



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
TRAFFIC & PARKING COMMISSION

Meeting of October 4, 2012

TO: Traffic & Parking Commission

FROM: Bijan Vaziri, Traffic Engineer

SUBJECT: Traffic Engineer Quarterly Report

Traffic Engineering Activities – April 2012 through June 2012

(Bolded: New activities for this Quarter)

Staff: Bijan Vaziri RTE, Traffic Engineer
Roger Vinalon Jr., Traffic Technician

A: Capital Improvement Projects

- 1: Santa Monica Boulevard Traffic Signal Synchronization. Invoicing process with Metro is on schedule. The project has been completed and the system is operational. **The project is scheduled for City Council acceptance on October 23, 2012.** (This item will be deleted in the next quarterly report)
- 2: Citywide parking sign improvements – remove and replace outdated signs and improve uniformity:

Permit parking signs replacement: The first group of signs replacing older permit zones (400+ signs) were installed during January–March 2012. The remaining permit parking signs (700+ signs) are currently being installed by the Maneri Sign Company since August 30, 2012. **The project is expected to be completed prior to the end of 2012.**

Other signs: (City Limit signs - Overnight parking city boundary signs – Misc. old signs - final check list): These signs are planned to be installed by city forces following the permit signs.
- 3: Safety improvements along Sunset Boulevard between Whittier and Benedict Canon Drive: Signs and striping for the test plan were installed on Saturday, March 10, 2012. Special Delineators have been installed by city staff during June 2012. **Staff will present a status report to the Council on October 23, 2012, test period extended to March 10, 2013 (a minimum one year evaluation is needed for the accident study).**
- 4: In response to limited resources of the city for implementation of work orders related to street striping and markings, staff is preparing various “Request for Proposals” (RFP) to be submitted to private companies providing striping and marking services. Funding for this purpose would be available in the Capital Improvement budget of the Transportation Division for the Fiscal year of 2012-2013. **Staff is preparing a citywide list of locations in need of re-striping.**

B: Ongoing traffic studies and data collection (citywide):

- 1: **Conducted new traffic counts on Whittier, Benedict Canyon Drive, Canon Drive, and El Camino.** Preliminary counts indicate an increase of Whittier Drive traffic by 13%. **The counts at Benedict Canyon and Sunset indicated similar increases since the Sunset intersections were modified.**
- 2: Conducted multiple-day parking inventory surveys for **4** permit parking applications within the last three months.
- 3: Responded to public inquiries about the placement of signs, red curbs, striping, address markings, traffic counts, and requests for information from the public, traffic citation challenges, records subpoenas, expert witness requests, depositions, court appearances, complaints for traffic congestion, school area traffic and parking management and other traffic engineering issues. **Ongoing**
- 4: Prepared **18** work orders for the Public Works Street Division to place or relocate traffic and parking signs, street markings, curb markings, striping plans, meter heads/posts, signal timing adjustments, coordination timing and signal pole replacements. Responded to **8** requests from residents to paint red curbs adjacent to the approaches at their properties. Submitted a work order to adjust the signal timing at Benedict Canyon and Tower in response to an increase of traffic resulting from the 405 Freeway Project and waterline construction on Coldwater Canyon Drive (in Los Angeles).
5. Speed humps applications in process: 200 S. Le Doux Road (**was constructed on August 2012**), 200 S. Tower Drive (pending signatures from residents), **and 400 S. Clark (pending signatures).**
6. **Submitted a work order to install an additional “NO LEFT TURN AT ROBERTSON BL. 7AM-7PM” on the first light post east of Clark Drive. Since the sign had to be specially ordered, tentative installation would be by mid-October.**
7. **Evaluated the request to change the existing “yield” sign at Moreno and Spalding to a stop sign. Due to the lack of all-way stop formations and minimal conflicts, keeping the “yield” sign, which has been there for over 30 years with no record of accidents, is preferred.**
8. **Modification of striping to allow an outbound left from the new Crescent garage would be postponed until after the opening of Annenberg and monitoring activities and formations of two southbound lanes (instead of the existing one lane) on the 400 block of North Crescent Drive.**

C: Private Development Transportation Reviews

- 1: Continued the review process for traffic impact reports and/or EIRs for the following developments:
 - Review of 450, 460 N. Palm Drive condominium project.*
 - Study of Gateway commercial project mitigation measures on North Santa Monica and Doheny Drive.*
 - Additional review of the 10000 Santa Monica Boulevard condominium project.*
 - Review of median and intersection improvements at City Hall and Rexford intersections.*
 - Review of bollards operation and signal modifications on 400 N. Crescent.*
 - Study of a new building at 209 S. Robertson.*
 - Review the revised parking design of the proposed office building at 121 Spalding Drive.*

Provided comments and corrections. Met with the Community Development Department and attended Planning Commission pre-hearings and formal meetings. Met with the applicants and traffic consultants.

2: Reviewed over 5-per-week traffic plan applications (busiest months) for public right-of-way permits in cooperation with the City's Permit Center... Traffic plans are required to be prepared by applicants for temporary closure (less than 24 hours) of a traffic lane, generally for the following purposes:

Delivery of construction equipment and materials, temporary use of metered spaces for special occasions and utility repairs and replacement by Edison, Phone Co. and others.

Worked on tour bus stops and staging relocation with respect to the City's storage project and the city's Farmer's Market.

Reviewed the traffic plans for locations of potholing for the subway project.

Reviewed and mitigated construction operations of the Gateway project at Wilshire & Western boundary.

3: Reviewed construction-related transportation issues for projects presently under construction:

Anneberg and Crescent garage traffic Operations - Relocated the barricades to open up more space for circulation.

Conducted the preliminary evaluations of the proposed crosswalk in front of the Beverly Hills Audi dealership including an RFP for recruiting a design consultant.

D: Out of the ordinary activities

Attended the annual meeting of Traffic Engineers in Santa Barbara. New data and facts about travel trends in USA was presented. It was revealed that based on studies done by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, young drivers between the ages of 16 and 27 are driving less in comparison to ten years ago. Between 2001 and 2009, the average number of miles per year that the U.S. younger generation drove had dropped by almost 25% from 10,300 miles per capita to 7,900 miles. This downward trend has been consistent in the last 3 years (2009-2010 and 2011). Outside of the U.S., studies conducted in Germany and Australia revealed similar conclusions. The reasons for this downward trend are many but mainly due to higher gasoline prices and insurance premiums, the use of computers and smart phone features for communications (like texting, facebook, internet shopping and banking), more usage of public transportation, more usage of bicycles and pedestrian facilities. The general understanding of participants in the meeting was if this trend continues, city planners need to go back to their drawing boards and rethink priorities and budgeting for construction of multi-lane arterials and wide streets serving only automobiles. The concentration should be on designing public transportation facilities, bike routes, pedestrian amenities and road diets.