



City of Santa Barbara
Transportation & Circulation Committee
Staff Report

DATE: June 20, 2011

TO: Transportation & Circulation Committee (TCC)

FROM: Browning Allen, Transportation Manager *BA*

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Mesa Architects Association's Request to Have Caltrans Reduce the Number of Traffic Lanes on Cliff Drive

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee consider the request by Mesa Architects Association to have Caltrans, as part of a pavement maintenance project, reduce the number of traffic lanes on Cliff Drive, between Loma Alta Drive and Meigs Road to create a center turn lane and a bike lane.

DISCUSSION:

A group known as the Mesa Architects has been exploring various options for Cliff Drive. After gathering community input, they have requested that Caltrans adjust the number of lanes on Cliff Drive between Meigs Road and Loma Alta Drive from four to two travel lanes, adding a center turn lane, and two bike lanes, while retaining the on-street parking. Reasons for the proposal, expressed by the Mesa Architects, include collision reduction, improved site distance, traffic speed reduction, creating a bicycle facility, and improved residential/commercial driveway access.

Caltrans could re-stripe the roadway at its expense because the street is currently scheduled for pavement maintenance in early July. Caltrans has said that they will entertain the re-stripe proposal if endorsed by the City. The Mesa Architects has, therefore, requested the change be considered by City Council (see attachment). Council will consider the request on June 28, 2011, at its evening session at 6:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting of the TCC is for the committee to make a recommendation to Council.

ROAD RECONFIGURATION CHANGES

The proposed striping change meets the Caltrans standard road design. According to Caltrans data records, Cliff Drive currently has approximately 15,000 Average Daily Trips between Meigs Road and Loma Alta Drive. After the change, the roadway will perform much like Meigs Road north of Cliff Drive which currently carries the same number of cars and already has the two lane roadway configuration. The proposed roadway striping

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would widen out again to four lanes at the signalized intersections at Loma Alta Drive and Meigs Road. Accordingly, the congestion levels at these intersections will not change. Staff agrees that the new striping will improve safety for left turning vehicles on Cliff Drive.

RD/kts



Date: June 17, 2011
To: Mayor and City Council members
From: Dennis Thompson
Re: Re-striping of Cliff Drive

Mayor and Council Members:

At the request of numerous Mesa residents, our volunteer group, the Mesa Architects, is requesting an item be added to the City Council agenda at the earliest possible date to discuss Cliff Drive re-striping. We propose to present the results of an online survey, a petition drive, and portions of the testimony given by over 30 Mesa residents during a recent Mesa neighborhood meeting regarding Cliff Drive safety. The meeting was attended by over 100 citizens, and by representatives from Assembly Member Williams, Caltrans, City Transportation, and City Planning.

We were recently informed that Caltrans has let a contract for resurfacing and re-striping Cliff Drive. This means that we have a very unique opportunity to redesign the striping to provide more safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, at no cost to the City. Since this work is scheduled in July, City Council endorsement of this project is urgent.

The striping change would occur from the City Fire station east to Loma Alta, changing the road from 4 travel lanes without turn lanes or bike lanes into 2 travel lanes, a turn lane, and 2 bike lanes. The reasons to endorse these important safety improvements include:

1. It will reduce excess vehicle speed.
2. It will reduce collisions.
3. It will improve sight distance.
4. It will improve driveway access for residents.
5. It will shorten pedestrian crossings.
6. It will add bike lanes.

We strongly urge the City Council to endorse this project as soon as possible in the support of community interest and road safety. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis Thompson
For the Mesa Architects, a neighborhood volunteer group