



**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

TO: Parking and Public Improvements Commission

FROM: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development
Nhung Madrid, Senior Management Analyst 
Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer 

DATE: September 25, 2014

SUBJECT: Consider a Request for Stop Signs at 19th Street and Rowell Avenue

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parking and Public Improvements Commission pass a motion to direct the Police Department to increase speed enforcement on 19th Street, and to deny the request for stop signs in all directions at the intersection of 19th Street and Rowell Avenue.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2014, the City received a petition signed by 18 residents representing 11 homes on 19th Street (9), 21st Street (1) and Wendy Way (1) requesting the installation of stop signs in all directions at the 19th Street and Rowell Avenue (Exhibit 1). The petition states that motorists speed through the intersection on 19th Street, especially during school times.

In May 2013, the City installed 25 MPH speed limit signs on 19th Street in advance of the intersection at Rowell Avenue.

In November 2013, the City received a request from Mr. Neil Snow, a resident at 1341 19th Street, to install stop signs in all directions at 19th Street and Rowell Avenue. The Traffic Engineer evaluated the intersection and determined that it did not meet the State warrants for the installation of stop signs, due to low traffic volumes, absence of a collision history, and good sight distance. However, in April 2014, the City painted high-visibility crosswalks on all four legs, and posted crosswalk warning signs on 19th Street to raise driver awareness of the possible pedestrian crossings.

DISCUSSION:

The intersection of 19th Street and Rowell Avenue is located in a residential area east of Sepulveda Boulevard (Exhibit 2). Both streets are 24-foot wide two-lane local streets with a 25mph prima facie speed limit. Rowell Avenue is stopped at 19th Street. Both streets are improved with curbs, and sidewalks. Curb parking is allowed on both sides of both streets, except for street sweeping restrictions. There is red curb on the east side of Rowell Avenue just north of 19th Street and on the north side of 19th Street just west of Rowell Avenue to improve sight distance and turning movements. Curb parking demand is generally light during the day to moderate at night. There is a slight vertical curve on the east leg of 19th and a slight downhill slope in the southbound direction of Rowell Avenue. There is a cross-gutter on the south leg of

Rowell Avenue. Sight distance is good from the north and south legs of Rowell Avenue when stopped at the stop signs. Pedestrian visibility is good in all directions. Meadows Elementary School is located two blocks to south of the intersection.

Field Observations

Field observations were made on typical days during peak and non-peak periods. Field observations confirm low traffic volumes on all legs and other physical characteristics at the intersection as noted above. Proper right-of-way is assigned by stop signs on Rowell Avenue. There is adequate sight distance for motorists stopped on the north and south legs of Rowell Avenue looking east and west. Sight distance is also good for pedestrians looking at approaching traffic (Exhibit 3). Recurrent speeding was not observed on any of the approaching street segments or through the intersection because of the narrow streets and parked cars. The Traffic Engineer observed that most motorists slow down on 19th Street well below the speed limit before entering the intersection.

The traffic collision history between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2012 was analyzed for both intersections. According to City records, there have been no collisions reported near the intersection during this five (5) year period.

A vehicle volume count was conducted on September 4, 2014 while school was in session. A summary of the peak hour and daily volumes are provided below:

VEHICLES DIRECTION	AM PEAK HOUR	PM PEAK HOUR	DAILY
Northbound (Rowell Avenue)	48	184	574
Southbound (Rowell Avenue)	<u>82</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>841</u>
Subtotal	130	303	1,415
Westbound (19 th Street)	103	81	678
Eastbound (19 th Street)	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>231</u>
Subtotal	132	111	909
Intersection Total	262	414	2,324

Multi-way Stop Signs

The State of California has established guidelines for the installation of stop signs. These criteria have been widely accepted and are used by the City of Manhattan Beach. Multi-way or all-way stop controls are generally recommended when one or more of the State criteria are satisfied and indicate the existing traffic control devices are not sufficient to assign proper right-of-way or cannot be remedied through other means.

A stop sign warrant checklist was completed that indicates that multi-way stop signs are NOT warranted at this intersection (Exhibit 4). This intersection has sufficient right-of-way controls, does not meet minimum traffic volumes and has no collision history. Sight distance is more than adequate for both vehicles and pedestrians.

There are several disadvantages to four-way stop signs at 19th Street and Rowell Avenue:

- Additional stop signs along 19th Street would increase delay to motorists, causing some drivers to accelerate faster between stops to make up for lost time.
- Stop signs increase ambient noise and pollution in the immediate vicinity.
- Stop signs should not be used to control speed and are not a cure-all.
- Stop signs do not relieve the responsibility of pedestrians to use caution before entering a street.
- A stop sign at Rowell Avenue would be expected to slightly increase traffic volumes on 19th Street because stops encourage more turning movements.
- Stop signs increase the potential for rear-end traffic collisions.
- Local drivers quickly become accustomed to unjustified stop signs and begin to run stop signs because they repeatedly see no reason to stop, thereby increasing the potential for collisions.
- Unjustified stop signs lead to general disregard for other justified stop signs throughout the City.

It is the Traffic Engineer's professional opinion that the recent traffic measures at and near the intersection have increased overall traffic and pedestrian safety. These measures included the following:

- A. Speed Limit Signs on 19th Street
- B. High-Visibility Crosswalks on All Legs
- C. Crosswalk Warning Signs on 19th Street at Rowell Avenue
- D. Advance Crosswalk Signs on 19th Street in Eastbound and Westbound Directions

Stop signs are not a cure-all, and should not be used to address speeding issues. Speed enforcement is the appropriate action for speeding.

Public Notice

Residents within 500 feet of the intersection and the petitioners were notified by mail of the proposed stop sign request and were invited to give input to the Commission (Exhibits 5 & 6).

CONCLUSION:

Based on minimum State guidelines, multi-way stop signs are not justified at the intersection of 19th Street and Rowell at this time. It is recommended that the Commission pass a motion to increase speed enforcement on 19th Street, and to deny the request for stop signs in all directions at the intersection of 19th Street and Rowell Avenue.

- Exhibits:
1. Stop Sign Petition and Map
 2. Aerial Photo and Location Map
 3. Site Photos
 4. Stop Sign Warrant Checklist
 5. Mailed Public Notice
 6. Public Comments

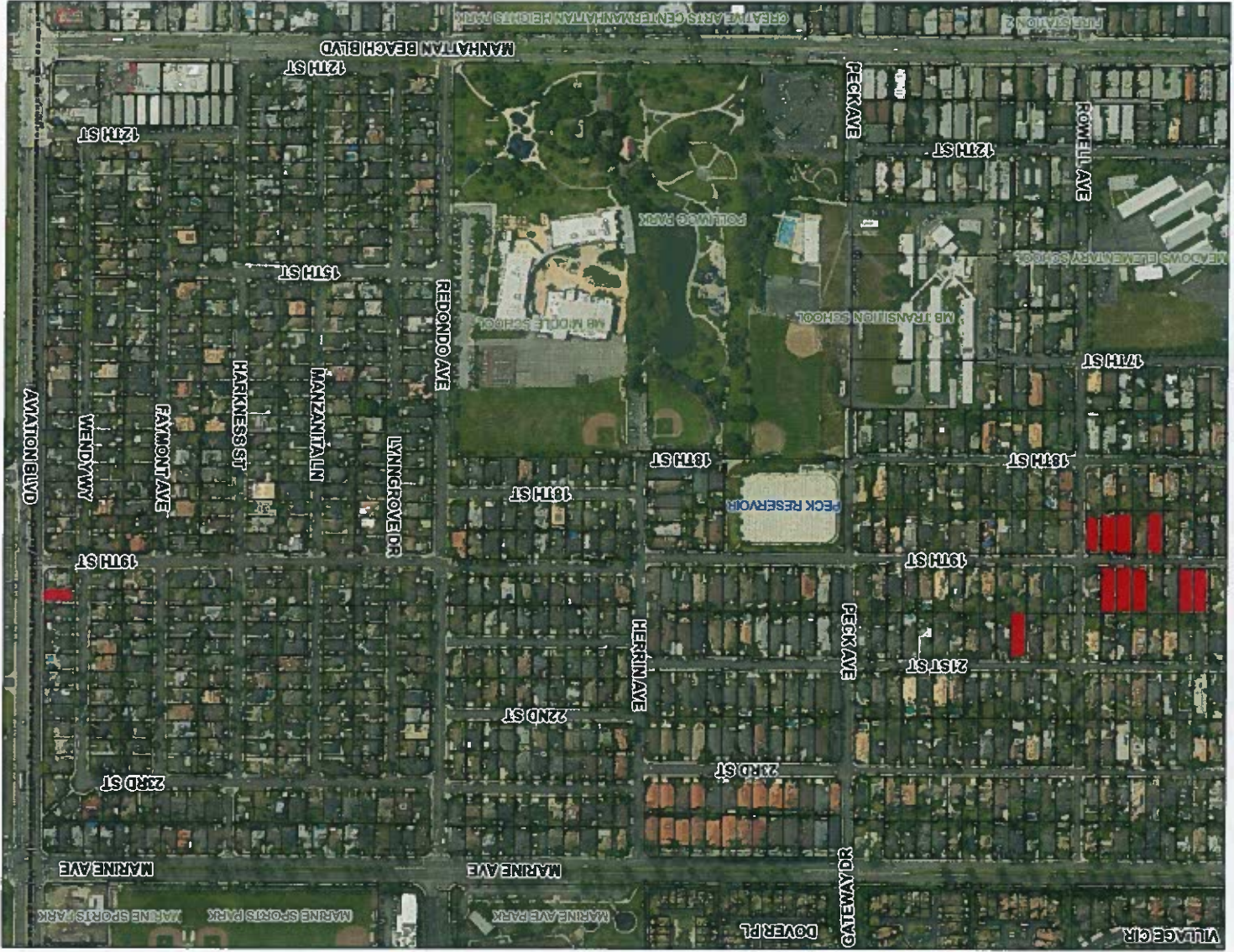
Residents living near the corner of 19th and Rowell expressed concern regarding speeding traffic, especially during the morning and afternoon when parents are driving their children to and from school. We worried that a child or senior citizen might be injured. A request for the installation of two stop signs was made to the city of Manhattan Beach. Instead, crosswalks and five very large and bright signs to alert motorists to slow down were erected on 19th Street in early April 2014. The undersigned have observed that the crosswalks and signs have not resulted in motorists slowing down! Therefore, we request that the all five signs be replaced with two stop signs. Thank-you for considering our request.

Print Name	Address	Signature
MARY BRENNEMAN	1330- 19 th ST - M.B.ch	Mary L. Brenneman, M.D.
Neil Snow	1341 19 th ST M-B	Neil Snow
Mike Butters	1345 19 th M.B	Mike Butters
MARILEEN Butters	1345 19 th St M.B	Marileen E. Butters
Maria Rafael	1350 19 th St. M.B.	Maria Rafael
E.M. Carpenter	1321 - 19 th St. M. B.	Elizabeth M. Carpenter
Steve Taylor	1315 19 th M.B	Steve Taylor
Mary Taylor	1315 19 th MB	Mary Taylor
CARA SCHEINBERG	1335 19 th St MB	Cara Scheinberg
LICAH SCHEINBERG.	1335 19 th St MB	Licah Scheinberg
Lilia Jackson	1340 19 th St MB	Lilia Jackson
Mark Jackson	1340 19 th St MB	Mark Jackson
michael Wilk	1344 19 th St. MB	Michael Wilk
Jane Rich	1904 Wendy Way M.B.	Jane Rich

Residents living near the corner of 19th and Rowell expressed concern regarding speeding traffic, especially during the morning and afternoon when parents are driving their children to and from school. We worried that a child or senior citizen might be injured. A request for the installation of two stop signs was made to the city of Manhattan Beach. Instead, crosswalks and five very large and bright signs to alert motorists to slow down were erected on 19th Street in early April 2014. The undersigned have observed that the crosswalks and signs have not resulted in motorists slowing down! Therefore, we request that the all five signs be replaced with two stop signs. Thank-you for considering our request.

Print Name	Address	Signature
Keith W-Rich	1904 Wendy Way	Keith W. Rich
Julie Snow	1341 19th St. Manhattan Bch.	Julie Snow
Margaret Tauber	1416 21st St Manhattan Beach	Margaret Tauber
Zachary Snow	1341-19th St. Manhattan Beach	Zachary Snow

Manhattan Beach



- Legend**
- City Boundary
 - Streets
 - Parcels
- Basemap Labels**
- Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3
- L3_6440_1778c.tif
- Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3
- L3_6440_1783d.tif
- Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3
- L3_6445_1778b.tif
- Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3
- L3_6445_1783a.tif

Scale: 1:5,914

This map is a user generated static output from the "MB GIS Info" Intranet mapping site and is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

Notes
 MARKED HOMES SIGNED THE PETITION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALL-WAY STOP SIGN

EXHIBIT 2
AERIAL PHOTO AND LOCATION MAP
19th Street at Rowell Avenue



**EXHIBIT 3
SITE PHOTOS**



19th Street East of Rowell Avenue Looking West



19th Street West of Rowell Avenue Looking East



19th Street (North Leg) at Rowell Avenue Looking East



19th Street (North Leg) at Rowell Avenue Looking West



19th Street (South Leg) at Rowell Avenue Looking West



19th Street (South Leg) at Rowell Avenue Looking East



EXHIBIT 4

STOP SIGN WARRANT CHECKLIST

MAJOR STREET: 19th Street MINOR STREET: Rowell Avenue

REQUESTED BY: Citizen Petition DATE: 9/16/2014

REVIEWED BY: Erik Zandvliet

Warranted?

SINGLE STREET STOP SIGN WARRANTS

On a less important road where the normal right-of-way rules would not be expected to provide reasonable compliance with the law.

On a street entering a legally established through highway or street.

At an unsignalized intersection in a signalized area.

At other intersections where high speeds, restricted view, or crash record indicates a need for control by a stop sign.

MULTI-WAY STOP SIGN WARRANTS

Where traffic signals are warranted, and stop signs are used as an interim measure to control traffic while the signal is installed.

Where a crash problem exists, as indicated by five or more reported accidents within a 12 month period of a type correctable by a multi-way stop sign.

Where the total vehicular volume entering from the major street approaches average at least 300 vehicles per hour for any 8 hours, and

the combined vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian volume from the minor street approaches average at least 200 units per hour for the same 8 hours, with an average delay to the minor street traffic is at least 30 seconds per vehicle during the highest hour, and

if the 85th percentile approach speed of the minimum vehicular volume warrant is 70 per cent

Where there four or more reported accidents within a 12 month period of a type correctable by a multi-way stop sign, and the average major and minor street volumes are at least 80% of the minimum values.

Other locations where multi-way stop signs are justified based on an engineering study.

MULTI-WAY STOP SIGN WORKSHEET

MAJOR STREET: 19th Street 85TH SPEED - < 40 MPH

MINOR STREET: Rowell Avenue DATE: 9/16/2014

TRAFFIC VOLUMES **WARRANTED** **YES** **NO**

If the 85th percentile speed of the major street exceeds 40 MPH, use 70% volume.

Street	Min Volume	70%	80%	Ave.	Hour / Volume								
					7am	8am	9am	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	
Major	300	210	240	121	83	185	86	184	141	81	116	93	
Minor	200	140	160	81	113	132	35	97	108	50	64	49	

And, does the minor street have an average delay of at least 30 seconds in the peak hour?

Peak Average Delay	< 10 sec.
--------------------	-----------

COLLISION RECORD **WARRANTED** **YES** **NO**

Are there five or more reported collisions within a 12 month period of a type correctable by a multi-way stop sign?

DATE	TIME	DIRECTION	TYPE	CAUSE
2012	-	None	-	-
2011	-	None	-	-
2010	-	None	-	-
2009	-	None	-	-
2008	-	None	-	-
2007	-	None	-	-

80% COMBINATION **WARRANTED** **YES** **NO**

Are there four or more reported accidents within a 12 month period of a type correctable by a multi-way stop sign, and

Average major and minor street volumes are at least 80% of the minimum values?

OTHER MULTI-WAY STOP CONDITIONS **WARRANTED** **YES** **NO**

- | | | |
|--|-----|--|
| A. Need to control left turn conflicts | YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| B. Need to control vehicle/pedestrian conflicts at high ped locations | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| C. Visibility obstruction after stopping on minor street approach | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| D. Two similar neighborhood collector streets that would improve operation | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

Exhibit 5

Mailed Public Notice

PUBLIC MEETING

ALL WAY STOP SIGNS ON 19TH STREET & ROWELL AVENUE



The Parking and Public Improvements Commission (PPIC) will conduct a public meeting to consider the installation of all-way stop signs on 19th Street and Rowell Avenue.

PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION MEETING
WHEN: September 25, 2014 at 6:30 P.M.
WHERE: City Hall Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate. The Staff Report will be available at www.citymb.info on September 17, 2014 after 5:00 P.M. For additional information, please contact Nhung Madrid at (310) 802-5540 or email at nmadrid@citymb.info.

EXHIBIT 6
PPIC 9/25/14

Nhung Madrid

From: Merelyn Vanole <meryrae@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2014 4:34 PM
To: Nhung Madrid
Subject: 19th Street & Rowell

An all-way stop is long overdue at this location. I am all for it as I believe this is a dangerous intersection for children going to and from Meadows School (and older folks going to the mailbox)! I "vote" YES! Thank you. Merelyn Vanole, 1426-21st Street.

P.S. We can't depend on the driver's to heed caution.

Nhung Madrid

From: Susan Skolarus <sudello@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 9:42 AM
To: Nhung Madrid
Subject: All Way Stop Signs

Hi Nhung,

I received the notice of the public meeting regarding the All way stop signs. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting but I am in support of these signs! I have seen so many zooming cars fly by 19th/Rowell- it is very scary. Children walk and ride their bikes using this intersection to and from school everyday and I have witnessed one too many near accidents!

Thanks you for holding a hearing and I hope the installation of these signs happens soon.

Thank you,
Sue Skolarus
23rd St.

Nhung Madrid

From: Kalle, Superna <Superna_Kalle@spe.sony.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 11:53 AM
To: Nhung Madrid
Subject: 19th and Rowell Stop Sign

Hi Nhung,

I received the notice of the public meeting regarding the potential installation of a stop sign on 19th and Rowell. I can't attend but am fully supportive.

WE ALL REFER TO 19TH AND ROWELL (KIDS AND ADULTS) AS "DEATH ALLEY"!!

Thanks you for holding a hearing and I hope the installation of these signs happens soon.

Thank you,
Superna Kalle
21st and Rowell