



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

**January 27, 2011 – 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 and staff presented results of investigations to date followed by a discussion.

**Request to establish a “No Parking” zone on both sides of Sixth Avenue between E St. and Harbor Blvd.**

Two residents attended the meeting to discuss the issue. In addition, City staff received a number of phone calls and emails from the residents objecting to parking restrictions on Sixth Avenue.

The following issues were discussed:

- The street is narrow with vehicles parked on both sides.
- Speeding drivers that use Sixth Avenue as an alternate route to avoid El Camino Real are a major problem for the neighborhood. The street needs police enforcement.
- Because of the street width, drivers have to slow down to avoid a collision.
- Parking on curves can cause problems because of the impacted visibility.
- Without adequate “No Parking” signage, PD cannot issue citations for drivers blocking the roadway when they park on the street.
- Parking restrictions will force residents to park on neighboring streets while vehicle speeds on Sixth Avenue will increase due to increased width of the travel way.
- Install speed humps to decrease vehicular speeds. Scott Davis will volunteer to route the petition among the neighbors.
- Convert Sixth Avenue into a one-way street. This suggestion was objected to by both residents and staff.

Next action:

- Belmont Police Department will conduct direct traffic enforcement of Sixth Avenue and report to the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (PTSC) and residents of Sixth Avenue in February/March.
- A petition for speed humps will be routed among the neighbors.
- Residents will be notified of the next PTSC meeting.

**Discussion regarding traffic improvements in Hallmark area.**

Four residents attended the meeting to continue discussion on completed and future traffic and pedestrian safety improvements.

The following issues were discussed:

- Signage installed by the Public Works staff does make a difference.
- Police Department enforcement and flashing signs have helped.
- A resident requested installation of a solar flashing sign on Hallmark Drive past Benson Way to alert drivers. This solution might not be feasible at the time due to budget constraints.
- Parents bringing children to Fox school sometimes block residential driveways.
- Drivers cross the centerline.
- There is an existing speeding problem on St. James Road.

The Police Department will continue to monitor the area and provide direct traffic enforcement.

**Request to improve pedestrian and traffic safety in the Tahoe/Lassen/Yosemite neighborhood.**

This issue was brought up by the residents of Hallmark area. They indicated that there is a problem by drivers parking next to hydrants and at the corner curb returns. Also, drivers often block the intersection of Tahoe/Yosemite by trying to make a U-turn. This area is heavily used by children. However, Lassen Drive does not have a marked crosswalk at Ralston Avenue.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Belmont Public Works staff will install the crosswalk and provide additional improvements to the area.

**Request to modify locations of the “No Parking” signs on South Road.**

Two residents attended the meeting and raised their concerns.

The following issues were raised:

- Road deteriorates due to heavy traffic.
- Proposed parking restrictions on South Road at the northern part of Holly Road will improve the street pavement.
- There are already “No Parking” restrictions on South Road and additional parking restrictions will have no effect on street wear and tear.
- Additional “No Parking” restrictions will have no effect on the roadway condition.
- Drivers are speeding on South Road. Traffic enforcement is needed.
- A 25 MPH speed limit sign should be installed to advise drivers of the existing speed limit.

The Police Department will evaluate the issue and discuss it at the next Parking and Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Residents will be notified.

### **Request to improve traffic safety at the corner of Broadway and Paloma Avenue.**

Five residents attended the meeting to participate in discussion.

The following items were discussed:

- The property owners located at the corner of Broadway and Paloma Avenue recently constructed vertical curb and gutter improvements since the previous curb has been damaged from traffic and rainwater coming from Talbryn Drive. They request the city to paint the new curb red (the old curb was painted red) and install pavement reflectors and additional signage to ensure that northbound drivers will not run into the curb.
- Drivers are not abiding the existing stop signs at the intersection of Broadway/Paloma/Talbryn.
- Convert the above intersection into a four-way stop (requires Council approval).
- Oversized vehicles routinely use Talbryn Drive to travel between Belmont and San Carlos damaging the street paving and creating traffic hazard since the street is narrow, steep and curvy.
- Recently added signage is very helpful; however, additional signage needs to be installed.
- Install additional signage citing penalty for violating the weight limit requirements.
- Convert Talbryn Drive into a one way street (it would require a petition from the property owners on Talbryn Drive).
- Vehicle length restriction signs are needed but the problem is that they are not enforceable since there are no vehicle length limit sign criteria in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines.
- Trim overgrown vegetation at the corners to improve sight distance.
- Install additional weight limit sign on Broadway at El Camino Real

Next action:

- Belmont Police Department will continue traffic enforcement of the area.
- Belmont Public Works staff will paint the curb at the corner of Broadway/Paloma red (completed on February 1, 2011)
- Belmont Public Works staff will install pavement markers and additional signage at the corner of Broadway/Paloma (completed on February 1, 2011)
- Belmont Public Works staff will install additional weight limit signage.

The discussion on traffic improvements in this area will continue at the next Parking and Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Residents will be notified.

### **Request to install a three-way stop at the corner of Village Court/Village Drive.**

One resident attended the meeting and raised the following issues.

- Speeding vehicles and lack of enforcement.
- Stop sign installation is needed to slow down the traffic. City staff advised that stop signs are used exclusively for right-of-way purposes and will not have much influence on the vehicle speeds (except at the subject intersection)
- There are already too many stop signs in the city.
- Stepped up police enforcement of the area will be the best solution for speeding problem.

Police Department will conduct direct traffic enforcement of the area.

**Discussion regarding transition between the Bike Bridge and Hiller Street.**

A representative from the biking community and a consultant attended the meeting to discuss various transition options. Residents participated in discussion. Various options were evaluated including additional signage for pedestrians and bikers, additional striping and delineation, new curb ramps, traffic signal modifications, fence installation, etc. Some of the modifications can be done as part of the Pedestrian/Bike Bridge project but other modifications can be done only if additional funding is obtained. One of the immediate solutions is to restrict two parking spaces on the south side of Masonic Way at Hiller Street. City staff will discuss the parking restrictions at the next meeting and invite adjacent business and property owners to obtain their input.