



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JULY 19, 2004

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: EASTSIDE BIENNIAL TRAFFIC MONITORING REPORT

DATE: JULY 8, 2004

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: WILLIAM J. MORRIS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER, 714-754-5182

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file report documenting the results of the 2004 Eastside Traffic Monitoring Program.

BACKGROUND:

The Eastside Costa Mesa is generally described as the area located east of Newport Boulevard (Attachment 1). This area is primarily residential in nature with the exception of commercial properties located adjacent to East 17th Street and Newport Boulevard. There are also some isolated commercial properties within the Eastside area, located primarily between Newport Boulevard and Orange Avenue south of Walnut Street. The grid pattern street system within the Eastside area serves not only local access within the residential community, but also access to commercial development within and adjacent to the area. As collector and secondary roadway designations on the City's Master Plan of Highways (MPH), some streets within the Eastside area provide convenient alternative routes to non-local commuter traffic.

As part of the analysis to provide improvement options to East 17th Street and Newport Boulevard, staff prepared a comprehensive review of the Eastside Costa Mesa residential streets as well as improvements to the above major arterials. Staff presented this comprehensive report during the regular City Council meeting of May 21, 2001.

Based on the results of the above meeting, the City Council directed staff to monitor traffic conditions throughout the Eastside area on a biennial basis (once every two years) and present findings to the City Council starting with a report in 2002. The Year 2002 report was presented during the regular City Council meeting on July 15, 2002.

ANALYSIS:

The Eastside Biennial Traffic Monitoring Report identifies changes in traffic conditions that may be indicative of increased cut-through traffic as a result of increased arterial congestion. The purposes of the report are:

- Track traffic conditions to provide an opportunity to immediately respond to any significant changes within the eastside area as appropriate;
- Identify and implement acceptable traffic mitigation measures; and
- Ensure that the mitigation in one area does not shift traffic concerns to another area.

For the 2004 report, traffic volumes were collected in the Eastside area between February and June 2004. Traffic volume data at a total of 95 arterial and residential streets in the Eastside area were collected and are shown in Table 1 (Attachment 2). At several locations, historical data was available to compare the counts and to identify any growth pattern over the past few years. The results indicated that only a few changes have occurred in traffic volumes over the past few years.

Due to relatively low traffic volumes typically found on residential streets as compared to arterial streets, a threshold of 15% change over past traffic counts and a minimum Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume of “3,000” has been used as a cut-off to identify areas where traffic volume growth may be indicative of the need for further study.

A total of 3 residential street segments indicate a change in traffic volumes that exceed the above criteria. These include:

- 22nd Street/Santiago Drive west of Irvine Avenue (in City of Newport Beach);
- Orange Avenue north of 15th Street; and
- Santa Ana Avenue north of 16th Street.

The current traffic volumes on 22nd Street, as well as on Santa Ana Avenue, indicate a decrease when compared to year 2002 data, whereas Orange Avenue shows an increase of 18% in current traffic volume compared to year 2002 data. However, the current volume of traffic (4,500 ADT) on this street segment is not considered to be significant.

Over the past year, staff has not received any complaints from the Eastside residents that would require the implementation of any traffic control measures.

Based on the data presented in Attachment 2, staff believes that the overall travel patterns on the Eastside area have not changed significantly over the past few years and therefore do not see any conditions that would warrant the implementation of any major traffic control measures at this time. Staff, however, will continue to monitor any new developments through the biennial traffic monitoring program effort to identify traffic shifts that would require mitigation.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council may direct staff to conduct additional focused analysis of traffic conditions on certain streets within the Eastside area. Staff could conduct these additional counts and provide the results at a future City Council meeting. The City Council may also direct staff to discontinue the biennial monitoring process. This action will however result in inadequate information for future mitigation purposes.

FISCAL REVIEW:

There is no fiscal impact with this item.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Legal review is not required on this item.

CONCLUSION:

The Transportation Services Division has recently completed the biennial collection of traffic volumes in the Eastside Costa Mesa area for comparison and analysis with past traffic volume records. The data, as indicated in Attachment 2, reveals minimal changes in overall traffic volume when compared to past traffic conditions. Therefore, staff believes that the existing traffic volumes and conditions do not warrant the implementation of any major traffic control measure at this time. The next biennial traffic monitoring report for Eastside Costa Mesa will be in July 2006.

PETER NAGHAVI, MANAGER
Transportation Services Division

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services

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File

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Study Area](#)
2 [Eastside Costa Mesa Historical Traffic Volumes](#)

File Name

Date

Time