

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:	Matthew Fertal	From:	Keith G. Jones
Dept.:	City Manager	Dept.:	Public Works
Subject:	RECOMMENDATION OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION – MARCH 4, 2008: BELFAST DRIVE MEDIAN REMOVAL		
		Date:	March 25, 2008

OBJECTIVE

To forward the recommendation of the March 4, 2008 Traffic Commission meeting to remove the raised median on Belfast Drive.

BACKGROUND

On June 2005, staff conducted a neighborhood meeting to discuss local traffic volumes with residents from the area bound by Trask Avenue on the south, Garden Grove Boulevard on the north, Kerry Street on the east and Galway Street on the west. The purpose of the meeting was to listen to the community and discuss solutions to the relatively high traffic volumes.

As a result of the meeting, staff recommended to the Traffic Commission at the September 2005 meeting that the raised median on Belfast Drive be constructed. The item was unanimously approved. The item was subsequently taken to City Council, where it was also approved. In the spring of 2007 the median was constructed.

DISCUSSION

Staff conducted an after-study to determine the effects the raised median had on local traffic volumes. Depending on the particular street segment, traffic volumes were reduced from 20 to over 40 percent. Even with this significant traffic reduction, the city has been receiving numerous complaints due to the turning movement restrictions the median creates.

On January 24, staff mailed out over 350 ballots to the property owners in the affected area soliciting their input. The property owners were asked whether they wanted to keep the median, remove the median to allow full access at all locations, or remove the median and study other options to reduce traffic including possible turn movement restrictions at select locations.

With nearly a 40 percent voter response, the property owners chose to remove the raised median to allow full access at all locations by more than a 2 to 1 margin.

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The result of this ballot was presented at the March 4, 2008 Traffic Commission meeting. After discussion, the Traffic Commission recommended removal of the raised median.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to remove the median is approximately \$30,000. There are funds available in the current budget.

COMMUNITY VISION IMPLEMENTATION

This project is consistent with the community vision in fostering small business development, retention, and expansion.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- Approve the recommendation of the Traffic Commission to remove the existing raised median on Belfast Drive.

KEITH G. JONES
Director of Public Works

By: Dan Candelaria, P.E., T.E.
Acting City Traffic Engineer

Attachments: No. 1 - Vicinity Map
No. 2 - March 4, 2008 Traffic Commission Excerpt