


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

TO: Parking and Public Improvements Commission

FROM: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development
Robert D. Osborne, Management Analyst *RO* 

BY: Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

DATE: January 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Request for Stop Signs
Pacific Avenue at 18th Street

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission recommend the following:

1. Paint 25 feet of red curb on Pacific Avenue between the intersection and the first driveway on the northeast and southwest corners.
2. Replace and relocate school crossing warning signs on Pacific Avenue at the intersection of 18th Street in both directions.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2006, Mr. Paul Beswick, at 1729 Pacific Avenue, submitted a petition requesting stop signs in all directions at the intersection of Pacific Avenue and 18th Street. The petition states that the intersection is unsafe for both pedestrians and drivers. The petition is signed by 18 residents at 14 homes in the area.

DISCUSSION:

Pacific Avenue is a 40-foot wide, two-lane major local street that connects with Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue to the north and Manhattan Beach Boulevard to the south. Pacific Avenue provides north-south circulation for several streets in the area and is stopped at 19th 400' to the north and 17th Street 400' to the south. 18th Street is a 30-foot wide, two-lane local street that terminates at Ardmore Avenue to the west and Poinsettia Avenue to the east. The speed limit on both streets is 25 mph. Both streets have curbs, gutters and sidewalks. The intersection of 18th Street and Pacific Avenue is located in a single family residential area. There is a slight downhill slope on Pacific Avenue in a southerly direction near 18th Street. Parking is allowed on both sides of both streets. Pacific Elementary School is on Pacific Avenue at 17th Street south of subject intersection and American Martyrs Private Elementary School is located one block west of the intersection. The intersection is painted with yellow crosswalks on all approaches, and pedestrian warning signs are posted on Pacific Avenue in both directions in advance of 18th Street.

The traffic collision history between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2004 was analyzed for the intersection. According to City records, there have been no traffic collisions reported near the intersection during this four-year period. No collision patterns were identified.

A traffic volume count was conducted on October 30, 2001 during a typical day. A summary of the peak hour and daily traffic volume is provided below:

DIRECTION	AM PEAK HOUR	PM PEAK HOUR	DAILY
Northbound (Pacific Ave.)	259	224	2,198
Southbound (Pacific Ave.)	255	301	2,695
Subtotal	514	525	4,893
Eastbound (18 th Street)	<50	<50	<500
Westbound (18 th Street)	<15	<19	153

The existing Citywide Engineering and Traffic Survey was completed in April 2003. The speed limit was reduced in 2003 from 30 mph to 25 mph as the result of this survey. A statistical summary of the recorded speeds shown below confirms that prevailing speeds on Pacific Avenue are typical for a residential area and are considered lower than normal for a major local street.

Average Speed 25 mph
 85th Percentile Speed 29 mph
 10-mile Pace Speed 22-31 mph

Field observations were made at the intersection during peak travel periods. Staff confirmed the empirical traffic count data and speed data. Pacific Avenue carries moderate traffic volumes appropriate for its designation as a major local street. 18th Street carries very low traffic volumes. No delays were observed at the intersection. It was noted that there are old school crossing warning signs on Pacific Avenue that should be replaced and relocated closer to the intersection to be in compliance with newer State requirements. The new signs will raise driver awareness of the possibility of students crossing at this intersection.

Intersection visibility is good in all directions with the exception that vehicles parked close to the intersection on either side of Pacific Avenue restrict the view of stopped drivers looking north and south on Pacific Avenue. This can be remedied by painting approximately 25 feet of red curb between the intersection and the first driveway on the northeast and southwest corners, eliminating a total of two parking spaces. While field observations indicate that curb parking is moderately used, there is ample curb parking available along Pacific Avenue during the day.

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 criteria are satisfied. It is also advised that less intrusive measures be tried before resorting to multi-way stop signs. More important, stop signs should not be used for speed control.

A stop sign warrant checklist is attached to this report that indicates that multi-way stop signs are not warranted at this intersection based on volumes, speed or collision history. Multi-way stop

signs would be more appropriate at location with higher minor street volumes and/or a traffic collision history.

CONCLUSION:

Based on restricted sight distance for motorists waiting at the existing stop sign, approximately 25 feet of red curb on Pacific Avenue between the intersection and the first driveway on the northeast and southwest corners is recommended. In addition, the relocation and replacement of school crossing warning signs are recommended on Pacific Avenue at 18th Street to make motorists more aware of the intersection and the possibility of crossing students. The installation of stop signs in all directions is not recommended at this time. Meeting notices were sent to all properties within 300 feet of the subject intersection.

EHZ:

ATTACHMENTS

- Site Photos
- Vicinity Map
- Stop Sign Warrant Worksheet
- Petition Letter
- Notice of Public Hearing

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Pacific Avenue at 18th Street Looking Northbound (West Side)



Pacific Avenue at 18th Street Looking Southbound (West Side)



Pacific Avenue at 18th Street Looking Northbound (East side)



Pacific Avenue at 18th Street Looking Southbound (East side)



City of Manhattan Beach
Department of Community Development

**PACIFIC AVENUE
AT 18TH STREET
Request for Stop Signs**



STOP SIGN WARRANT CHECKLIST

MAJOR STREET: Pacific Avenue MINOR STREET: 18th Street

REQUESTED BY: Citizen Petition DATE: 1/17/07

REVIEWED BY: EHZ

Warranted?

SINGLE STREET STOP SIGN WARRANTS - None

- 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 – Not Applicable

- 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 major street traffic exceeds 40 MPH, the minimum vehicular volume warrant is 70 percent of the above requirements.
- 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: Pacific Avenue 85TH SPEED - < 40mph

MINOR STREET: 18th Street DATE: 1/17/07

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								
					8a	9	11a	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	
Major	300	210	240	391	482	306	301	383	462	375	484	333	
Minor	200	140	160	<65	< 65								

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

Peak Average Delay	<30 sec
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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
2004		NONE		
2003		NONE		
2002		NONE		
2001		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	YES	NO
B. Need to control vehicle/pedestrian conflicts at high ped locations	YES	YES	NO
C. Visibility obstruction after stopping on minor street approach	YES	YES	NO
D. Two similar neighborhood collector streets that would improve operation	YES	YES	NO

Paul G. Beswick
1729 Pacific Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-4915
Phone: (310) 545-5229

*Rich / Rob
Please follow up*

November 14, 2006

Mr. Geoff Dolan
City Manager
City of Manhattan Beach
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Subject: 4-Way Stop at Pacific Avenue and 18th Street

Dear Mr. Dolan,

Please find enclosed with this letter a petition signed by me, my wife and sixteen of our neighbors who live on or near the corner of Pacific Avenue and 18th Street.

We are requesting that the City of Manhattan Beach take immediate action to install stop signs on Pacific Avenue at 18th Street, making that corner a 4-way stop.

We feel very strongly that the current situation at this corner (with no stop signs on Pacific Avenue) presents a significant hazard to public safety and a potential liability for the city. There is a safety hazard for pedestrians, especially school children, crossing Pacific Avenue and for both cars traveling along Pacific and those pulling out of 18th Street.

Thank you for your assistance on this important matter.

Yours very truly,




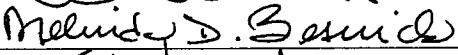
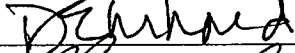

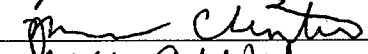

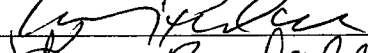

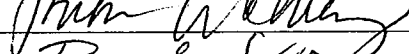





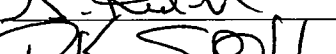
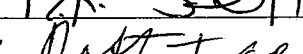
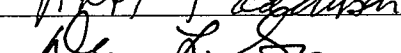
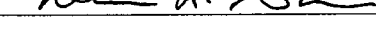
Paul G. Beswick

Petition for a 4-Way Stop at Pacific Avenue and 18th Street

We hereby ask the City of Manhattan Beach to install stop signs on Pacific Avenue at 18th Street, making that corner a 4-way stop.

- We feel that the current situation at that corner, with no stop signs on Pacific Avenue, presents a significant hazard to public safety ... for pedestrians crossing the street and for both cars traveling along Pacific and those pulling out of 18th Street.
- There have been numerous accidents and near-accidents involving cars and near-misses involving pedestrians. Some of us have experienced near-accidents in our cars and/or near-misses as pedestrians.
- Some drivers traveling along Pacific are confused by the crosswalk and brake, thinking there is a stop and are rear-ended. There are other drivers that seem to try to see how fast they can go between the stops at 17th and 19th, they tend to hit peak speed at 18th Street.
- Also, it should be noted that American Martyrs School is one block west of this corner and there are numerous of children crossing the street before and after school, as well as substantial car traffic with parents dropping off their children or picking them up.

We are Manhattan Beach residents who live on or near this corner and we request immediate action on this matter!

#	<u>Name</u>		<u>Address</u>
	<u>Print</u>	<u>Sign</u>	
1	Paul G. Beswick		1729 Pacific
2	Melinda D. Beswick		1729 Pacific Ave.
3	Danne G. Ehrhard		1728 Pacific Ave.
4	Ronald Clinton		801 18th St.
5	Malissa Clinton		801 18th St.
6	Lisa Welser		1724 Pacific Ave
7	LARRY RANDALL		1805 Pacific Ave
8	Karen Randall		1805 Pacific Ave
9	Bibian Vabrey		1705 Pacific Ave.
10	ROBERT VABREY		1705 Pacific Ave
11	Mike Anuszewski		1709 Pacific Ave
12	STEPHEN PETROFF		1721 Pacific Ave.
13	PATRICK BARTZ		1728 LAUREL AVE.
14	Ann Cimmarusti		1800 Laurel AVE
15	GARY RUBOTTOM		1809 Pacific Ave
16	ROBERT K. SCHOLL		1821 PACIFIC AVE
17	Robert Taddeusan		1805 Pacific Ave MB
18	DENNIS L. GREEN		747 18TH ST., MB

Rob Osborne

From: Rob Osborne
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 2:18 PM
To: Rod Uyeda; Bryan Klatt; Derrick Abell; Erik Zandvliet; Juan Price; Neil Miller; Richard Thompson
Subject: FW: Stop sign

Please review & comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: ronald clinton [mailto:apothecary101@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 1:37 PM
To: Rob Osborne; malissia.clinton@ngc.com
Subject: Stop sign

Ronald Clinton
801 18th St.
Manhattan Beach, Ca. 90266
310-738-3199

10/27/06

Hello Mr. Osborne,

My name is Ronald Clinton and I am a three year resident of Manhattan Beach. I am married with three small children ages 7, 4, and 1. We feel very fortunate to be a part of this wonderful community and hope to remain so for many years to come.

Mr. Osborne, I am writing you on behalf of my three small children. We live on the corner of 18th and Pacific Ave. in the tree section of town. As you may know Pacific Ave. is a main thoroughfare from Rosecrans to Manhattan Beach Blvd. We constantly see cars speeding down the street during all hours of the day. Just recently, one of my kids was almost injured chasing a ball.

This stretch of Pacific Ave. has stop signs on just about on every block, except my corner. This causes cars to speed past 18th. Once in a while I will see a car stop. I think this is because a stop sign seems like it belongs on this corner.

Mr. Osborne, what I am requesting is for a stop sign to be placed on the corner of 18th and Pacific. It will not only PROTECT my kids but the many other pedestrians that cross the street.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald Clinton



City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-4795

Telephone (310) 802-5000

FAX (310) 802-5001

January 12, 2007

***** PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE *****

Re: Request for Stop Signs – Pacific Avenue at 18th Street

Dear Resident/Property Owner:

The City recently received a petition requesting installation of a 4-way stop at the intersection of Pacific Avenue and 18th Street. It was suggested that additional stop signs would increase the level of safety at the intersection. The request has been referred to the Parking and Public Improvements Commission for consideration.

The Commission will review this matter at a public meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2007. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, 1400 Highland Avenue, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Any comments you might like to make at the meeting would be welcomed.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please call me at 802-5540.

Sincerely,

Rob Osborne
Management Analyst
Community Development Department