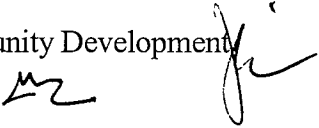


**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

TO: Parking and Public Improvements Commission

FROM: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development
Ana Stevenson, Management Analyst 

BY: Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

DATE: July 10, 2008

SUBJECT: **Consider Installation of Double Double Yellow Line Painted Median on Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue in Downtown**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that painted center medians be installed along Manhattan Beach Boulevard between The Strand and Morningside Drive, and on Manhattan Avenue between 8th Street and 15th Street.

BACKGROUND:

Recently, the Police Department received a request from Ms. Patti Garrity, about the legality of making a left turn into a diagonal space on Manhattan Beach Boulevard in downtown. Ms. Garrity's letter indicates that she and other customers have seen erratic driving by motorists trying to enter empty parking spaces on the opposite side of the street. She suggested the City install signs or markings to make it clear whether or not a left (or U-turn) is allowed where diagonal curb parking is provided.

Pursuant to this request, staff of both the Police and Community Development Departments met to discuss if left/U-turns into diagonal spaces are proper and if they should be allowed. The Police Chief is in full support of prohibiting this movement because it is unexpected by other motorists and increases the likelihood of collisions. The Police Department currently tickets motorists attempting this turn into a diagonal parking space, because it requires the driver to reverse directions before entering the diagonal space, which may be interpreted as a U-Turn, which would be a violation of California Vehicle Code Sections 21460 and 22102 as follows:

21460. (a) When double parallel solid lines are in place, no person driving a vehicle shall drive to the left thereof, except as permitted in this section.

(b) When the double parallel lines, one of which is broken, are in place, no person driving a vehicle shall drive to the left thereof, except as follows:

(1) That the driver on that side of the roadway in which the broken line is in place may cross over the double line or drive to the left thereof when overtaking or passing other vehicles.

(2) As provided in Section 21460.5.

(c) Either of the markings as specified in subdivision (a) or (b) does not prohibit a driver from crossing the marking when (1) turning to the left at any intersection or into or out of a driveway or private road, or (2) making a U-turn under the rules governing that turn, and either of the markings shall be disregarded when authorized signs have been erected designating offcenter traffic lanes as permitted under Section 21657.

(d) Raised pavement markers may be used to simulate painted lines described in this section when the markers are placed in accordance with standards established by the Department of Transportation.

22102. No person in a business district shall make a U-turn, except at an intersection, or on a divided highway where an opening has been provided in accordance with Section 21651. This turning movement shall be made as close as practicable to the extreme left-hand edge of the lanes moving in the driver's direction of travel immediately prior to the initiation of the turning movement, when more than one lane in the direction of travel is present.

Ms. Garrity is also concerned about Jaywalking between the intersections. It should be noted that while crossing mid-block is not illegal in downtown, it is highly recommended to cross at a marked crosswalk. According to State law, crossing midblock is prohibited only when two consecutive intersections are controlled with official traffic control devices.

DISCUSSION:

Manhattan Beach Boulevard is an east-west major arterial street with one lane in each direction separated by a painted double yellow line in the downtown area. Manhattan Beach Boulevard has a traffic volume of approximately 13,200 vehicles per day and a speed limit of 25 mph. Diagonal and parallel parking stalls are painted on both sides of the street. Manhattan Beach Boulevard is controlled with traffic signals at Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue, Highland Avenue and Manhattan Avenue.

Manhattan Avenue is a north-south collector street with one lane in each direction separated by a painted double yellow line in the downtown area. Manhattan Avenue has a traffic volume of approximately 7,500 to 10,000 vehicles per day and a posted speed limit of 25 mph. Manhattan Avenue intersects Manhattan Beach Boulevard at a traffic signal two blocks east of the Manhattan Beach Pier. Diagonal and parallel parking stalls are painted on both sides of the street. Manhattan Avenue terminates at 15th Street to the north.

The traffic collision history between January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2007 was analyzed for both streets. According to City records, there have been no collisions reported on either street due to mid-block turns into diagonal parking spaces during this 5 ½ year period.

The City Traffic Engineer considered several traffic signs and markings to improve driving safety. "No Left Turn" signs are not recommended because they would have to be posted in many locations, which may be confusing to drivers attempting to make a legal turn at a nearby intersection. Painted markings indicating "No Left Turn" are not enforceable and would require constant maintenance.

A painted or raised center median could be installed to prohibit mid-block turns across or entry into the center median and effectively eliminate mid-block turning conflicts observed by the Police Department. The City Traffic Engineer has confirmed that a painted median would fit within the existing roadway while maintaining minimum recommended lane widths on both Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue. A painted center median is indicated by two sets of double yellow lines. This striping would be a clear indication to drivers that left turns and U-turns are prohibited between intersections.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the absence of clear indications to the driving public about the City's prohibition of turning left into a diagonal parking space, it is recommended that painted center medians be installed along Manhattan Beach Boulevard between The Strand and Morningside Drive, and on Manhattan Avenue between 8th Street and 15th Street.

Exhibit:

1. Aerial Photos
2. Request letter
3. Typical striping detail

EXHIBIT 1

4



City of Manhattan Beach
 Department of Community Development

MANHATTAN AVENUE
 8th Street to 10th Street
 CONSIDER PAINTED CENTER MEDIAN



City of Manhattan Beach
Department of Community Development

MANHATTAN AVENUE
Manhattan Beach Boulevard to 13TH Street
CONSIDER PAINTED CENTER MEDIAN



City of Manhattan Beach
Department of Community Development

MANHATTAN AVENUE
13TH Street to 15TH Street
CONSIDER PAINTED CENTER MEDIAN



City of Manhattan Beach
Department of Community Development

MANHATTAN BEACH BOULEVARD
The Strand to Manhattan Avenue
CONSIDER PAINTED CENTER MEDIAN



City of Manhattan Beach
Department of Community Development

**MANHATTAN BEACH BOULEVARD
Manhattan Avenue to Highland Avenue
CONSIDER PAINTED CENTER MEDIAN**



City of Manhattan Beach
Department of Community Development

**MANHATTAN BEACH BOULEVARD
Highland Avenue to Morningside Drive
CONSIDER PAINTED CENTER MEDIAN**

Traffic Division attn: Sgt. Clatt

EXHIBIT

2

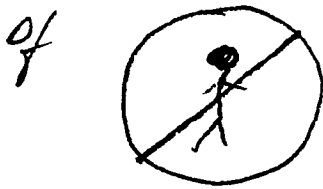
I had an amusing encounter with a Manhattan Beach Police Officer downtown the other day. When I crossed the double yellow line in front of the Coffee Bean. Peets. Noah's triad to angle park, not a U-turn as we have been emphatically informed by our police chief no less, the cop pulled up behind my car before I turned off the ignition.

Looming by my door as I opened it I immediately grinned and told him "Pod says this is a legal turn." "It's wrong", said the cop, and wrote me up a warning ticket.

For years dozens of us early AM coffee-mates sitting in front of Peets between 6:30 and 8:00 AM have watched in shocked astonishment as every minute car after car crosses that double yellow line to park for coffee, impeding traffic, cutting off oncoming cars who want that space on their side, and most can't do it in one smooth turn, frequently backing up again across the lines to attack the space correctly. We have seen such incompetent and erratic driving (coffee deprivation?) that a serious accident is inevitable. To top it off, the driver invariably

then jaywalks back across the street for coffee where he/she couldn't park.

If all those turns and jaywalking are illegal, do something! Evidently even the authorities can't agree. Why not settle it by painting on each side of the double lines down the middle of the lanes the universal verboten signs of



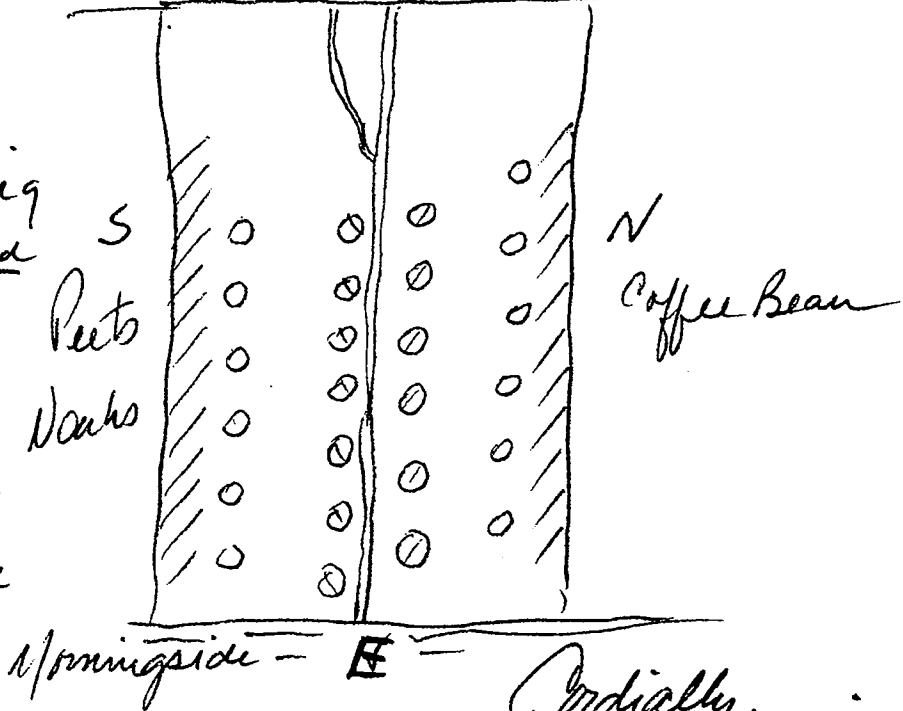
no pedestrians and no left turns



Our city has the right and the obligation to demand compliance with our laws. The downtowners have gotten away with breaking or ignoring them for too long.

Highland

No jaywalking circles behind the parked cars, the turn ones in the street by the double lines

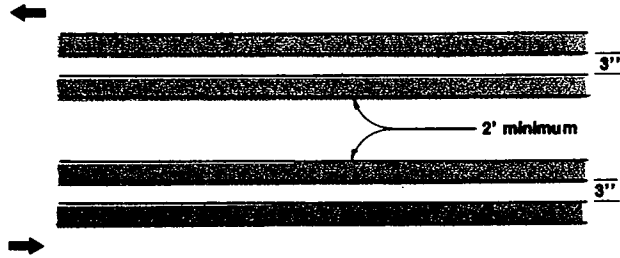


316.1463

Cordially,
Patti Garrity

Figure 6-6
MEDIAN ISLANDS

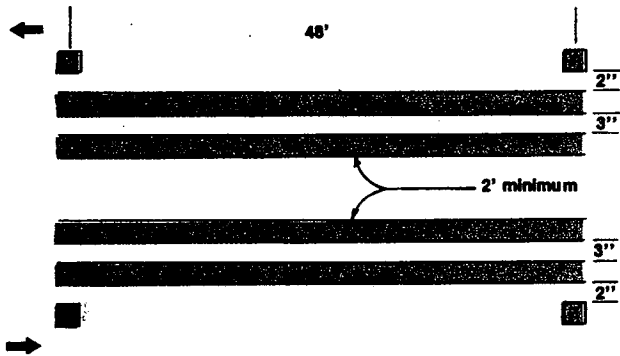
DETAIL 28



POLICY

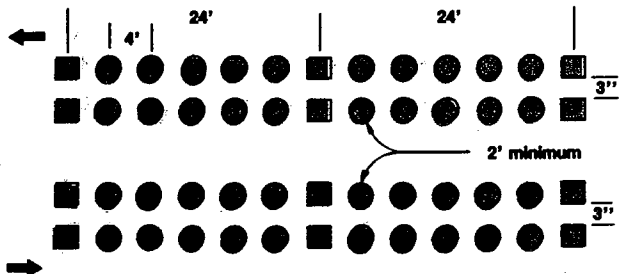
Double left edgeline pattern for use on all-paved sections of streets and highways (normally used on local streets and highways).

DETAIL 29



Double left edgeline pattern with pavement markers for use on all-paved sections of streets and highways (see Note 1).

DETAIL 30



Alternate to Detail 29. For use at problem locations where it is difficult to place and maintain lines because of moisture, sand, etc.

NOTE:

1. Pavement markers in Detail 29 may be placed on the line.

LEGEND

- 4" Yellow
- Two-Way Yellow Reflective Marker
- Directions of Travel
- Non-Reflective Yellow Marker