



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2007

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF PARK AVENUE NORTH OF 18TH STREET

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2007

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT – TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: PETER NAGHAVI, MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND:

At the August 21, 2007 City Council meeting, a Council Member inquired about the possibility of closing Park Avenue, north of 18th Street in the vicinity of the southern portion of Lion's Park. This portion of Park Avenue is located directly adjacent to, and easterly of, the area in Lion's Park where the City's second skate board park could possibly be located. The closure would prohibit all traffic on Park Avenue from accessing 18th Street. The closure could potentially provide additional options for the development of a new skate board park, and/or provide additional parking, at Lion's Park. An aerial map of the area is included for Council's information (Attachment 1).

ANALYSIS:

Park Avenue currently provides linkage between 18th Street and 19th Street and access to many various uses, including a large commercial shopping area (east side of street), the Casa Bella Senior Apartments (75 units on east side) and Park Center Place Apartments (160 units), (west side of street), the City's Neighborhood Community Center, (west side), Public Library, (west side) and Fire Station #3 (west side). Park Avenue is also utilized by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for Bus Route #43, one of the most heavily used bus routes in Orange County. Closure of any portion of Park Avenue would impact public access to all of these businesses and public facilities.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume on Park Avenue is approximately 5,700 vehicles. This volume is comparable to Anaheim Avenue, a paralleling street on the west side of Lion's Park where traffic volume is 5,100 vehicles per day. Both of these streets are identified on the City's Master Plan of Highways (MPH) as Collector roadways, and provide significant linkage between 18th and 19th Streets which run east/west. Traffic volume on the surrounding streets in the vicinity of Lion's Park is shown in the following table.

AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY OF LION'S PARK	
STREET	ADT
Park Avenue	5,700
Anaheim Avenue	5,100
18 th Street	11,300
19 th Street	35,000

Recently, staff has closely monitored traffic volume and circulation at the various drive approaches on Park Avenue serving the Courtyards shopping center and other uses in order to assess specific impacts to businesses and surrounding streets if Park Avenue were to be closed at 18th Street. Traffic volume at the three drive approaches to the Courtyards shopping center is fairly well distributed. Traffic volume is approximately 1,750 ADT at the northerly drive approach, 2,300 ADT at the central drive approach (at stop sign on Park Avenue), and 1,600 ADT at the southerly drive approach. Traffic volume at the drive approaches on the west side of Park Avenue are somewhat lower. Traffic volume at the main entrance drive serving at the Neighborhood Community Center (NCC) is 1,050 ADT, while traffic volume at the southern entrance drive is 200 ADT. Traffic volume at Plumer Street, serving the Park Center Place Apartments and Fire Station #3, is 660 ADT. ATTACHMENT 1 depicts the various land uses on Park Avenue and entering/exiting traffic volumes at each drive approach.

The intersections of 18th/Park and 18th/Newport are currently operating at an acceptable level of service (LOS). Turning movement counts in and out of the drive approaches on Park Avenue indicate that approximately 35 percent of vehicles traveling to and from the Courtyards shopping center, NCC, and other residential properties use 18th Street. Any closure of Park Avenue at 18th Street, would redirect this traffic to 19th Street, causing additional delays at the intersection of Park Avenue and 19th Street as well as increasing traffic levels on 19th Street. Anaheim Avenue would also experience increased traffic volume as the closure of Park Avenue would divert through traffic to the west around Lion's Park.

A review of traffic accident records reveals that no accidents have been reported at the intersection of Park Avenue/18th Street during the past three years. Field observations do not reveal any unusual conditions or obstructions to visibility, or any traffic safety issues requiring correction by changes in traffic controls.

Fire Station #3 is located on the west side of Park Avenue, between 18th and 19th Streets. Park Avenue provides the only access to/from the station. Fire Station management indicate that approximately one-half of all calls for service from Station #3 are oriented to the south, i.e., to 18th Street. Station #3 is the southern most fire station in the City. If access to 18th Street were closed, all responses to emergency calls would need to be directed first to the north to 19th Street, adding to response time for those calls emanating from the southern portion of the City.

Park Avenue also serves as a major layover zone for Bus Route #43, one of OCTA's highest ridership bus routes. This route travels on Harbor Boulevard, between La Habra and Costa Mesa and overall carries more than 17,000 riders per day. The layover zone is the southern terminus of the route where buses stage to begin their northbound trip. The closure of Park Avenue would necessitate relocation of the

layover zone to another area of the city. City and OCTA staff has, in the past, reviewed other possible locations for this layover zone; however, no suitable alternate locations were identified at that time.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No other alternatives have been considered to the possible closure of Park Avenue.

FISCAL REVIEW:

There is no fiscal impact to the City directly related to this item. Should the City Council desire to pursue the closure of Park Avenue, additional direction is needed regarding design and use of the closed portion of the street in order to prepare cost estimates.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review required on this item at this time. Should the City Council desire to pursue the closure of Park Avenue, coordination with the City Attorney's office may be necessary.

CONCLUSION:

Park Avenue provides significant access to many various land uses and vital traffic circulation needs between 18th and 19th Streets. Additionally, Park Avenue provides a vital emergency response route to the southern portion of the City for Fire Station #3 and serves as the layover terminus for OCTA Bus Route #43. The closure of any portion of Park Avenue would significantly affect vehicular access to the adjacent businesses, residences, and public facilities, plus increase emergency response time for some Fire Department calls and require relocation of the Bus Route 43 layover zone. As a result of this initial analysis of traffic conditions and local access needs, staff does not support the closure of Park Avenue to through traffic between 18th and 19th Streets.

Should City Council desire to proceed further with a thorough investigation of the feasibility of closing Park Avenue at 18th Street, staff recommends initiation of a thorough analysis of traffic impacts, including public workshops, to assess the impacts and overall community support of such a closure.

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ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Park Avenue Closure Study Map](#)