

City Of Piedmont
Council Agenda Report

DATE: May 2, 2005

FROM: Lawrence A. Rosenberg, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: **Consideration of Traffic Improvements on Oakland Avenue and Magnolia Avenue Including Possible Removal of Parking Spaces (continued from 3-21-05)**

RECOMMENDATION:

Following public testimony, give direction to staff regarding any traffic improvements to be made based upon a report by Wiltec, the city's traffic engineers.

BACKGROUND:

Oakland Avenue at Bonita Avenue

As part of the continuing review of crosswalk improvements on Oakland Avenue and Magnolia Avenue, the Council authorized the placement of a crossing guard on a trial basis at the intersection of Oakland Avenue and Bonita Avenue (from April 1 to the end of the school year in June). This action has been well received.

Council also considered the feasibility of installing a traffic median (either raised concrete, rumble strips or raised pavement markers) at Oakland Avenue and Bonita Avenue to further protect pedestrians and act as a traffic calming device. The Fire Department has conducted tests with fire engines to insure their ability to safely maneuver around a median. It is clear from the test that any median installation will require the removal of five (5) or six (6) parking spaces. This would include:

- Two(2) Permit A spaces for school district employees on the Havens side of Oakland Avenue .
- Two (2) or three (3) residential spaces on the north side of Oakland Avenue.
- The elimination of a yellow zone on Bonita Avenue next to Havens School.

These changes are needed to permit buses, large trucks and fire apparatus to navigate the intersection safely. The proposed median, has been marked with white paint for public review.

It should be noted that parking availability at this intersection and in the immediate vicinity has been a major issue in the past with the neighbors and the Haven's teachers and parents significantly impacted.

Proposed Options:

Option 1: Installation of a raised median at the intersection of Oakland Avenue at Bonita Avenue and the removal of five (5) to six (6) parking spaces.

Option 2: No further improvements at this intersection

Oakland Avenue at El Cerrito Avenue:

As stated in the Wiltec report of December 23, 2004 (page 8), El Cerrito Avenue is a significant student crossing location compared to San Carlos Avenue. Pedestrians currently crossing at San Carlos Avenue should be encouraged to cross at El Cerrito Avenue by installing pedestrian barriers with signage directing them to an El Cerrito Avenue crossing. Wiltec recommends the installation of marked regular pedestrian crosswalks in both the eastern and western legs on Oakland Avenue at El Cerrito Avenue. Additionally, a clearly delineated median is recommended that protects pedestrian and acts as a traffic calming device. This would require the removal of eight (8) parking spaces. Wiltec further comments that the crosswalk could be supplemented with a crossing guard.

Option 1: Installation of marked regular pedestrian crosswalks in both the eastern and western legs at the intersection of Oakland Avenue at El Cerrito Avenue and the removal of up to eight (8) parking spaces and installation of a raised median.

Option 2: No changes at this intersection.

Oakland Avenue at Jerome Avenue/Fairview Avenue

Consistent with the Oakland Avenue at El Cerrito Avenue proposal and taking a comprehensive approach to traffic calming for the Oakland Avenue corridor, a similar proposal would be applied to this intersection with the removal of eight (8) parking spaces and the installation of a raised median.

Magnolia Avenue

Magnolia Avenue poses a unique challenge as it is a relatively narrow street without crosswalks (the exception being Magnolia Avenue at Park View Avenue where a school crossing guard is on duty). Currently, pedestrians including a large student contingent cross at any and all locations. Wiltec has recommended a number of possible improvements ranging from the removal of a few parking spaces to improve sight distances; installation of a marked crosswalk with the possible addition of a crossing guard to an all-way stop at Magnolia Avenue and El Cerrito Avenue (please refer to pages 9-11 of the Wiltec report).

Mr. Moses Wilson of Wiltec will be present at the May 2, 2005 Council meeting to discuss these recommendations.

Attachments:

1. Wiltec Report dated December 23, 2004 entitled "Pedestrian Safety Study on Magnolia Avenue and Oakland Avenue in the City of Piedmont"
2. Wiltec Report dated April 14, 2005 entitled "Responses to Comments on Oakland Avenue/Magnolia Avenue Pedestrian Safety Study"
3. Map illustrating potential Pedestrian Safety Improvements on Oakland Avenue