

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** March 14, 2005

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** APPROVE THE PROPOSED PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE ON BOYLSTON STREET BETWEEN LAKE AVENUE AND MENTOR AVENUE

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the City Council that after Public Hearing, approve a resolution in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 21101(f) to partially close Boylston Street between Lake Avenue and Mentor Avenue to eastbound through-movement by installing a raised median island as part of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program in the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood.

## **COMMISSION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:**

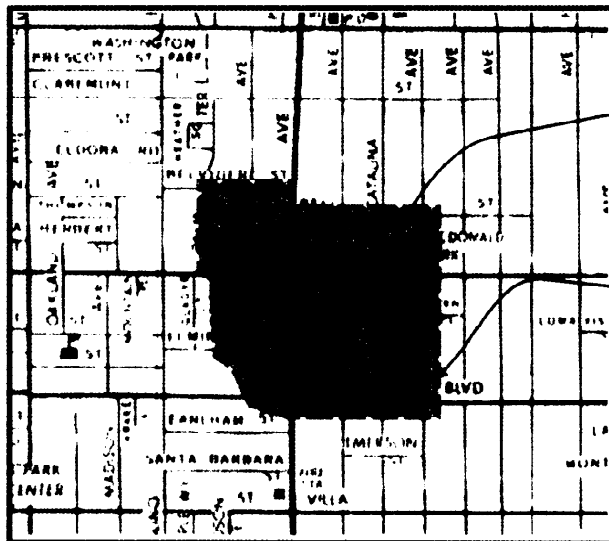
The Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) reviewed the proposed partial road closure in the context of managing traffic in residential neighborhoods on November 4, 2004 and unanimously concurred with the recommended improvements. On February 23, 2005 the Planning Commission reviewed and determined that the proposed installation is consistent with the City's General Plan Mobility Element Policies of neighborhood protection. The Planning Commission also acknowledged the Environmental Determination that the partial street closure is determined to be Categorically Exempt (Class 1) from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA Section 15301; Existing Facilities (Exhibit 1)

## **BACKGROUND**

In August 2002, a temporary partial road closure was implemented on Boylston Street between Lake Avenue and Mentor Avenue (Figure 1) as part of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program for the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood (see Attachment 1). This temporary installation was intended to demonstrate that limited access on Boylston would minimize traffic intrusion in the adjacent residential neighborhood without significant impacts to the City's transportation system.

Since the installation, staff has been monitoring the effectiveness of this neighborhood protection measure and tracking the residents' comments. In February 2003, the Bungalow Heaven Homeowners Association formally requested to end the temporary partial closure with construction of a permanent raised median (Attachment 2). Staff conducted a survey in March 2004 in order to ensure that residents and businesses near the partial closure area were aware of the proposed program (Attachment 3). Of the 196 adjacent residents and businesses surveyed, 50 responded: 26 favored a permanent partial closure; 21 opposed, and 3 offered no opinion. The temporary partial closure demonstrated the following:

1. Elimination of a majority of the eastbound traffic beyond the KFC and Carl's Jr. restaurants (non-local traffic)
2. No negative impact on emergency service or traffic safety
3. Consistent with the goals of the neighborhood traffic management program
4. Support by the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association
5. Support by a majority of respondents to the survey



**MARCH 2004:**  
**196 PROPERTY OWNERS WERE SURVEYED:**  
**50 RETURNED THE SURVEY**  
**26 IN FAVOR, 21 OPPOSED, AND 3 WITH NO OPINIONS.**

**OCT. 2004:**  
**650 RESIDENTS WERE**  
**NOTIFIED RE. THE PLANNED**  
**PERMANENT PARTIAL CLOSURE**

**Figure 1: Project Study Area & Summary of Notifications**

Based on the above findings, staff recommends ending the demonstration project and upgrading the temporary closure to a permanent installation.

**RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

In October 2004, 650 notices were mailed to all residents and businesses that surround the partial closure area regarding the survey results and the recommended action. Some residents suggested full closure of Boylston Street at mid-block between Mentor Avenue and Lake Avenue. These suggestions were forwarded to the Pasadena Police Department and the Fire Department for further review and comments. Staff from both the Police and Fire departments concluded that Boylston Street should remain accessible to emergency personnel and equipment and strongly opposed a full road closure.

The Board of Directors of the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association formally requested to participate in the design process by letter dated November 22, 2004 (Attachment 5). If Council approves the recommendation, staff will invite interested residents to participate in the design process.

**LOCATION AND CONCEPT OF CLOSURE**

Attachment 6.1 shows the demonstration currently in field and Attachment 6.2 illustrates the proposed partial closure location in relation to Lake Avenue and Mentor Avenue. The exact dimension and configuration will be determined during the design phase.

**CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

If Council approves the recommendation, the anticipated project schedule is as follows:

Activity	Completed By:
Council Approval	March 2005
Design, Advertise and Award Contract	Summer 2005
Construction	Fall 2005

**CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE COMPLIANCE**

California Vehicle Code, Section 21001(f), provides that local authorities may adopt rules and regulations by resolution or ordinance prohibiting entry to, or exit from, or both, from any street by means of islands, curbs, traffic barriers, or other roadway design features to implement the circulation element of a general plan.

Consistent with the above, the resolution establishes the following process: The City Council may approve a partial street closure where the following has occurred: (A) The Director of Transportation has found, on sound traffic engineering principles, that one or more local streets have experienced above-normal levels of non-local vehicular traffic. (B) An areawide traffic management program, including those local streets, has been developed by the Director of Transportation. (C) A temporary partial street closure has been installed on a trial basis on the local streets, consistent with the areawide traffic management program. (D) The Department of Transportation represents that, based on a survey of residents adjacent to the partial closure, a majority of adjacent resident supports the closure and (E) After noticed public hearing, the City Council finds that the partial closure is consistent with and implements a part of the circulation element of the general plan and is consistent with the responsibility of local government to provide for the health and safety of its citizens. Finally, any decision to partially close a street can be revisited by City Council on its own motion.


**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The proposed partial street closure is determined to be Categorically Exempt (Class 1) from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA Section 15301; Existing Facilities.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost of design and construction of the proposed raised island is \$8,000. Sufficient funds are available in Budget Account 75210 (Neighborhood Traffic Management Program) to complete the recommended project.

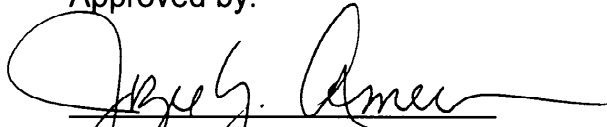
Respectfully submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

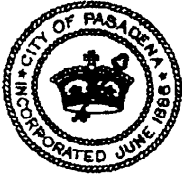
Prepared by:

  
ERIC C. SHEN, P.E.  
Transportation Planning  
& Development Manager

Approved by:

  
JOYCE Y. AMERSON, Director  
Department of Transportation

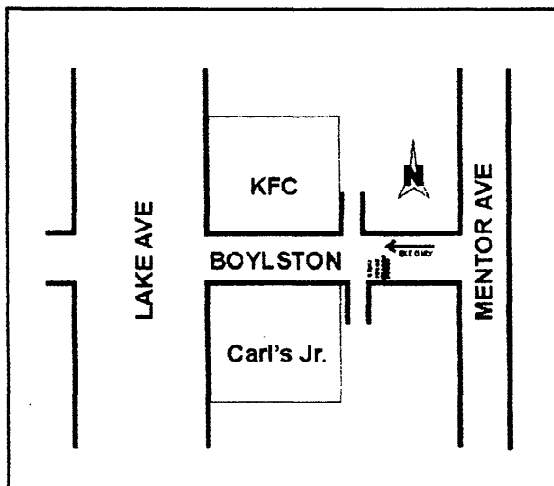
- Attachment 1: Notice of Partial Road Closure, March 2002
- Attachment 2: Request for a Permanent Closure by BHNA, February 7, 2003
- Attachment 3: Residents Survey, March 8, 2004
- Attachment 4: Notification of Survey Results & Recommendation, October 12, 2004
- Attachment 5: Request to Participate the Design Phase by BHNA, November 22, 2004
- Attachments 6.1 and 6.2: Photo Illustrations
- Attachment 7: Categorical Exempt Form



Department of Public Works & Transportation  
Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN  
March 20, 2002

◆◆◆ PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE ◆◆◆  
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



**BOYLSTON AVENUE  
BETWEEN LAKE AVENUE &  
MENTOR AVENUE**

EASTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE  
PROHIBITED BEYOND CARL'S JR.  
DRIVEWAY

**EFFECTIVE ON MARCH 22, 2002**

Dear Bungalow Heaven neighbors,

As part of the comprehensive neighborhood traffic plan for your neighborhood, the eastbound traffic on Boylston Avenue between Lake Avenue and Mentor Avenue will be restricted at the Carl's Jr. driveway. This demonstration project is intended to minimize cut-through traffic from the nearby commercial establishments. Prohibition signs and vertical channelizers are installed in the immediate vicinity to advise motorists. Please be advised that Police Department will cite violators, including local residents, for driving on the wrong side of street (California Vehicle Code 21650). The City will be monitoring the effectiveness of the demonstration project in the next three to six months and make necessary adjustments.

Should you have any questions or would like to report any damaged traffic signs, please contact:

Eric Shen, P.E.  
Transportation Planning & Development Manager  
100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room 212  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
Tel: 626-744-7208; Fax: 626-744-4757

E-Mail: [eshen@ci.pasadena.ca.us](mailto:eshen@ci.pasadena.ca.us)



BUNGLOW HEAVEN™ NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

CITY OF PASADENA  
PW & Transportation Div.

**File Copy**

RECEIVED

FEB 13 2003

CITY OF PASADENA  
PW Transportation Div.

February 7, 2003

Mr. Eric Shen  
Public Works Department  
City of Pasadena  
100 N. Garfield Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Mr. Shen:

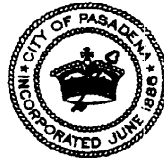
Thank you for speaking with me at the recent Gold Line Parking meeting about the traffic calming installations in the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood. The Board of Directors of the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association met on February 5 and voted to request that all of the existing (temporary) traffic calming installations in the neighborhood be made permanent. Therefore, I would like to request that these be placed in the upcoming Capital Improvement Project list which you kindly made me aware of.

I understand that making the existing traffic calming installations permanent will require substantial engineering and construction work, and may be phased-in over more than one budget period. The specific traffic calming installations I am referring to are the "pinch-outs" along the north side of Orange Grove Blvd. and the south side of Washington Blvd. At the corners of the the following north-south streets: Mentor Ave., Catalina Ave., Wilson Ave., Mar Vista Ave., Michigan Ave., Chester Ave., and Holliston Ave. Also included is the one-way barrier at the corner of Boylston and Mentor Ave.

If you have any questions about the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association's request, please call me at (626) 797-2707. Thanks again for your assistance.

Yours truly,

Bob Kneisel, President  
Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

March 8, 2004

**RE: Boylston Street Partial Closure – Residents Survey**

Dear Residents and/or Property Owners:

In 2002, a temporary partial road closure was implemented on Boylston Street between Lake Avenue and Mentor Avenue as part of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program for Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood. The City has been monitoring the effectiveness of this traffic calming measure and tracking residents' comments. In general, the partial road closure has eliminated a majority of the eastbound traffic beyond the KFC and Carl's Jr. Restaurants.

In August 2003 the Bungalow Heaven Homeowners Association requested that the temporary partial closure be replaced by a standard permanent partial closure. Although many residents believe the traffic calming measure has been effective, others residents continue to have reservations regarding the intent and effectiveness of the partial closure.

Please use the attached survey to let us know how you view the effectiveness of the partial closure and if you think it should be installed permanently or removed. We would also value any specific comments you have regarding how it is working. Your response to this survey is important since it will help guide us in making a recommendation to the City Council. We will inform you of the results of the survey prior to making a recommendation to the City Council.

A prepaid return envelope is included for your convenience. Please return the survey form by **April 15, 2004**. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (626) 744-7208 or [eshen@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:eshen@cityofpasadena.net).

Sincerely,

ERIC C. SHEN

Transportation Planning & Development  
Manager

CC: Councilmember Victor Gordo  
Councilmember Paul Little  
Vannia DeLaCuba, Field Representative for Councilmember Victor Gordo  
Margo Fuller, Field Representative for Councilmember Little  
Bob Kneisel, Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association  
Joyce Y. Amerson, Director of Transportation



Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

**BOYLSTON STREET PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE:  
RESIDENTS SURVEY**

Please return via the pre-paid envelope by April 15, 2004

Regarding the installation of the partial road closure on Boylston Street between Lake and Mentor Avenues, please take a few minutes to tell us your personal observations and opinions.

1. Intuitively, has traffic volume on your street (Name of Street: \_\_\_\_\_) changed after the partial closure was installed? (Please check one)

Much More	Somewhat More	No Change	Somewhat Less	Much Less	No Opinion

2. As the demonstration project comes to an end, what would you like to see done with the partial road closure?    **Installed Permanently**\_\_\_\_\_    **Removed**\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide specific comments below regarding how the partial road closure is operating, including your concerns/objections or how it has improved traffic.

---



---



---



---



---

Please return this survey to:  
 Eric C. Shen, P.E.  
 Transportation Planning & Development Manager  
 Department of Transportation  
 100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room 212  
 Pasadena, CA 91101-1726





DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
October 12, 2004

**RE: Boylston Street Partial Closure – Resident Survey Results**

Dear Residents and /or Property Owners:

In 2002, a temporary partial road closure was implemented on Boylston Street between Lake Avenue and Mentor Avenue as part of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program for the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood. The City has been monitoring the effectiveness of this traffic calming measure and tracking residents' comments. In general, the partial road closure has eliminated a majority of the eastbound traffic beyond the KFC and Carl's Jr. Restaurants.

In March 2004, at the request of the Bungalow Heaven Homeowners Association, the Department of Transportation conducted a resident survey to determine if the partial road closure should be replaced by a standard permanent partial closure. The results of the survey indicated that over 50% of those respondents prefer a standard permanent partial closure.

Staff will present the survey results and recommend the installation of a permanent partial road closure at the November 4, 2004 meeting of the Transportation Advisory Commission. If you would like to express any additional thoughts or opinions on this matter before it is brought to the City Council this will be your opportunity.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (626) 744-7208 or [eshen@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:eshen@cityofpasadena.net).

Sincerely,

ERIC C. SHEN, P.E.  
Transportation Planning &  
Development  
Manager

CC: Councilmember Victor Gordo  
Councilmember Paul Little  
Joyce Y. Amerson, Director of Transportation  
Vannia DeLaCuba, Field Representative for Councilmember Victor Gordo  
Margo Fuller, Field Representative for Councilmember Paul Little



BUNGALOW HEAVEN™ NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

November 22, 2004

Mr. Eric C. Shen, P.E.  
 Transportation Planning and Development Manager  
 City of Pasadena  
 Department of Transportation Planning and Development  
 221 E. Walnut Street, Suite 210  
 Pasadena CA 91101  
**Re: Boylston Street Closure Improvements**

**RECEIVED**

NOV 30 2004

CITY OF PASADENA  
 Transportation

Dear Mr. Shen:

It has come to our attention that at its meeting of November 4, 2004, the City of Pasadena's Transportation Advisory Commission unanimously approved the partial closure of Boylston Street to through traffic and the installation of permanent improvements. As you know, Boylston Street is within the boundaries of the Bungalow Heaven Landmark District. Development within the District is subject to the regulations contained within its Conservation Plan and may be subject to review and approval by the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Board of Directors of the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association, which represents approximately 1,100 households within the Landmark District, is hereby requesting that any proposed changes to the right of way in conjunction with the design of the Boylston Street enclosure and any associated signage, including but not limited to form, placement, and selection of materials, be brought before the Board for input and comment during the design phase. The Board meets regularly at 7:15pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Santa Catalina Branch of the Pasadena Public Library. The Board may also consider creating a subcommittee to work with the design staff and report progress to the Board prior to other City approvals.

Please feel free to contact us should you need any further information or to assist in arranging a meeting with your staff. Your consideration in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tina Miller  
 President  
 (Home telephone: 626-798-0570; email: tmpasadena@aol.com)

Julie A. Dercle, PhD, AICP  
 Vice President  
 Member, Historic Preservation Commission (Bungalow Heaven Representative)  
 (Home telephone: 626-797-7716; email: metaltiger88@aol.com)

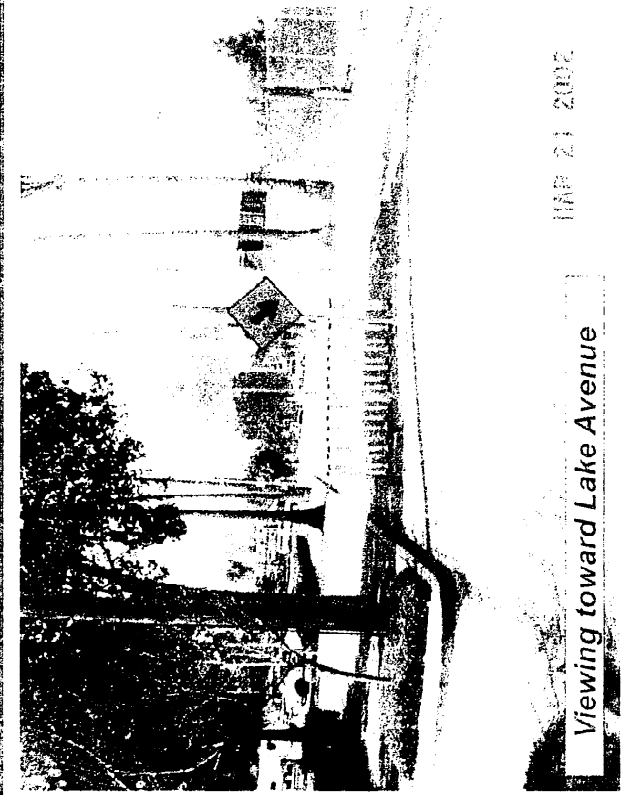
xc. Honorable Victor Gordo, Councilmember, District 5  
 Mr. Richard Quirk, AIA, Chair, Transportation Advisory Commission

P.O. BOX 40812 • PASADENA, CA • 91114-7672  
 PHONE: 626-585-2172 • E-MAIL: [GHNA@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:GHNA@EARTHLINK.NET)  
 WEBSITE: [WWW.BUNGALOWHEAVEN.ORG](http://WWW.BUNGALOWHEAVEN.ORG)

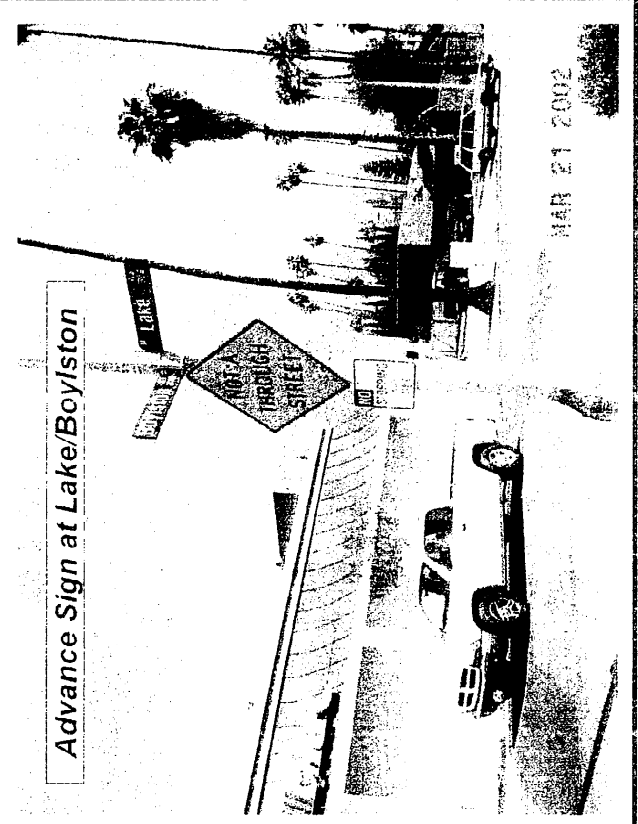
# Boylston Street Partial Closure Existing Condition



Viewing toward Lake Avenue

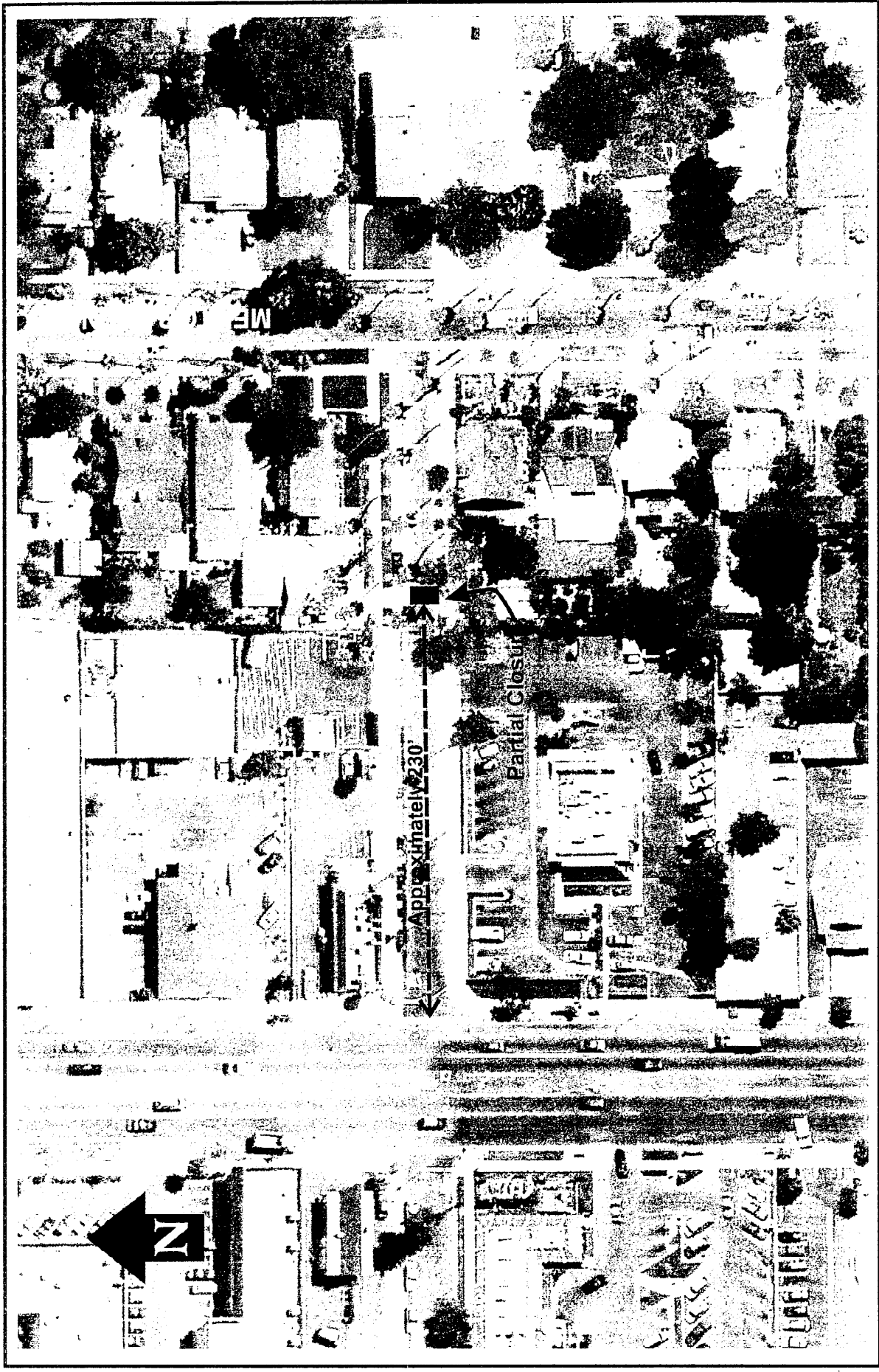


Temporary Installation



Advance Sign at Lake/Boylston

# Proposed Partial Closure on Boylston Street Between Lake Avenue & Mentor Avenue



RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA FOR PARTIAL CLOSURE OF STREETS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE SECTION 21101(f) AND PARTIALLY CLOSING BOYLSTON STREET BETWEEN LAKE AVENUE AND MENTOR AVENUE TO EASTBOUND THROUGH MOVEMENT BY INSTALLING A RAISED MEDIAN

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 21001(f), provides that local authorities may adopt rules and regulations by resolution prohibiting entry to, or exit from, or both, from any street by means of islands, curbs, traffic barriers, or other roadway design features to implement the circulation element of a general plan.

WHEREAS, the Director of Transportation has found, on sound traffic engineering principles, that Boylston Street between Mentor Avenue and Lake Avenue, and Mentor Avenue between Mountain Street and Orange Grove Boulevard, two local streets, have experienced above-normal levels of non-local vehicular traffic;

WHEREAS, field observation revealed a majority of eastbound traffic on Boylston Street was attributed to adjacent commercial establishments;

WHEREAS, an areawide traffic management program for the Bungalow Heaven neighborhood was developed by the Director of Transportation to address traffic concerns in 2001, based on sound traffic engineering principles.

WHEREAS, a temporary partial road closure was installed on Boylston Street between Lake Avenue and Mentor Avenue in August 2002;

WHEREAS, Based on a request of the area neighborhood association, community meetings, notices to residents and a survey of residents, the Department of Transportation represents that a majority of adjacent resident adjacent to the proposed road closure supports the closure. Specifically, the Bungalow Heaven Homeowners Association requested the permanent installation of the partial road closure in February 2003, and the Department of Transportation surveyed 196 potentially affected property owners on Mentor Avenue and Boylston Street. The majority of returned surveys support the installation of a permanent partial closure on Boylston;

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that the temporary partial closure has resulted in the following benefits: (1) A majority of the eastbound non-local traffic attributed to the adjacent commercial establishments was eliminated; (2) Emergency services were not negatively impacted; (3) Traffic safety and quality of life has improved for adjacent residents; and (4) The results are consistent with the goals of the neighborhood traffic management program as stated in the City's General Plan Mobility Element;

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Commission has reviewed the proposed installation and recommended approval;

WHEREAS, the Director of Transportation has indicated that the closure can be accomplished in a manner that complies

with all applicable laws and regulations, including, but without limitation, signage and structures.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed installation and found it to be consistent with the City's General Plan Mobility Element policies.

WHEREAS, a Noticed Public Hearing was held at the March 14, 2005 regular meeting of City Council to consider these matters.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council hereby resolves pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 21001(f): The City Council may approve a partial street closure where the following has occurred: (A) The Director of Transportation has found, on sound traffic engineering principles, that one or more local streets have experienced above-normal levels of non-local vehicular traffic. (B) An areawide traffic management program, including those local streets, has been developed by the Director of Transportation on sound traffic engineering principles. (C) A temporary partial street closure has been installed on a trial basis on the local streets, consistent with the areawide traffic management program. (D) The Department of Transportation represents that, based on a survey of residents adjacent to the partial closure, a majority of adjacent resident supports the closure. (E) The closure can be accomplished in a manner that complies with all applicable laws and regulations, including, but without limitation, signage and structures. (F) After noticed public hearing, the City Council finds that the partial closure is consistent with and implements a part of the Circulation Element of the General Plan and is consistent with the

responsibility of local government to provide for the health and safety of its citizens. (G) The City Council can reopen any such road which has been partially closed at any regular meeting, without public hearing, on a finding that the public interest is no longer served by the closing.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council further finds that partially closing Boylston Street between Mentor Avenue and Lake Avenue to prohibit eastbound vehicular movement by installing a raised median island, is consistent with the partial road closure on Boylston Street between Lake Avenue and Mentor Avenue and is consistent with procedures established in this Resolution, is consistent with and implements a part of the Circulation Element of the General Plan and is consistent with the responsibility of local government to provide for the health and safety of its citizens.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Director of Transportation and Director of Public Works shall design and construct a raised median island on Boylston Street mid-block between Mentor Avenue and Lake Avenue, and designate eastbound Boylston Street as "NOT A THROUGH STREET".

Adopted at the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_, 2005 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:



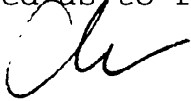
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

---

JANE L. RODRIGUEZ, CMC  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

 2/16/05

---

NICHOLAS G. RODRIGUEZ  
Assistant City Attorney