



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council

Item No. _____

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: Proposed Traffic Sign Installations and Red Curb Markings
along Ferguson Drive

MEETING DATE: May 1, 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council approve the proposed traffic improvements on Ferguson Drive consisting of new signage and red curb markings to increase overall safety and reduce traffic congestion.

BACKGROUND:

During August 2017 and January 2018, residents along Ferguson Drive, particularly in between Saybrook Avenue and Garfield Avenue, reported issues to the City regarding overall traffic safety along Ferguson Drive (*see Attachment 1*).

Community residents voiced concerns that a high volume of oversized trucks enter into the residential area through Ferguson Drive and are thereby increasing heavy traffic onto this street. Residents believe that these trucks are compromising both vehicular and pedestrian safety as these oversized vehicles create increased traffic congestion in an already narrow street. Staff investigated the installation of new signs to help alleviate this situation and is discussed in the "Analysis" section.

In addition, residents also raised the issue of the lack of visibility or sight distance at the cul-de-sac intersections of Miracle Place, Nicola Avenue, Tolmie Avenue, and Burrard Avenue. The proximity of parked vehicles, in conjunction with the intersection geometry, has led to concerns that drivers of exiting vehicles from these intersections have difficulty seeing over-parked vehicles, which make them apprehensive when making left or right turns. Staff investigated the refreshment and extension of these red curbs to help alleviate this situation and is discussed in the "Analysis" section.

The red curb refreshment and extensions were presented to the Traffic Commission and were approved during its regularly scheduled meeting on February 14, 2018.

New sign installations regulating local and truck traffic were presented to the Traffic Commission and were approved during its regularly scheduled meeting on April 11, 2018.

ANALYSIS:

Public Works staff visited the site along Ferguson Drive between Gerhart Avenue to Garfield Avenue on five (5) different occasions between the months of December 2017 through March 2018 and made analyses that have resulted in the following recommendations described below.

Ferguson Drive from Saybrook Avenue to Garfield Avenue is a mixed use residential–commercial street in which many trucks that enter this area are “out-of-town” truckers who are taking a “short-cut” through Ferguson Drive. The residential area would benefit from the reduction of the passage of overweight trucks into this area. Public Works staff is recommending the installation of the following signs in these respective locations (see *Attachment 2*):

NO LEFT TURN FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 4 PM TO 7 AM:

- Northbound Garfield Ave. at the intersection of Garfield Ave. & Ferguson Dr.
(see *Attachment 2, sheet 2*)



NO RIGHT TURN FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 4 PM TO 7 AM:

- Southbound Garfield Ave. at the intersection of Garfield Ave. & Ferguson Dr.
(see *Attachment 2, sheet 3*)



NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 4 PM TO 7 AM / LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY:

- Westbound Ferguson Dr. at the intersection of Garfield Ave. & Ferguson Dr.
(see *Attachment 2, sheet 4*)
- Eastbound Ferguson Dr. at the intersection of Saybrook Ave. & Ferguson Dr.
(see *Attachment 2, sheet 5*)
- Westbound Ferguson Dr. at the intersection of Saybrook Ave. & Ferguson Dr.
(see *Attachment 2, sheet 8*)
- Eastbound Ferguson Dr. at the intersection of Gerhart Ave. & Ferguson Dr.
(see *Attachment 2, sheet 10*)



Public Works staff analyzed the above locations to be ideal for the installation of the aforementioned signs in alleviating or reducing large, overweight trucks into these neighborhoods. It is important to note that *not* all trucks are being restricted. Only those trucks that are *not* local businesses in the City of Commerce are restricted from entering these neighborhoods. In addition, truckers not local to the City of Commerce will be notified not to enter into the residential areas along Ferguson Drive for the purpose of “short-cutting” through.

The installation of these signs will better effectuate overall vehicular and pedestrian safety, and above all, reduce traffic congestion along Ferguson Drive. Upon the installation of these signs, traffic enforcement officers will have the discretion to cite alleged violators.

In addition, Public Works staff reviewed traffic collision statistics published by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for 2015, which are the most recent statistics available to the City. The statistics indicate that the majority of the accidents were from passenger vehicles making various turns at select intersections (*see Attachment 3*). The installation of the proposed additional signs is expected to help reduce some of these traffic incidents by reducing the volume of vehicular traffic.

Public Works staff will make certain that these signs are installed properly and that they conform to all rules and regulations pertaining to sign installation, such as the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (CA MUTCD).

Per City of Commerce Municipal Code section 10.20.010, the City Administrator is authorized to place and maintain official traffic control devices within the city.

The parking of vehicles at the intersections of Miracle Place, Nicola Avenue, Tolmie Avenue, and Burrard Avenue along Ferguson Drive inhibits the “sight triangle” whereby exiting vehicles from these intersections have difficulty turning into Ferguson Drive.

In order to remedy the situation, Public Works staff has determined that red curbs of approximately three (3) feet in length be placed at the end of the curb returns for each intersection (*see Attachment 4, sheets 2, 3, 4, and 5*). The placement of these red curbs will prevent vehicles from parking in these areas thereby improving visibility and increasing the sight distance triangle.

The remedies described above, all working in conjunction, will enhance sight visibility at these intersections, as well as increase overall traffic and pedestrian safety.

The decrease in supply of available parking spaces in the area due to the addition of more red curbs are not expected to highly impact parking availability, since three (3) feet is not too significant curb space removal. Furthermore, most residents have two car garages with driveways to accommodate their parking needs.

Parking regulations and curb markings are guided by the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), the California Vehicle Code (CVC), and the City of Commerce Municipal Code (CMC).

Specifically, per CMC §10.48.020, the City Administrator is authorized to place red curb markings when deemed necessary.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff recommendation
2. Reject staff recommendation
3. Provide staff with further direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

Direct costs include the fabrication of the proposed “NO RIGHT TURN COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 4 PM TO 7 AM,” “NO LEFT TURN COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 4 PM TO 7 AM,” and also for the “NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 4 PM TO 7 AM” & “LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY” signs with their appropriate dimensions. Also included are the installations of new sign poles (if needed). Furthermore, the installation of these signs can be made with a work order to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (County) or through the Ferguson Drive capital improvement project.

Therefore, the *approximate* cost breakdown is as follows (*includes both material & labor*):

- Custom fabricate one (1) “NO RIGHT TURN COMM. VEHICLES” sign: \$ 500
- Custom fabricate one (1) “NO LEFT TURN COMM. VEHICLES” sign: \$ 500
- Custom fabricate four (4) “NO COMM. VEHICLES” & “LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY” signs: \$2,500
- Red curb refreshment and extensions: \$1,000

ESTIMATED TOTAL: \$4,500

The above estimated cost of \$4,500 will be absorbed by the Public Works Operations budget or the Ferguson Drive capital improvement project, which either one has adequate funds to cover these costs. Alternatively, Public Works staff can also consider appropriating funds from Measure AA for this work if any funding shortfall is encountered.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

This item relates to Council's 2016 Strategic Action Plan's:

Community Quality of Life

- Guiding Principle 4 to “support and evaluate community services, programs and events that promote healthy and quality lifestyles for our residents. Enhance public safety and social services through innovative programs that meet the needs of the residential and business communities.”

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution
- Attachment 1: Community correspondence regarding Ferguson Drive
- Attachment 2: Ferguson Drive – Layout for “NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 4 PM TO 7 AM” & “LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY” signs
- Attachment 3: California Highway Patrol (CHP) traffic collision statistics
- Attachment 4: Red curb marking layout along Ferguson Drive between Saybrook Avenue and Garfield Avenue

Approved by: Maryam Babaki, P.E., Public Works & Development Services Director

Fiscal Impact reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Director of Finance

Approved as to form by: Norma Copado, Assistant City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Administrator