

June 9, 2004

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting of
June 16, 2004

PROPOSED STOP SIGN ON MANHATTAN AVENUE AT 24TH STREET

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Public Works Commission consider and make recommendations to the City Council regarding placement of new stop signs on Manhattan Avenue at 24th Street.

Summary:

Staff has received a request for the subject stop signs from a resident (see attached email). The resident considers the existing condition with stop signs on 24th Street but not on Manhattan Avenue as dangerous. The reasons stated are; 1) The driver on 24th Street may assume that there is a stop sign on Manhattan Avenue, since other intersections with 24th Street are four-way stops, and, therefore, pull out into oncoming traffic; 2) Poor sight distance situation due to parked cars on Manhattan Avenue.

Staff considers this request reasonable due to the large number of four-way stop intersections in the immediate area. Staff had received complaints in the past regarding speeding on Manhattan Avenue which we had hoped would be alleviated with the recent installation of cross gutters which are like reverse speed humps. Manhattan Avenue is considered a collector street as opposed to 24th Street, which is a residential street. This is why no stop signs were placed on Manhattan Avenue at this location. This is similar to 24th Street at Hermosa Avenue, which does not have stop signs on Hermosa Avenue (an arterial roadway).

The "pros" for the stop signs are that Hermosa has many four-way stop intersections and drivers are used to this situation, which keeps speeds down and provides easier vehicle turning movements and safer pedestrian access. If stop signs were approved for Manhattan Avenue at 24th Street, staff would also recommend striping a pedestrian crosswalk at this location.

The "cons" against additional stop signs are additional delays to traffic on the collector street, the traffic volume on 24th Street does not meet necessary "warrants" for a stop sign, and the other major issue is where do we stop with the above logic for four-way stop intersections. You could make these same arguments for almost every intersection in Hermosa Beach. Maybe that's not a bad vision and the public might support it, but I think this would need to be presented to the general public.

Another option to consider that addresses the resident's concern would be to install "2-Way" signs on the 24th Street stop signs. Commissioner Lombardo has long advocated these and we have been implementing them around the City with a goal to eventually label all stop signs either "2-Way" or "4-Way".

Staff will present accident data for this location at the Commission meeting.

Attachment: Resident's Request

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Morgan, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer