

December 10, 2002

Honorable Chairman and Members of
the Hermosa Beach Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting of
December 18, 2002

REQUEST FOR STOP SIGNS AT INTERSECTION OF POWER AND 21ST STREETS

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council deny the request to install STOP signs on Power Street at intersection of Power and 21st Streets.

Background:

A resident of the area of Power and 21st Streets has written a letter expressing concern for traffic safety at the intersection and has requested that the City install stop signs on Power Street at the intersection with 21st Street in order to improve traffic safety.

Staff has investigated the concern of the residents. A study had already been completed by Staff, which studied vehicular and pedestrian volumes in the area. The study, entitled "Valley Park Avenue Neighborhood Study", was presented to the Commission at the April 2002 meeting. A copy of the study was provided at the November 2002 meeting. Staff made additional observations in order to note any changes in the ambient condition. The site inspection did not reveal any apparent safety issues, which needed to be addressed. It did not appear that sight distance was a problem for vehicles crossing Power Street; therefore, installation of a STOP sign is not justified.

Analysis:

Staff has investigated the concern of the residents. Site observations were made. Based on the previous study, the condition observed, and the site geometric condition observed, an unsafe condition does not appear to exist. The stopping site distance for vehicles traveling east and west on 21st Street appears sufficient to cross Power Street. Additionally, since Power Street is not a through roadway, the speed of the vehicles was not very high. Also, the volume of vehicles using this segment of Power Street was very low during the field visit. Therefore, Staff does not recommend installation of STOP signs on Power Street at 21st Street. As a general rule, use of unwarranted traffic control devices can create frustration in drivers, which in turn could cause disrespect for traffic laws.

Alternatives:

1. Support Staff's recommendation.
2. Support the resident's request.
3. Send item back to Staff for further study.

Attachments:

1. Location Map
2. Resident Letter

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

Raymond R. Abassi, P.E., T.E.
City Traffic Engineer

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

Michael Lavin
Chief of Police

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