

**MINUTES**  
**GARDEN GROVE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

Community Meeting Center  
11300 Stanford Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Tuesday  
March 4, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular session of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Alejandro, Ashland, Cabral, Feather, and Lindsay

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dan Candelaria, Executive Secretary, Chris Wasinger, Traffic Officer, Rosemarie Jacot, Recording Secretary

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from November 6, 2007 were approved as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The staff report was introduced by Mr. Candelaria to discuss the disabled person on street parking space policy. New guidelines were introduced to the Commissioners for their review. A new pricing scheduled was introduced. The Commission is not in favor of raising the rates or a having a deposit. Another solution that was introduced would be for staff to write a letter and/or follow up with a phone call on an annual basis. There is approximately 25-disabled person on street parking spaces in the public right- of- way.

Mr. Joseph Pak, 11307 Linda Lane, addressed the Commission. He doesn't believe a monetary incentive is necessary to compel the applicant to inform the City that the parking space is no longer needed.

The Commission would like staff to continue to revise the policy for the disabled person on street parking space and to consider how to monitor the policy.

Mr. Candelaria suggested that staff follow up annually with a letter or phone call on a trial basis. If this becomes problematic then the issue can be revisited.

Commissioner Lindsay would like new language to be inserted into the policy and application. The new language should include a space for the applicant to state that they do have a current, valid California driver's license with the license number and the expiration date of the license written on the application as well as a space on the application for the expiration date of the placard itself and a declaration stating

that the disabled person is the applicant and is applying for the space on behalf of him or herself not for another.

Commissioner Alejandro moved, seconded by Commissioner Feather to adopt staff's recommendation with the provision to include the yearly monitoring by letter and/or phone call and to include the new language with respects to the placard's expiration date and to be sure the applicant is the actual disabled person who will be using the space.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: ASHLAND, FEATHER, LINDSAY, CABRAL AND ALEJANDRO

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

#### Election of Chair/ Vice Chair

Commissioner Feather was nominated for Chair and Vice Chair; she declined.

Commissioner Ashland was nominated for Chair and the vote carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lindsay was nominated for Vice Chair and the vote carried unanimously.

#### BELFAST MEDIAN REMOVAL

The staff report was introduced to consider removal of the existing raised median on Belfast Drive from west of Galway Street to east of Donegal Drive.

Carolyn Elliott, 13372 Galway Street, addressed the Commission. Ms. Elliot is in favor of leaving the median in. She is concerned with the safety of the street as there are no sidewalks in the area and the high school children need to walk in the street. The median has reduced the heavy traffic on Galway Street and made it safer, especially the large trucks that cater to the businesses and need to make it to Garden Grove Boulevard. She is now used to the lower volume of traffic and is questioning why the median was installed in the first place if the City was going to tear it out at a later date. And although there is a sign posted "No Trucks Allowed" the trucks continued to use Galway Street until the median was installed.

Mr. Joseph Pak, 11073 Linda Lane, addressed the Commission. He commended staff on the good job they did in addressing the Community and getting people to come out to the meeting. He stated that the Korean Business District generates over 1 million dollars annually in sales tax. He understands the concerns of the residents who live in the area and would like to see a compromise reached between the Korean Business District and the residents. He would like

to review alternate ideas for traffic calming. He noted that vehicles occasionally make an illegal left turn facing oncoming traffic when traveling northbound on Galway at Belfast.

Rev. Wilfredo Benitez, 9471 Larson Avenue, addressed the Commission. He supports the median being removed; it has been an incredible inconvenience for his parishioners. He has viewed many vehicles making the illegal left turn into oncoming traffic. The median has cut off the main entrance to his church coming from Galway, he has not seen that a high volume of traffic is an issue and believes that it is not fair to the residents on Gilbert; as the traffic that normally would have used Galway now uses Gilbert as the thruway, creating a large volume of traffic on Gilbert.

Gary Sunda, 13172 Donegal, addressed the Commission. He would like to see the median stay. He appreciates the reduction of traffic on Donegal Avenue, as the pedestrians are safer with less traffic traveling on Donegal. He agrees with removing a portion of the median at Galway to allow left turn access into the church and the business district. Donegal does not have sidewalks either and again the pedestrians are safer with a 43% reduction in traffic. He doesn't believe that the economic downturn in Garden Square is due to the installation of the Belfast Median.

He doesn't believe Galway, Donegal, or Gilbert should be used as a thoroughfare to access the Garden Square shopping center. He also believes the traffic volumes will increase upon the completion of the Galleria Shopping Center, which is the same distance from the freeway off ramp on Trask Avenue. He is willing to put up with a little inconvenience to have lower traffic volumes.

David Mouland, 13371 Galway Street, addressed the Commission. He believes the study is flawed because of the Galleria and the apartments going in on Garden Grove Boulevard. He commented that two children have been hit by cars as well as vehicles parked in the driveway. He works in El Segundo and they do not cater to small businesses. Residential neighborhoods are not used for thoroughfares in El Segundo.

Raymond Choi addressed the Commission. He is the Chairman of the Korean Festival of Orange County and past president of the Korean Chamber of Commerce. He is in favor of removing the median. He believes the Korean Shopping District has hardship due to the traffic not being able to get through from Galway and Donegal. There are many complaints to the Korean Chamber of Commerce because of the traffic reduction due to the median installation. His photo was introduced into the record.

Andrew Chui, 9944 Garden Grove Boulevard, addressed the Commission. He is in favor of removing the median. He commented that vehicles getting off the 22 freeway at Magnolia Street have no way to get to Garden Grove Boulevard and it hurts the Korean Business District who is the main contributor to the City's revenue with their taxes.

Sung Young Park, 13061 Galway Street, addressed the Commission. He owns a business in Garden Square. He stated the function of the City streets is to allow convenient, safe, and efficient access for cars and pedestrians to get to their destination and that they are constructed in a way to allow for the best and most cost efficient route. The decrease in traffic has caused a hardship to the Korean Business District. He states lack of easy access has caused the customers to look for other stores. Mr. Park cited mathematical information to show the degree to which the new routes caused by the installation of the median are not effective. He is asking the Commission to restore the City streets affected to their fundamental function.

Wendy Yoo, 9636 Garden Grove Boulevard, addressed the Commission. She is in favor of removing the median. For 30 years she has gotten off the Brookhurst off ramp from the 22 freeway and gone up Donegal Street to get to her business. She is now blocked from taking that route and has to use Brookhurst or Magnolia. She suggested installing sidewalks on the affected streets. She has also viewed children playing on the median.

David Gorba, General Manager of the Alano Club, 13182 Vener Drive, addressed the Commission. His only access is Belfast Street; he cannot be seen from Garden Grove Boulevard. He is in favor of removing the median as it affects his business of catering to recovering alcoholics.

John Starbird, 9691 Russell, addressed the Commission. He is a retired traffic officer and does not agree with the Belfast median. He is in favor of removing the median.

Taek K. Hoang, 9580 Garden Grove Boulevard, addressed the Commission. He is in favor of the median removal. AR Supermarket was one of the biggest Korean markets in the county and in Southern California. Mr. Hoang believes the Korean shoppers have been lost to Irvine and Fullerton due to the more difficult access to the Korean Business District in Garden Grove because of the median installation on Belfast.

Commissioner Alejandro gave some background on the item. He reiterated that Garden Grove is not anti-business. He would like to see a balance between the residents' needs and the needs of the Korean Business District. Building the median did what it was supposed to do and that was to reduce traffic at the request of the residents in the area at the time it was built. As the needs and sentiments of the community change over the years then the City can come up with some compromises.

Commissioner Feather inquired if the businesses were consulted or included in the voting process in 2005 and the cost to build the median.

Mr. Candelaria explained that, as he understood it the residents were not solely the driving force to have the median built. The business

owners were concerned that vehicles were using Donegal and traveling northbound straight through onto their property to cut through to Garden Grove Boulevard using the driveway that enters the shopping center from Donegal north of Belfast. The median cost approximately \$90,000.00 to build and will cost approximately \$30,000.00 to remove. Mr. Candelaria noted that the radar trailer has been used in the area already.

Commissioner Lindsay inquired as to what type of traffic control was in the area prior to the median installation.

Mr. Candelaria explained there were several stop signs in the area prior to the median being built.

Commissioner Alejandro inquired about the cost to remove only a portion of the median.

Mr. Candelaria responded that to remove only the segments that restrict movement would lower the cost.

Commissioner Lindsay noted that there were no residents in attendance from Belfast Street and that the residents had mixed opinions while the business community is very allied in the removal of the median. He would also like to see a compromise to help both sides.

Commissioner Cabral inquired if temporary barricades were considered as a possible solution first to see if the problem could be solved before installing a permanent fixture. She also inquired about the two accidents that were brought up in the previous discussion; what streets were they on and did they happen prior to the median being built; also how many accidents before the median was built and how many accidents occurred after the median was built. She doesn't believe the City ever intended residential streets to be major thoroughfares, especially since there is access through Garden Grove Boulevard. She is not in support of removal.

Commissioner Ashland commented that the accidents were before the median was built.

Mr. Candelaria noted that there was some discussion noted in the file, however to his knowledge they were not put in.

Commissioner Ashland is very sympathetic to the residents' plight and realizes the impact of the traffic on the residential streets. He was on the Garden Grove Boulevard Specific Planning Study when the development of Korea Town was first brought forth. At that time, the segment of Garden Grove Boulevard between Magnolia and Brookhurst was almost vacant. He commented that the revenue the merchants bring in is important to the City. He also noted that the tour buses should stay on the arterial streets and not use the residential streets. He is supportive of the recommendation of staff.

Commissioner Lindsay would like to look at alternatives to keep the flow of traffic low on Donegal and Galway if the median is removed

completely and would like to remain proactive on this issue to help the residents.

Mr. Candelaria commented that over the years staff has done several preliminary steps to address the traffic issues in this area. Staff has several tools with which to accomplish this; the radar trailer is used, the police department can do selective enforcement, and posted speed limit signs can be used. These have been used in the area; however, to really get traffic volumes to drop something drastic has to take place. Building the median was a drastic action, but it did what it was built to do, reduce traffic volumes. Staff can study it and monitor it; however, these tools have been used already.

Commissioner Alejandro moved to table the item so staff can restudy the issue and find other alternatives to removing the median and receive more public input.

Commissioner Feather inquired if staff believes any further studies would result in new findings.

Staff commented that all the tools have been used to study this issue and has received as much public input as possible and that further study would not likely find anything new.

Commissioner Cabral commented that although Donegal and Galway may have been used as thoroughfare initially when Garden Square was a thriving business community 20 to 30 years ago, did the City project that almost 1900 vehicles would be traveling through this area. The City has seen a significant increase in population possibly due to the businesses located in the area.

Commissioner Cabral seconded Commissioner Alejandro's motion.

THE MOTION IS NOT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: CABRAL AND ALEJANDRO  
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: ASHLAND, FEATHER, AND LINDSAY  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

Commissioner Ashland motioned to accept staff's recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Feather.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: ASHLAND, FEATHER, AND LINDSAY  
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: CABRAL AND ALEJANDRO  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

Adult Crossing  
Guard Request  
Catherine Avenue  
Eneo Place

Mr. Candelaria introduced the staff report to assign an adult crossing guard to the intersection of Catherine Avenue and Eneo Place.

Commissioner Lindsay inquired as to who pays for the crossing guards.

Staff noted that it is budgeted through the Police Department.

Commissioner Alejandro commented that this is a very quiet street.

Commissioner Lindsay inquired as to how often staff receives this request.

Staff commented that it is frequently requested.

Commissioner Cabral inquired as to the accident status for this intersection and if this was the reason for this request.

Staff commented that the letter from the superintendent indicated that there has been an increase in enrollment at the school.

Commissioner Ashland visited the site and believes the crossing guard would only be necessary in the morning due to the preschool program and the warrants are satisfied for the morning hours only.

Commissioner Feather commented that although the warrants are met for the morning hours and that although they would like to approve a crossing guard every time a request was made the full warrants were not met and therefore agrees with staff's recommendation.

The Commission directed staff to write a work order and install a stop sign at the corner of Catherine Street and Eneo Place.

Commissioner Feather motioned, seconded by Commissioner Alejandro to approved staff's recommendation and not approve an adult crossing guard at this location.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COMMISSIONER(S): ASHLAND, FEATHER, LINDSAY, CABRAL  
AND ALEJANDRO

NOES: COMMISSIONER(S):

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

RED CURB PROPOSAL  
12052 COLE STREET

The staff report was introduced to request painting red curb on a portion of Cole Street on the south side of the driveway approach at 12052 Cole Street to improve access.

Dan Nguyen, 8721 Summercrest Circle, addressed the Commission. The tenants complain that the vehicle parked next to the driveway is too close to access the driveway safely. It blocks the view because the drive approach is slightly curved. There is only room for one car to park in the spot, however, there is usually two cars parked there.

Tammy Nguyen, 8721 Summercrest Circle, addressed the Commission. Her tenants complain that that there are usually two cars parked in the space that is only big enough for one vehicle. She states she has scraped a vehicle herself because the vehicle parked there was too close to the approach.

Commissioner Ashland visited the site and concurs with the applicant that if there are two cars parked in the space it is difficult to maneuver the access.

Commissioner Lindsay visited the site and did not see any problem, however, there was only one car parked in the space.

Commissioner Alejandro did not see an issue.

Commissioner Feather noted only one vehicle as well and did not see a problem.

Commissioner Cabral visited the site and noted there were two vehicles parked there. She believes that it is more cost effective to paint three feet of red curb versus having the police come out every time to cite any vehicles encroaching into the apron.

Commissioner Ashland moved to deny staff's recommendation, and propose installing three feet of red curb as requested by the applicant, seconded by Commissioner Lindsay.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COMMISSIONER(s): ASHLAND, FEATHER, LINDSAY, CABRAL  
NOES: COMMISSIONER(s): ALEJANDRO  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

WILSON ST REOPENING  
GARDEN GROVE BLVD  
TO LARSON AVENUE

The staff report was introduced to propose the removal of "No Parking" (9 p.m. to 6 a.m.) signs on Wilson Street from Garden Grove Boulevard to Larson Avenue and to remove the road closure prohibiting southbound traffic just south of Garden Grove Boulevard.

Commissioner Ashland has a concern with the parking spaces striped by "Tofu Village". He believes if the restaurant is dependant on these parking spaces and loses them they may have financial trouble



because if Wilson Street is opened to through traffic in both directions to the original engineered curb cuts.

Mr. Candelaria commented that this is 90 degree parking on Wilson Street. His understanding is that these spaces existed prior to the closure of Wilson Street when the adult bookstore was in existence. The parking spaces would not come out into the roadway and although not an ideal situation it is acceptable as there is a low traffic volume on Wilson Street. To meet their zoning code requirements "Tofu Village" needs these parking spaces; these spaces would not be taken away.

Chair Ashland is apprehensive to the City reopening a street without making the appropriate improvements to the right-of-way including curb and gutter, which would eliminate those parking spaces.

Commissioner Alejandro moved, seconded by Commissioner Feather to accept staff's recommendation to remove the existing "No Parking" signs and road closure on Wilson Street from Garden Grove Boulevard to Larson Street and seek City Council approval of a new Resolution with the appropriate findings directing the reopening of southbound traffic on Wilson Street.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COMMISSIONER(s): FEATHER, LINDSAY, CABRAL, ALEJANDRO

NOES: COMMISSIONER(s): ASHLAND

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

STOP SIGN  
LUCILLE ST.  
BESTEL AVE.

The staff report was introduced to consider an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Lucille Street and Bestel Avenue.

Commissioner Alejandro inquired if the existing "Neighborhood Watch" sign would be removed and replaced with the speed limit sign.

Mr. Candelaria commented that one speed limit sign would be placed on the south side and one speed limit sign would be placed on the north side; no existing signs will be removed.

Commissioner Cabral moved, seconded by Commissioner Lindsay to accept staff's recommendation to install two 25 mph speed limit signs and a 15 mph curve warning sign on Dakota Avenue and to repaint the existing solid double yellow centerline on the curve where Dakota Avenue becomes Lucille Street; to approve staff's recommendation to deny the request to install an all-way stop at the intersection of Lucille Street and Bestel Avenue.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COMMISSIONER(s): FEATHER, LINDSAY, CABRAL, ALEJANDRO  
ASHLAND

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

MATTERS FROM  
THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Feather inquired if the party requesting the red curb on Monarch Street from the November 4, 2007 Traffic Commission meeting ever responded to the Commission's request to inquire of the owner of the building for additional information.

Mr. Candelaria commented that she has not made contact with staff as of this Traffic Commission meeting.

Commissioner Alejandro would like staff to include the signal priority list in the packages for the Commission.

Commissioner Lindsay inquired as to who is responsible for replacing the LEDs in the traffic signals and how is the blue dot (denoting a fire hydrant) issue progressing.

MATTERS FROM  
STAFF

Mr. Candelaria noted that due to the number of items for this meeting he would review the grant funding information with the Commission at the next Traffic Commission meeting.

Mr. Candelaria commented that he has notified the city crews' responsible for the contractors doing work on the City streets to replace the blue dots as necessary.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosemarie Jacot*