUS STOPS ON HILLER STREET AT
NESBIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, in October 2007, the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (PTSC) received a request from Samtrans to add two bus stops in each direction on Hiller Street in the vicinity of Nesbit Elementary School at 418 Cornish Way (on Hiller Street) and at 801 Hiller Street; and,

WHEREAS, the PTSC reviewed this request, performed a field investigation, discussed feasibility and location of the proposed bus stops; and,

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2007, City staff took this issue to the City Council for approval of the bus stops; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council referred back to staff for additional information due to the resident at 801 Hiller Street objecting to having the southbound Hiller bus stop in front of his house eliminating parking which is already in high demand in this area; and,

WHEREAS, in February 2008, City staff received a letter from Samtrans recommending establishment of one bus stop in the northbound direction on Hiller Street at Cornish Way with the parking restrictions during Samtrans hours of operation which are between 6:30am and 6:30pm, Monday through Friday; and,

WHEREAS, City staff planned to take this issue to the City Council for approval on March 11, 2008 and notified residents within 300-foot radius, however, Samtrans pulled the item from their agenda to revise the plans; and,

WHEREAS, in late March 2008, Samtrans contacted City staff with the proposal to revert back to establishment of the two bus stops on Hiller Street: northbound bus stop to be located at 418 Cornish Way and southbound stop to be located north of Biddulph Way at 719 Hiller Street; and,

WHEREAS, City staff sent notices to the residents located within 300-foot radius asking for feedback with regards to the proposed bus stops; and,

WHEREAS, two responses were received: one in favor of the bus stop (807 Hiller Street) and one against (717 Hiller); and,

WHEREAS, after receiving a feedback from residents, the PTSC met on April 17, 2008 to discuss the issue, and the Belmont Police Department expressed concerns that due to the presence of said bus stop at 719 Hiller Street, the proposed bus stop will block the lane of traffic creating significant traffic back up; and,

WHEREAS, it is a common practice to establish bus stops at the intersection exit rather than intersection entryway; and,

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2008, City staff took this issue to the City Council for approval of the bus stops and the City Council referred this matter to the Green Advisory Committee for review and discussion; and,

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2008, the Green Advisory Committee reviewed this issue at its regularly scheduled meeting and rejected the request; and,

WHEREAS, City staff referred the issue to the Infrastructure Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Committee discussed the issue on May 28, 2008 and recommended to take this issue back to the City Council in the form it was presented on May 13, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, On May 30th City staff met with Mayor Lieberman to review feasibility of the bus stop establishment and get input from the neighbors; and,

WHEREAS, City staff met with Samtrans staff on June 3, 2008 to discuss feasibility of the bus stop location at 807/805 Hiller Street, which was recommended during site visit conducted by the City staff and Mayor Lieberman on May 30, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, Samtrans and City staff determined that the preferred location for the southbound bus stop is 805/803 Hiller Street, where the bus stop will start at the south end of the driveway approach at 805 Hiller Street extending across the north end of this driveway approach continuing across the driveway approach at 803 Hiller Street ending 6 feet north of the driveway approach at 803 Hiller Street; and,

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2008 Infrastructure Committee reviewed updated locations of the proposed Samtrans bus stops and recommended taking this issue to the City Council on July 8, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2008, City Council approved establishment of Samtrans bus stops in northbound and southbound directions; and,

WHEREAS, in August 2008 City staff were contacted by the resident adjacent to the proposed southbound bus stop requesting a meeting to discuss the bus stops; and,

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2008, the Infrastructure Committee met with residents in the vicinity of the proposed bus stop and the residents unanimously objected establishment of the bus stops 8; and,

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2008, the Infrastructure Committee unanimously voted to deny bus stops establishment and advised staff to take this issue to the City Council as part of the consent calendar.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belmont denies establishment of the previously approved Samtrans bus stops on Hiller Street in the vicinity of the Nesbit Elementary School.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on November 12, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont