



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Aldinger and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development
Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

DATE: September 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Prioritization of Traffic Studies and Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan Areas as Initiated by the City Council Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council review the list of traffic engineering study items and provide staff with a prioritized ranking of the studies to be initiated in 2008.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The adopted 2007-2008 budget includes funds for contract Traffic Engineering services and implementation of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP). Along with ongoing traffic engineering duties, these funds can cover traffic studies and implementation of neighborhood traffic management measures.

BACKGROUND:

On November 19, 2002, the City Council approved the City-Wide Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP). This Program established a set of procedures to evaluate neighborhoods in an effort to improve livability of neighborhood streets. On March 18, 2003, the City Council prioritized several areas of the City for further analysis. At that meeting, the City Council identified the following priority areas:

1. Southeast Area including Mira Costa East and Poets Section,
2. Northeast Area,
3. School Area Neighborhoods.

The City Council prepares and adopts a Citywide Work Plan that focuses the City's efforts on certain improvements to the City's policies, programs and infrastructure. The Work Plan includes traffic engineering related items, which are handled by the Community Development Department. The 2007-2008 Work Plan items include reviewing parking restrictions on Sepulveda Blvd. and the pedestrian walking program. These items are included in the Exhibit A (noted with *) along with a compilation of many completed, ongoing and future traffic engineering studies that have been requested or discussed by Commissioners and residents. This report is meant to present these

items to the City Council in order to prioritize the available staff time on the highest priority tasks.

DISCUSSION:

Current NTMP Study Areas

The Southeast Area NTMP was completed in 2005 after a full evaluation, detailed traffic data collection, neighborhood survey, public workshops, PPIC review, and City Council presentation. A comprehensive list of traffic calming measures was implemented, then subsequently reviewed and additional measures implemented after a follow-up study was conducted.

The Northeast Area NTMP began in 2004 following the same NTMP process. While some initial measures have been implemented, a number have yet to be completed. Staff expects to begin a follow-up study this Fall with an evaluation to be presented to PPIC and City Council this winter. The estimated time to complete this work is approximately 2 months.

Currently the City is studying the neighborhoods surrounding the City's elementary schools in the third of three prioritized NTMP areas. The status of the school area studies are:

- The Grandview neighborhood has been evaluated, implemented and completed.
- The Robinson neighborhood has been evaluated and initial measures have been implemented. Follow-up reviews will be presented to the PPIC and City Council in December and January respectively.
- The Pacific neighborhood has been evaluated and initial measures have been implemented. Follow-up reviews will be presented to the PPIC and City Council in December and January respectively.
- The Pennekamp neighborhood has been initiated, with a public workshop and initial measures scheduled for October.
- The American Martyrs neighborhood has been initiated, with a public workshop and initial measures scheduled for October.
- The Meadows neighborhood has been initiated, with a public workshop and initial measures scheduled for November.
- The Manhattan Beach Middle School was evaluated in the Northeast Area NTMP and a follow-up review and workshops will be held in conjunction with the Northeast Area NTMP follow-up study, with special emphasis on school circulation and parking.

Other Current Traffic Engineering Studies

The Traffic Engineer is currently leading the Downtown Parking Management Plan study, which began in Fall 2006. All four seasons have been studied, including extensive summer parking counts to determine occupancy rates and duration in both public and private lots. A merchant survey questionnaire is being distributed to the downtown businesses, and a land use assessment is underway. All of the information and analysis will be summarized in a draft report to be presented to the PPIC in November and to the City Council in December. The report will outline a strategy for implementing improvements to the observed parking issues for the City Council's consideration.

The Traffic Engineer is also studying the usage and effects of a pilot project to establish a taxi stand in the downtown area on Morningside Drive south of 13th Street. An evaluation will be presented to the PPIC this Fall, and also incorporated into the Downtown Parking Management Plan Report.

Prioritized Areas

Since current staffing resources is limited it is prudent to identify a short list of topics that can be studied each year. Part of the NTMP process is to ensure that neighborhoods with demonstrated problems and community support for traffic improvements have equal access to neighborhood traffic management measures.

In evaluating each of the identified areas, there are several factors that can be considered for comparison purposes:

- East of Sepulveda Blvd. – In 2003, the City Council recommended that areas east of Sepulveda Boulevard be studied initially. Comprehensive studies in these areas are now finalized or reaching completion by the end of the year.
- Volume of Traffic- Areas with higher residential traffic volumes have higher impacts on citizens and tend to generate higher numbers of complaints.
- Prior Evaluations - Areas that have been previously studied may be given a lower ranking in order to offer equal opportunity for non-studied areas in the City.
- Size – Larger areas tended to have higher ranking due to the potential benefit to more residents. Note: A smaller area with a lower ranking could be studied in the same fiscal year as a large area if funds are not available for a second larger area.
- Isolated Areas – Areas that are not attractive to cut-through traffic or have very localized issues may be ranked lower.
- Number of Requests - Areas that have generated a series of related requests may be given a higher ranking.
- Work Plan Items* - Pedestrian Walking Program and Parking Restrictions on Sepulveda Blvd.

Based on the current workload, staff would suggest finalizing several ongoing studies by the end of the year and then initiating one new NTMP area and one new general traffic engineering study in 2008.

CONCLUSION:

As identified above, the current prioritization and on-going work plan items are expected to demand the Traffic Engineer’s full attention for the remainder of the calendar year. Beginning in 2008, new traffic engineering studies can be initiated pursuant to the City Council’s Work Plan and NTMP prioritization directives.

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A – Traffic Engineering Studies List

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**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STUDIES LIST
EXHIBIT A**

Current and Completed Work Items

NO.	STUDY ITEM	LOCATION	COMMENTS
1	Disabled Street Parking Policy	Citywide	Adopted October 2002.
2	Sand Dune Park Parking	Bell Ave. 35 th to Rosecrans	Completed 2004. New roundabout, angled pkg, neighborhood signs.
3	Southeast Area NTMP	East of Sepulveda, South of MB Blvd.	Completed 2005. Comprehensive plan of initial and final measures
4	Mira Costa High School Override Parking	South of 2 nd Street, East of Sepulveda	Completed Sept. 2006. Established policy for parking restrictions with resident override.
5	Bicycle Transportation Plan	Citywide	Draft Plan presented in February 2005, CC approved incorporation into regional plan.
6	Northeast Area NTMP	East of Sepulveda, North of Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Initial measures approved Nov. 2005. Some measures still pending implementation Follow-up Winter 2007.
7	Meadows Ave. Traffic Calming	Marine Ave. to Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Ongoing study. Incorporate into NE Area Follow Up Study.
8	Downtown Taxicab Stands	Downtown	Pilot location on Morningside May 2007. Follow-up study Fall 2007 (DPMP)
9	School Areas NTMP	Elementary and Middle Schools	<u>Grandview</u> Initial and final measures completed, including new loading zone. <u>Pacific</u> initial measures implemented. <u>Robinson</u> initial measures implemented. <u>Pennekamp</u> ongoing, scheduled for Fall 2007 <u>American Martyrs</u> ongoing. <u>Meadows</u> scheduled for Fall 2007.
10	Downtown Parking Management Plan (DPMP)	Downtown	Ongoing Study. 2-3 months to prepare report. Draft Report scheduled Winter 2007.

Future Neighborhood Traffic Management Plans

NO.	STUDY ITEM	LOCATION	COMMENTS
11	Tree Section		
12	Ardmore/33 rd St.	Eastbound at Sepulveda	Long queues, access
13	Blanche Rd.	Rosecrans to Valley	Speeding, excessive volume
14	Marine Avenue	Sepulveda to Meadows	Previously studied, cut-thru traffic, excessive volume, too many stops, long queues,
15	Oak Avenue	Marine to MB Blvd.	Cut-thru traffic to/from Sepulveda, speeding
16	Valley/Oak	Rosecrans to 35 th Street	Cut-thru traffic to/from Sepulveda, hotel overflow parking and traffic
17	30 th Street	West of Sepulveda	Overflow commercial parking
18	El Porto Area	North of Rosecrans Ave.	Cut-thru traffic, beach access, parking issues
19	40 th Street	Beach Lot to Highland	Previously studied, beach traffic, parking issues
20	Ocean Drive	Rosecrans to 45 th Street	Previously studied, cut-thru traffic, excessive volumes
21	Highland Ave.	Rosecrans to 45 th Street	Excessive volumes, pedestrian crossings, inadequate commercial parking
22	Southwest Area	South of MB Blvd., west of Sepulveda	
23	11 th Street	Sepulveda to Poinsettia	Cut-thru traffic to avoid intersection
24	Highland / Manhattan Ave.	Longfellow to MB Blvd.	Pedestrian conflicts, high volume and speeding
25	Sand Section		
26	Highland / Manhattan Ave.	Longfellow to Rosecrans	Pedestrian conflicts, high volumes, speeding, overflow beach parking
27	Liberty Village	North of MB Blvd., East of Redondo Ave.	Visibility of Aviation access, cut-thru traffic
28	Sepulveda Corridor	City Limits	Conflicts between resident/commercial uses
29	Manhattan Village	Meadows/Portsmouth and Peck/Gateway	Previously studied, prohibited north/south access
30	Bell/Blanche Dune Section	Rosecrans to 33 rd Street	Previously studied, cut-thru traffic, limited access to Rosecrans, sand dune parking/access

Future Traffic Engineering Study Items

NO.	STUDY ITEM	LOCATION	COMMENTS
31	Uniform Crosswalk Treatments	Citywide	Establish a policy for uniform crosswalk styles for uncontrolled, stopped and signalized crosswalks. Consider criteria for enhanced treatments such as beacons, paddle signs, raised xwalks, pavement lights.
32*	Pedestrian Walking Program (Work Plan Item)	Citywide	Establish programs and consider incentives to encourage walking programs throughout downtown and within each school area.
33	Speed Awareness Sign Policy	Citywide	Establish policy for installing electronic speed awareness signs on streets with speeding.
34	Construction Related Parking	Citywide	Establish policy for temporary parking restrictions/loading zones.
35*	Parking Restriction on Sepulveda Blvd. (Work Plan Item)	Sepulveda Blvd.	Determine feasibility and potential impacts of prohibiting street parking on Sepulveda Blvd.