



CITY OF BELMONT
PARKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2011 – 9:30 a.m.

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

Meeting opened and introductions were made. For each item, residents presented their concerns and staff outlined results of investigations to date followed by a discussion.

Request to discuss and clarify the street name: Robin Whipple Way or Robbin Whipple Way.

Four residents attended the meeting to participate in the discussion regarding the correct street name. City staff and residents shared the history of the street and the origin of the name. It was determined that the correct street name is Robin Whipple Way. However, some County maps are showing the street as “Robbin Whipple Way” creating confusion.

City staff will prepare a resolution describing the origin of the street name honoring the war hero, whose name the street is proudly carrying.

Request to install a stop sign or a speed hump in northeast direction of Cipriani Blvd at or before Lincoln Avenue to increase safety for walkers, bicycles, cars and joggers.

Four property owners attended the meeting and participated in the discussion. The following issues were discussed:

- Safety for school children shall be increased, regular crosswalks are not effective.
- Traffic noise
- Stop sign is not a solution to speeders who will speed between the stop signs
- Extensive speeding
- Drivers who use Cipriani on a regular basis are familiar with the street layout and curves.
- Speed humps are noisy and will not affecting large vehicles as much as small ones.
- Install radar speed sign to enforce the school zone (which can be effective for only 3 months).
- Establish 15 MPH speed limit
 - Very difficult to justify lowering of the speed limit on the collector street. It can be potentially considered a “speed trap”.
 - The speeding tickets issued by PD might be rejected by court if the speed limit is not certified by a traffic engineer.

- Residents adjacent to the proposed 15 MPH zone disagreed with lowering the speed limit.
- There is currently an existing advisory 15 MPH sign that is not enforceable and drivers generally ignore it.
- Establishment of a 20 MPH will be almost as difficult as 15 MPH.
- Install chevrons and “SLOW” signs
- Install in-pavement flashing crosswalk (it might not be very visible if there is a line of sight problem).
- Create a Strategic Traffic Enforcement Plan for this area.
- Change people mentality to care for children and streets, improve community attitude. PD will convey this message at the Homeowners Association meeting.
- Install sign boards “SLOW DOWN”.
- Residents were encouraged to write down license plate numbers of speeding vehicles and send them over to PD for further contact.

The following immediate solutions were approved:

- Police traffic enforcement.
- Distribution of the speed data (The data have been posted on Belmont website under PTSC since the time of the meeting).
- Residents/property owners are encouraged to place additional signs on private property front yards to advise drivers to slow down and of the presence of children.

Request to establish two “No Parking” zones at 2617 and 2805-2809 Monte Cresta Drive.

Four residents came to the meeting to discuss the proposed “No Parking” restrictions. The resident who submitted the request did not attend the meeting.

The following points were discussed:

- Most streets in Belmont have the same windy and curvy configuration.
- There is currently not enough parking in the area including private property.
- Parking restrictions will force residents/property owners park on other streets impacting parking in other areas.
- A fire truck was able to get through when vehicles were parked on both sides of the street.
- Monte Cresta Drive is more accessible than some other streets in the area.
- Some residents immediately adjacent to the area of the proposed red zone did not get the notice but they were able to contact the city staff via phone and objected any “No Parking” restrictions.
- Install a speed limit sign on both sides of the street and a warning sign saying “Warning – Blind Intersection – Proceed Slowly”.
- Tree trimming to ensure sufficient visibility.

Request to eliminate a “No Parking” zone in front of the Post Office at 640 Masonic Way.

No one from the public attended the meeting. The existing “No Parking” zone in front of the Post Office is created to ensure that the bike lane is not blocked by parked vehicles. There will be no modifications to this red zone.

Discuss traffic conditions at the intersection of Notre Dame Avenue, Middle Road and North Road, near Patricia Warden Park.

Six residents came to the meeting and discussed various traffic safety problems, which are summarized below:

- This location is a pick-up place for school children.
- There are a lot of stop sign violations in the area.
- Speed is a problem on Notre Dame Avenue.
- Samtrans buses speed up.
- Neighborhood is not inviting for children because of the cars.
- Installation of the “Stop Ahead” signs might not be very effective.

The following solutions were identified:

- Police will notify Samtrans to abide the speed limit.
- Installation of the delineators on the street will make the street look crowded and ruin the neighborhood appearance.
- Police volunteers will conduct informational handout of pamphlets to the drivers.
- Discuss this issue at the future PTSC meetings.

Request to eliminate parking spaces on Ralston Avenue at Twin Pines Park, move double-yellow line on Ralston Avenue between South Road and Sixth Avenue to install a bike lane.

A property manager from PMI Realty representing residents of 1100 Ralston Avenue attended the meeting and discussed the traffic safety problems, which are summarized below:

- What can be done to change the exiting curvature of the street that makes it dangerous to exit the apartment complex at 1100 Ralston Avenue?
 - The street has been in place for decades and there is no way to change the configuration of the street.
 - Drivers exiting the property are encouraged to turn westbound instead of crossing multiple lanes of traffic.
- Can the speed limit be lowered from 30 MPH?
 - The existing speed was established through a traffic engineering survey to comply with the California Vehicle Code.
 - Traffic speeding tickets will be invalid if the speed limit is lowered artificially.
- Flashing yellow lights are working off and on, need adjustment in brightness.
- Install a bike lane by eliminating some parking in this block.
- Stop Ahead sign needs to be relocated.
 - The sign is installed per the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and cannot be relocated.

- There will be additional “Stop Ahead” legend placed on the pavement in addition to the sign on the pole.
- The property management trimmed the tree at the corner but the curve still possesses a sight distance problem.

The following solutions were identified:

- Conduct more police enforcement.
- After the street paving is completed, install the following pavement legend/signs:
 - “Share the Road” chevron pavement markings and signage to ensure that drivers are aware that the bicyclists can share the lane with cars.
 - 30 MPH pavement legend advising drivers of the speed limit.
 - “Stop Ahead” pavement legend notifying drivers about the stop sign on Ralston Avenue at South Road.