



City of Pasadena
Department of Transportation

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www.cityofpasadena.net/trans



Moving News for District #3

October 2005

Volume 1, Issue 3

*General Plan
Guiding Principle*

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

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Commissioner Highlight

Juan Carlos Velasquez was appointed by Councilmember Chris Holden in 2001 to be the representative for Council District 3 on the Pasadena Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC). The TAC is a nine-member volunteer commission that meets monthly to advise the City Council concerning policies affecting the City's transportation system. Juan Carlos has lived in Pasadena for several years. Previously he worked in the City until he accepted a position with an employer in Los Angeles last



year. Juan Carlos has always been interested in community service. He served in the Peace Corps a year after graduating from college, and that sense of service has stayed with him. While in the Peace Corps he was assigned to Ecuador to work on rural infrastructure and water/sanitation projects. He is also interested in local and regional transportation issues. As a transportation engineer, his profession gives him a first-hand view of the issues.

When asked about transportation issues facing the Third District, Juan Carlos sees

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Protecting Neighborhood Streets

The Department has begun the **Neighborhood Traffic Management Program** for the **Los Robles/Mountain Area** of Pasadena. The area is bound by Marengo Ave. (west), El Molino Ave. (east), Washington Blvd. (north), and Orange Grove Blvd. (south). Residents in the area will receive a survey that will be used to identify traffic-related concerns. Neighborhood meetings will be conducted throughout the program to discuss specific concerns, develop ideas, and determine appropriate traffic improvements for

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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.

Traffic Investigations

In the last year, the Department received 31 requests for traffic investigations in District 3. The majority of the traffic investigations conducted involved requests for parking restrictions, typically to improve visibility and access at driveways and intersections. Additionally, there were requests to improve traffic signal timing and pedestrian safety at intersections. As a result of the traffic investigations, the Department ordered the installation of road striping improvements, parking restrictions (such as red

curbs), and reduced the speed limit on a portion of North Raymond Ave.

Suggested Routes and Safe Routes to School

The areas around Washington Middle School, Washington Accelerated Elementary, and Madison Elementary were analyzed for future improvements to crosswalks and other potential pedestrian safety projects as part of a Suggested Routes to School project. The Safe Routes to School program will upgrade school area signage and install curb ramps at various locations in the district.

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In an effort to preserve the unique quality of neighborhood streets, a Citywide ordinance was passed in June 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.

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** by the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

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.

California Walks presented Pasadena with its "**Achieving Walkability**" award, recognizing Pasadena's leadership efforts toward achieving a walkable, livable city.

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 staff 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 six-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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the area. The Department continues to process requests for speed humps throughout the City. Speed humps on Cypress Street between Orange Grove Boulevard and Bresee Avenue are currently being reviewed.

BIKE ROUTE REFURBISHMENT

The Department of Transportation will continue to create new and enhance existing bikeways throughout the City this year. Improvements planned in District 3 include sign replacement along Maple and Corson Avenues.

Traffic Operations Continued

Fair Oaks Avenue Traffic Signal Enhancements

The Department is working with Los Angeles County to implement traffic signal upgrades along Fair Oaks Avenue between Montana Street and Orange Grove Boulevard. Improvements include installing disabled-accessible pedestrian push buttons as well as vehicle detection loops. The signal heads will be upgraded to energy saving Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights. The work will also include retiming the traffic lights to improve traffic mobility.

Central Business District (CBD) Traffic Signal Retiming

The CBD Retiming Project will improve traffic signal efficiency for 100 traffic signals including those along arterials such as Maple Street, Corson Street, Walnut Street, Fair Oaks Avenue, Los Robles Avenue and Lake Avenue.



An aerial view of City Hall shows the temporary one-way sections of Garfield Ave. and Euclid Ave.

Red-Light Traffic Signal Enforcement

The intersection of Marengo Avenue at Corson Street was identified as a future location for installation of red-light camera enforcement for northbound and eastbound vehicular movements. The location is subject to review and approval from Caltrans.

City Hall Retrofit Project

Major construction in the proximity of City Hall is underway and will continue for at least two more years.

In order to improve traffic circulation, temporary one-way streets with certain stop

controls were created. Additionally, since parking is in high demand, the department will be installing diagonal parking on Holly Street between Garfield Avenue and Marengo Avenue to supplement the available on-street park-

ARTS

The Transit Division is pleased to note that as part of their ARTS service changes in February 2005, a number of improvements in District 3 were implemented. These ARTS route changes included increasing service and providing improved connections to the Gold Line.

There are five ARTS routes which directly serve District 3 (Routes 10, 20, 31/32, 40, and 51/52).

The ARTS routes now begin an hour earlier on weekdays

at 6:00 A.M. This change was implemented to better serve commuters and students. ARTS Route 10, which travels in District 3 along Colorado Blvd., was significantly altered to link this route with the Allen Gold Line Station. In addition to connecting to the Gold Line directly, this route also provides service to PCC, Caltech, Old Pasadena, Paseo Colorado, and the South Lake Business District. ARTS Routes 31 & 32, which travel in Dis-

trict 3 along Washington Blvd., were also restructured to provide direct service into and out of the Sierra Madre Villa Gold Line Station; previously, the closest stops to the Gold Line station were on Foothill Blvd.



The City also increased the frequencies of the busiest ARTS routes during the weekday mornings and afternoons, including Route 20 Counterclockwise, Route 31, and Route 40 – each of which serves District 3. ARTS

staff implemented this change to increase transit capacity during the peak hours. These ARTS routes carry the most students.

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**One Less Car
Ride ARTS and
be a part of the
traffic solution.**

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Warning:
Watch for kids.
Watch the road.

watchtheroad.org OPERATION TRAFFIX

Commissioner Highlights Continued from Page 1

the area transitioning with the amount of development underway. He sees this as having impacts on transportation that are not readily apparent. He also views the demographic changes in the district (from single to dual income families) as a challenge to the transportation infrastructure. Juan Carlos sees one of the results of the area's demographic shift is that families are generating more vehicle trips during the peak commute hours which will strain the local neighborhood streets, necessitating the need for the City to continue to promote alternative forms of transportation.

When asked about TAC's role in implementing transportation improvements, Juan Carlos believes that TAC's work on the trip reduction ordinance, Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP), and the City's new Annual Transportation Report Card will give them the tools to determine what measures are effective at reducing traffic. "TAC needs to continue to focus on new ideas to get people out of their cars. One of the best ways in my view to do this is to make it more difficult to drive and park in the Central District/Old Pasadena. I believe the increased development and density will help the City reach a critical mass to make Pasadena a truly pedestrian friendly city. We have gone past the point where traffic can improve with any number of physical improvements, new roads, or better signals."

Juan Carlos would like to see expansion of the ARTS system, both in number of routes and frequency. "I'd like to see a system like the DASH in downtown, buses every five minutes. A pedestrian master plan can allow us to look at possibly making areas of the City exclusive for pedestrians and bicycles. I would like to see corridors turned into exclusive ARTS busways, similar to other cities that have bus only lanes."

If you have transportation issues you would like to discuss, you can reach Juan Carlos at (626) 796.8146 or jvelasqu@ch2m.com

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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Pasadena Dial-A-Ride

During this past year, the Dial-A-Ride program conducted special presentations at various facilities for its *Group Ride Program*. Outreach for this program was conducted, focusing on residential and activity centers for seniors and persons with disabilities. The intent of the Group Ride Program is to help organize transportation for groups of people who qualify for Dial-A-Ride and would like to travel together to local destinations.