

June 27, 2002

Honorable Chairman and Members of
The Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting of
July 17, 2002

**PROPOSED TAXI ZONE CHANGE – HERMOSA AVENUE AT PIER AVENUE –
SOUTH APPROACH TO PIER AVENUE**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Commission support this proposal.

Summary:

The City has received complaints about the unsafe lane changes of the taxis parked in the taxi zone. Generally, these taxis exit the taxi zone and immediately make a right turn onto Pier Avenue crossing two lanes of traffic to do so. This is not a very safe situation as well.

It is Staff's recommendation that a new taxi zone on Hermosa Avenue be established. Currently, the existing taxi zone is located in the now defunct left turn pocket of Hermosa Avenue (northbound) at Pier Avenue. This zone accommodates up to five taxis. It is proposed that the new taxi zone be established along the west curb just south of 11th Street. Please see Attachments 1 and 2.

Background:

The Police Department staff has never been satisfied with the current taxi zone. When the bars let out in the early morning hours, especially on weekends, there are a number of people crossing the southbound lanes of Hermosa Avenue to get a taxi. This is an unsafe situation especially since many of the individuals trying to cross the street are intoxicated or under the influence. Additionally, the City has received complaints from the businesses on the east side of Hermosa Avenue – directly in front of the taxi zone – indicating that the number taxis that line up at this location sometimes blocks the number one lane of northbound Hermosa Avenue. The cabs are also parking in front of the businesses on the east side of the street taking away customer parking.

Analysis:

Staff is proposing that the relocation of the taxi zone along the west curb of Hermosa Avenue at 11th Street would create a better taxi zone. The new zone would increase the capacity from five to six cabs. Please see attachment 3. The taxi zone would be away from the businesses that would now be across Hermosa Avenue. In fact, the suggested new zone would not be in front of any businesses. Patrons of the Pier Plaza would more safely contact taxis without crossing Hermosa Avenue. It is also felt that the taxis

will be forced to drive south on Hermosa Avenue to either continue south or turn left onto 10th Street to head east, which is a much safer situation than currently exists.

There is a 2-vehicle green zone that would be maintained but it is suggested that the green zone be moved north by one space. This would leave three metered spaces between the green zone and the Plaza. There are currently four metered spaces. In all, five metered spaces would be eliminated. Staff suggests, however, that four metered spaces be created in the center island where the taxis are presently located so that the City loses as little meter revenue as possible.

Alternatives:

1. Support Staff's recommendation.
2. Send back to Staff for further study.
3. Take no action.

Fiscal Impact:

None

Attachments: 1. Existing Conditions
 2. Existing Conditions - Photo Survey
 3. Proposed Hermosa Beach Police Department Plan

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

Harold C. Williams, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Michael Lavin
Chief of Police

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