



**CITY OF BELMONT
PARKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

September 11, 2009 – 9:30 am

Present: Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (PTSC) Members and Residents.

Meeting opened and introductions were made. For each item residents presented their concern, staff presented results of investigations to date, discussion ensued and staff will further investigate and report.

Request from the Merry Moppet School to increase drop off zone at 2200 Carlmont Drive from Carlmont Drive to Mulberry Court, M-F, 7:30am – 9:00am.

A representative from the Merry Moppet School and the property owner in the vicinity of the Merry Moppet School attended the PTSC meeting. City staff presented findings and discussed the problem.

The following issues were raised by the representative from the Merry Moppet School:

The existing drop-off 20-minute parking zone starts on Carlmont Drive in the crosswalk at Mulberry Court and extends 100 feet east. There is a pedestrian crosswalk sign in the middle of the street on Carlmont Drive at Mulberry Court. Immediately adjacent to the drop-off zone there is a parking zone. Drivers in the westbound traffic lane at times have difficulty squeezing by between the stopped car and the pedestrian sign in the middle of the street when cars are stopped at the end of the drop-off zone by Mulberry Court. Parents queue their vehicles at the drop-off zone creating a second lane of traffic along the parked vehicles behind the drop-off zone creating back-ups for vehicles proceeding on westbound Carlmont Drive.

The PTSC proposed approving extension of the existing 100-foot drop-off zone to 200-feet at Merry Moppet School located at 2200 Carlmont Drive, replacement of the 25-foot drop-off zone on Carlmont Drive at the crosswalk at Mulberry Court with no parking restrictions and eliminate the 20-Minute Parking Zone. PTSC will seek City Council approval for these measures at October 13, 2009 City Council Meeting.

Request to install pedestrian crossing signal and lights on Ralston Avenue at Notre Dame Avenue and Ralston Avenue at Chula Vista Drive to increase pedestrian safety

The resident who requested the pedestrian crosswalk did not attend the meeting to discuss the issue. City staff researched previously installed pedestrian crossing lights installation that took place several years ago. Though originally the above areas were approved for the in-pavement crosswalk signal installation, City staff was directed not to install any pedestrian crossing lights at these locations because such measures are more appropriate for the commercial areas and not for residential neighborhoods.

Request to remove the parking spaces along east side Ralston Avenue, between 1025 Ralston Avenue and Sixth Avenue and install red curb to allow this lane to be a right-turn only

No residents invited for this item attended the meeting. City staff was contacted by the business owners who would be affected by the parking removal and asked the City not to remove these parking spaces since it would impact their businesses.

Currently, there are five 1-hour parking spaces located on Ralston Avenue between Twin Pines Lane and right turn lane at Sixth Avenue. Parking is restricted during peak hours from 7:00am to 9:00am and from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Belmont Police Department will provide direct parking enforcement of the area to ensure that no vehicles are parked there during non-parking hours impacting eastbound traffic on Ralston Avenue.

Request to review the usefulness of the first bulbout on Waltermire Street at Safeway

The bulbouts were installed a few years ago during Safeway remodeling. The purpose of the bulbouts was to provide traffic calming for this one-way street. City staff will install reflective pavement markers on the subject bulbout to make the island more visible for drivers.

Request to restrict parking at the stop sign on Cypress Ave/Middle Road Corner (originally reviewed at the PTSC meeting on July 30, 2009).

City staff reviewed this issue again and determined that parking restrictions will make a negative impact on the parking situation in this area. There are some apartment buildings at the subject location and many residents park their vehicles along Cypress Avenue. Restricting parking will force residents to park on the adjacent streets impacting parking there.

Request to install signs advising drivers of the curve on South Road at Holly Road to divert drivers from driving on the opposite lane of traffic (originally reviewed at the PTSC meeting on July 30, 2009).

The original request discussed at July 30th PTSC meeting was about installation of oversized bottle dots. PTSC pointed out that these oversized bottle dots do not adhere well to the pavement, require continuous replacement and can cause an accident if the motorcycle or bicycle hits them. PTSC recommended installation of the double yellow line on South Road between Holly Road and Holly Road. This way Police Department would be able to provide enforcement of the drivers driving in the opposite lane of traffic. However, when the resident learned of this option he objected to the striping and insisted on placing an advisory curve sign instead.

PTSC discussed the sign placement and pointed out the following:

- Drivers do not pay attention to advisory signs;
- Advisory signs are not enforceable;
- There are already many signs in Belmont which is not favored by Belmont residents.