

## TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STAFF REPORT

### **Agenda Item D-1. Main Street Traffic Issues January 5, 2010**

#### OBJECTIVE

To respond to a letter from the Garden Grove Downtown Business Association (GGDBA) requesting traffic modifications.

#### BACKGROUND

The Traffic Commission received a letter from Peter Katz, President of the GGDBA, requesting traffic modifications to Main Street from Garden Grove Blvd. to Acacia Pkwy. At the November 3, 2009 Traffic Commission Meeting, the Commission directed staff to review the request, perform the necessary studies, and agendaize the item for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

#### DISCUSSION

Below are the four (4) items requested by the GGDBA along with staff's analysis:

- 1. Increasing the speed limit from 15 to 25 mph so that law enforcement can issue speeding citations. The current 15 mph speed limit is not enforceable.***

Staff obtained the engineering and traffic speed survey report for Main Street from Garden Grove Blvd. to Acacia Pkwy. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is identified as 16 mph. This suggests that the currently posted 15 mph speed limit on Main Street should be maintained.

Reviewing the California Vehicle Code (CVC), Section 22358, however, speed limits based on an engineering and traffic survey may be only set at 60, 55, 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, or 25 miles per hour. To decrease the speed limit down to 15 mph, one of two conditions must exist as identified in CVC Sections 22358.3 and 22358.4:

The street must be "Narrow" – not exceeding 25 feet in width.  
A school or senior center must be nearby.

Neither of these two scenarios, however, exists. Main Street is 29 feet wide and no schools or senior centers are in the vicinity. Therefore, a 15 mph speed is unenforceable. The Garden Grove Police Department is in agreement with this determination.

- 2. The placement of a stop sign at the center parking lot crosswalk to slow the speed of traffic, especially southbound.***

As identified in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), "STOP signs should not be used for speed control." This is primarily because unwarranted stop signs have been shown to increase traffic accidents.

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Staff obtained traffic counts and performed an All-Way Stop Sign Warrant Study at the T-intersection. In order for a stop sign to be recommended, any two of four warrants must be met. These warrants include visibility, distance between traffic-controlled intersections, traffic volumes and number of accidents. None of the four warrants were satisfied.

**3. The placement of speed tables or rumble strips at each end of the street crosswalks to further slow the excessive speeds of traffic on Main Street.**

As addressed in Item #1, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on Main Street is 16 mph. Because a speeding problem cannot be identified, staff cannot support the installation of measures intended to reduce vehicle speeds

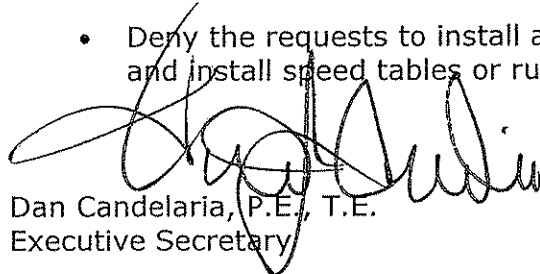
**4. Replacing the One-hour parking signs with Two-hour signs enabling diners and Main Street patrons to enjoy their visit at leisure.**

Staff recognizes the benefits an increase in the time allotted on the time limit signs would bring and supports this request.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Traffic Commission receive public input and approve staff's recommendation to:

- Increase the speed limit on Main Street from Garden Grove Blvd. to Acacia Pkwy. from 15 mph to 25 mph.
- Replace the One-Hour parking signs on Main Street from Garden Grove Blvd. to Acacia Pkwy. with Two-Hour parking signs.
- Deny the requests to install a stop sign on Main Street at the center parking lot and install speed tables or rumble strips at each end of the street.



Dan Candelaria, P.E., T.E.  
Executive Secretary

Attachments: Location Map  
GGDBA Letter dated October 15, 2009  
Radar Speed Survey  
Stop Sign Warrant Analysis  
Traffic Collision History Report  
California Vehicle Code Excerpts