



City of Pasadena
Department of Transportation



Moving News for District #2

August 2005

Volume 1, Issue 2

*General Plan
Guiding Principle*

“Pasadena envisions a community where people can circulate without a car.”

Commissioner Highlight

Michael Brady was appointed by Councilmember Paul Little to be the representative for Council District 2 on the Pasadena Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) in 2000. The TAC is a nine-member volunteer commission that meets monthly to advise the City Council concerning policies affecting the City's transportation system.



Mike moved to Pasadena for work and has been here almost 25 years. He and his wife

both live and work in Pasadena. Mike has always been active in trying to improve things, or do his share for the community, either through organizations such as the Boy Scouts or his church. Mike also helped start the Historic Highlands Neighborhood Association and served as that association's President for several years.

Mike manages large international engineering and infrastructure improvement projects for Parsons Engineering.

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Protecting Neighborhood Streets

Over the past year, the Department of Transportation completed several Neighborhood Transportation Management Program (NTMP) improvements in the **Mountain/Allen/Hill/Washington NTMP** area, including the installation of 40 new signs, 40 “STOP” pavement markings, 15 “STOP AHEAD” pavement markings, and replacement of ten existing signs at various intersections

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Traffic Engineering and Operations

DOT FACTS

- ARTS Buses drive over 650,000 miles annually and carry 1.4 million passengers.
- Pasadena neighborhood streets have more than 410 speed humps.
- Pasadena has 330 intersections with traffic signals.
- Six of the 13 Gold Line Stations are in Pasadena.

Last year (July 2004 – June 2005), Traffic Engineering Services received approximately 25 requests for traffic investigations within District 2. The majority of these investigations involved requests for tree trimming, various parking restrictions, and red curb installations to improve sight distance and driveway access. In addition, the Department received requests for signal timing improvements to improve circulation and safety. As a result of these traffic investigations, work orders were issued to implement the approved recommendations. Traffic staff coordinated with the Bungalow

Heaven neighborhood to relocate guide signs. Street name signs were recently installed at various signalized intersections along major roadways as part of the city-wide street name sign project. The neighborhood will continue to be involved with the placement of future new Landmark District signs.

Suggested Routes and Safe Routes to School

Lake Avenue at Elizabeth Street – Flashing in-roadway lights are proposed at the existing crosswalk to improve pedestrian safety.

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Preferential Parking

A new program year has begun for the Preferential Permit Parking Program. Located within District 2 are the Allen Station and North Chester/Holliston Preferential Permit Districts. As in years past, Parking staff has worked very hard to provide applicants of the program with the materials they need to acquire their permits. To-date, the Parking Division has processed approximately 500 applications with more on the way.



In an effort to preserve the unique quality of neighborhood streets a Citywide ordinance was passed in June of 1950 to eliminate parking on City streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. unless otherwise posted. It was imposed to allow street cleaning during these early hours and to easily identify vehicles that were abandoned.

Residents with no temporary or permanent parking available to them may apply for an overnight on-street parking permit at the City's Municipal Services Division, 280 Ramona Street, or by contacting them at (626) 744-4166.

All residents may request a short-term exemption for their vehicle or for a guest vehicle. Five exemptions are allowed for each vehicle during a 6-month period. In order to receive the temporary exemption, residents can contact the Department's parking enforcement staff at (626) 744-6440.

Neighborhood Protection

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throughout the neighborhood.

Additionally, 12 new speed humps were installed on sections of Bresee, Sinaloa, Wesley, and Dominion Avenues. Ongoing efforts in this area include traffic-calming measures on Whitefield Road east of Sierra Bonita and operational issues related to Marshall School student drop-off and pick-up activities.

Award Winning Programs

The City of Pasadena was named as the **Most Bicycle Friendly City of the Year** (2004) by the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition.



The **2004 Mobility Element, the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Community Handbook, and the Guidelines for Transportation Review of Projects** were named the **Best Transportation Planning Program of the Year** (2005) by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Transportation Planning Council.

The City received the prestigious **Corporate Rideshare Diamond Award** from L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for its unsurpassed excellence in promoting Transportation Demand Management (TDM) to City employees, local businesses and residents.

Traffic Operations Continued

This program will be funded as part of the Safe Routes to School program. Also, the Department worked with both Longfellow Elementary and Jefferson Elementary schools to improve pick-up and drop-off activities along the school frontages. A Safe Moves Traffic Safety Rodeo was held at Jefferson Elementary School on Friday, June 10, 2005. Several students participated in the rodeo throughout the day.



Students from Jefferson Elementary School take part in a Traffic Safety Rodeo.

The intersections of Lake Avenue at Rio Grande Street and Washington Boulevard at Catalina Avenue were identified as potential candidates for traffic signal installations pending funding and prioritization.

These traffic signals are needed to improve pedestrian safety as well as access between Longfellow Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood as identified in the Suggested Routes to School program. A new traffic signal was installed on Washington Boulevard at Sinaloa Avenue in March 2004 to improve pedestrian crossings related to the adjacent businesses and provide safety improvements to an adjacent preschool facility. Traffic signal improvements are being made along major corridors to facilitate mobility citywide, including the installation of

Closed Circuit Television cameras and Changeable Message Sign hardware at designated signalized intersections.

ARTS

As part of the Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS) service changes in February 2005, the Department was able to implement a number of improvements in District 2. These ARTS Route changes included increasing service and providing improved connections to the Gold Line. There are four ARTS routes which directly serve District 2.

The ARTS routes now begin an hour earlier on weekdays at 6:00 A.M. Service previously began at 7:00 A.M. These changes were implemented to better serve commuters and students. The ARTS Routes 31 & 32, which travel in District 2 along Washington Blvd., were restructured to provide direct service into and out of the Sierra Madre Villa Gold Line Station. ARTS Route 10 was significantly altered in order to link this route with the Allen Gold Line Station. This route used to operate in a loop that primarily served Old Pasadena along Colorado Blvd. and Green St.

The Department also increased the frequencies of the busiest ARTS routes during the weekday mornings and afternoons, including Route 20 Counter-clockwise, Route 31, and Route 40 – each of which



A passenger boards an ARTS bus at one of the new "Bus Bulbs" on Washington Boulevard.

serves District 2. This change was implemented to increase transit capacity during the peak hours. These ARTS routes carry the most students.

Another major transit-related accomplishment in District 2 was the construction of ex-

If you haven't tried getting around town on an ARTS bus, you will be surprised to see how convenient it is.

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**Warning:
Watch for kids.
Watch the road.**

watchtheroad.org OPERATION TRAFFIX

Commissioner Highlights Continued from Page 1

With a background in engineering, planning, and construction, it seemed to Mike that the TAC was a good place to contribute his time to the City.

When asked about transportation issues facing District 2, Mike sees increased density in the city core resulting in heavier traffic throughout the district. "We see the impact on major arteries into the district now, such as Hill, Lake; even Allen is heavier traveled, and Orange Grove will be used more and more as an alternate route to the freeway," he commented.

Mike believes that the City has made major strides with the construction of the Gold Line, and that there will be significant traffic improvements once it gets extended east through the San Gabriel Valley. When asked about TAC's role in implementing transportation improvements, Mike stated that the TAC is creating the long-term foundation for local transit improvements with the ARTS bus system. Mike said, "One of our biggest jobs now, as I see it, is protecting neighborhoods from heavy, or high-speed traffic; if we can get more use of the ARTS and Gold Line, traffic will ease."

Acknowledging that simply widening roads will not solve our traffic problems, Mike believes that if we can get people out of cars, traffic will get better. Mike would like to see more traffic-calming measures in our residential areas, and some modification on Washington Blvd. to make it safer. "Ultimately, I would love to see trolleys (like the old Red Cars) back on major roads in the district such as Lake, Hill, and Washington, maybe Orange Grove." Mike thinks that while many people are resistant to taking buses, trolleys seem more reliable and easier to understand.

If you have transportation issues you would like to discuss, you can reach Mike at (626) 794-7291.

Pasadena Bikes

The Department of Transportation has expanded the bikeway network with 50 miles of additional bike lanes, enhanced bike routes, and standard bike routes. Bike parking has been increased throughout the city with the installation of 200 new bike racks.

The Pasadena Bike Map and a *Rules of the Road* brochure are now available in both English and Spanish.

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tended bulb-outs at two bus stop locations along Washington Blvd. at Bresee and Sinaloa. As part of the East Washington Blvd. Streetscape Design Concept Specific Plan, the Public Works Department built "sidewalk pop-outs," or pedestrian bulbs, along Washington Blvd. at every intersection between Hill and Allen to provide a more pedestrian-friendly environment by slowing down traffic; reducing the distance pedestrians need to walk from curb to curb when crossing the street; and providing additional landscaping, street furniture, and other amenities.

Public Works worked with the Department of Transportation so that extended "bus bulbs" could be built not only to further enhance the pedestrian environment, but also to help buses load passengers and get back into traffic lanes in a shorter period of time. These bus bulbs serve both pedestrians and bus passengers, they help to optimize the on-street parking, and they promote the objectives of the Specific Plan by creating more space for pedestrian amenities.