

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
January 22, 2015**

01/22/15-4 Request for All-Way Stop Signs at Valley Drive/Oak Street/35th Street

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet gave his presentation and recommended that the Commission approve a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of Valley Drive/Oak Avenue/35th Street, including temporary realignment of the south and west approaches on a trial basis.

Chair Nicholson asked Traffic Engineer Zandvliet if he had any conversations with the residents of the senior center.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered he had not but he could if necessary.

Commissioner King asked how many units were in the senior center and if there had been any discussion with the property manager.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet answered there are 45 units, and he had not spoken to the property manager but they were notified through mailed notice.

Commissioner Apostol asked about the costs to realign the intersection both temporarily and permanently.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet provided estimated costs.

Chair Nicholson opened the audience participation.

Audience Participation

Megan Aldred, 3400 N. Valley Drive #10, explained that it is very dangerous to get out of their driveway onto Valley Drive and at certain times of the day they cannot even go out. She stated that there have been several accidents and just the other day. They almost got hit by a motorcycle that was going too fast. The driver started yelling at them. She asked the Commission to install the stop signs for the safety of all of the residents on Valley Drive.

Dan Constant, 2811 N. Valley, Neighborhood Watch Block Captain, commented that he thought the information on this intersection was well presented by Traffic Engineer Zandvliet. He said with all the visitors driving through their neighborhood, the City needs to slow down the speeding traffic for the safety of the residents and their vehicles. He explained that cars have been hit, multiple side mirrors have been knocked

off and his own car was totaled. He supports the recommendation and suggested that City should re-stripe the bike lane because the way it is now it is unsafe, and add some lighting and illuminated stop signs on Valley Drive.

Pattie Izzo, 2815 Valley Drive, said the narrow bike lane and the speeding cars are a safety problem for the residents. She said she is terrified to even get in and out of her car for fear of being hit.

Gary Kucher, Manhattan Beach Resident, stated that if a stop sign is placed at that location, it would create problems for Walnut and Elm Streets due to people cutting through to avoid the back up from the stop signs. He stated he thought there needed to be more study about the potential impacts on other streets, and he is against any four way stop at this time.

Antoinette Gill, 3605 Oak Ave, stated she was in favor of the four way stop to help slow down traffic.

Mara McPhee, 3403 N. Valley Drive, explained that the four way stop is needed because it is so dangerous with the cars speeding down Valley Drive.

Shawn Jensen, 3119 N. Valley Drive, commented that his car and his neighbor's car had been hit by speeding cars and his neighbor's car has had more than one side mirror damaged. He stated he was in favor of anything that would help slow down the speeding cars and make the street safer.

Chair Nicholson closed the audience participation.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Fournier explained he did not want to take any action on the item because he agreed with the resident that said the stop signs would increase the traffic problems for other streets and he felt those neighbors should be able to weigh in on the decision making process. He suggested the senior center issue should be a separate issue and would like to do something to make the senior center exit safer, but, he wasn't sure what could be done.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said he looked at senior center exit and there wasn't much that could be done because of the way the exit aligns with Valley Drive. He added that the changes would be on a trial basis to see how they worked.

Commissioner King commented that he agreed with Commissioner Fournier on not making a decision on the item for all kinds of complicated reasons.

Commissioner Lipps agreed that the bike lane is not correct and is squeezing the traffic. He said he would like to see what a temporary traffic calming solution would do.

Chair Nicholson felt with all of the safety issues at the senior center exit and all of the parked cars being hit by speeding cars, he could not just do nothing. He stated that some kind of temporary traffic calming needs to be done.

Commissioner Apostol said he agreed that something needs to be done and complimented Traffic Engineer Zandvliet on the creative temporary solution he came up with.

Lt. Harrod of the M.B. Police Department stated he thought the temporary solution was a good idea and if there were any other safety issues that came up during the trial they could be evaluated.

MOTION: Chair Nicholson made a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to install stop signs in all directions at the intersection of Valley Drive/Oak Avenue/35th Street, including temporary realignment of the south and west approaches on a trial basis of six months. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipps.

Ayes: Lipps, Nicholson, Fournier and Apostol.

Noes: King.

Abstain: None.