

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Safety Commission
Pacific Grove Community Center
**PUBLIC MEETING – STUART AVENUE
PROPOSED CLOSURE AT STATE HWY RTE 68
Minutes of – October 22, 2009 Meeting**

Present: Commissioners: Shayne, Lewis, Prock, Elstob, Terry & Leinen
Staff: Malcolm Knisely Traffic Engineer, Celia P. Martinez Public Works Superintendent
Others: City Manager Tom Frutchey, Mayor Carmelita Garcia, Council Member Ken Cuneo
and many residents of the affected area east of State Hwy 68.
Absent: Commissioner: Jan Roehl

The Traffic Commission Public Meeting was recorded. Recordings are kept at the Police Department for review. Recordings are kept for a period of ninety days following the meeting.

1. **The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shayne at 5:15 pm.**
2. **Oral Communications:**
None
3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. DISCUSS THE TRAFFIC OPTIONS WITH EASTBOUND TRAFFIC EXITING FOREST AVENUE (STATE HWY 68) ONTO STUART AVENUE.

Chairman George Shayne gave a brief review of the purpose of the meeting this evening. The Traffic Safety Commission for two years has been discussing the safety concerns related to speed of vehicles exiting eastbound from Hwy 68 onto Stuart Avenue. The Commission desired to hold a Public Meeting to receive the concerns and comments of the local residents regarding the possible closure of Stuart Avenue at Hwy 68. The Commissions also desired to have a discussion with local residents for their thoughts on alternate solutions that they may have. It was decided that no decision will be made at this meeting. Staff will receive all suggestions and comments and present a report at a future Traffic Safety Commission meeting.

Malcolm reported that every resident between Prescott Avenue on the north and Briggs Avenue on the south and Devisadero Street on the east and State Hwy 68 on the west was mailed a copy of the agenda for this meeting. This was based on the thought that if eastbound Hwy 68 traffic was diverted from Stuart Avenue it would either use Briggs Avenue or Prescott Avenue as an alternate route.

The original request was to close Stuart Avenue at Hwy 68 (Forest Avenue). As noted, Forest Avenue is a State Highway and the City is required to submit an Encroachment Application to CalTrans accompanied by an engineering drawing specifically indicating exactly what the City proposes. The City will have to front the funds to prepare the plans, specifications and estimate for CalTrans consideration. It is further noted that the City will be 100% responsible for all costs.

2. DISCUSS THE OPTION ONE (1) CLOSING OF THE EASTBOUND & WESTBOUND LANES OF STUART AVENUE AT FOREST AVENUE (STATE HWY 68). AS PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION, THE WESTBOUND RIGHT TURN LANE

FOR TRAFFIC FROM STUART AVENUE MAKING A RIGHT HAND TURN ONTO FOREST AVENUE NORTHBOUND WILL REMAIN OPEN.

The Traffic Commission in discussion with Staff was to let the right hand turn lane remain open for westbound traffic on Stuart Avenue to access northbound State Hwy 68 (Forest Avenue).

CalTrans submitted a sketch suggesting that the intersection be realigned with the Piedmont Avenue intersection on the other side on Hwy 68. This would create a four legged intersection. The exiting intersection configuration at this location would be removed. Although access would have to be provided to the existing residences on the south side of Stuart Avenue between Hwy 68 and Bishop Way.

If this happens then the existing right turn lane for westbound traffic on Stuart Avenue to go northbound onto Hwy 68 would be removed and this traffic would use the newly created intersection as discussed above.

CalTrans would also review other options that the City may propose that involves Forest Avenue in reviewing the Stuart Avenue concerns.

3. DISCUSS OTHER OPTIONS

All those in attendance were offered the opportunity to discuss the concepts as noted above and they & staff provided the following concerns and ideas:

1. Eight residents were against the closure
2. Five residents wanted speed bumps
3. Lower the speed limit on Hwy 68 approaching Pacific Grove
4. Construct new access into Presidio at 5th the Gate
5. Massive tree roots on Stuart Avenue cause traffic calming effect
6. No sidewalks in the area
7. Emergency vehicles would be hampered by closure
8. Two residents were for a 3 way stop at Stuart Avenue & Bishop Way
9. Bad sight distance at Stuart Avenue & Sea View Avenue intersection
10. Speed signs and or flashing lights
11. Extend eastbound right turn lane on Forest Ave south of Prescott Ave
12. Construct Right turn lane for eastbound traffic on Forest Ave onto Stuart Ave

Approximately fourteen residents noted their concerns with the proposal and they were reasonably balanced in favor of closing Stuart Avenue or having it remain open. The Commissioners thanked the residents in attendance and noted their appreciation for their suggestions and ideas. Darius Engles and Celia P. Martinez also expressed their thanks and appreciation for attending this public meeting. Darius stated that the speed boards will be put on Stuart Avenue more often. Celia said that they will begin taking steps immediately and will keep everyone aware of our recommendations.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Malcolm Knisely
Traffic Engineer

Darius Engles
Chief of Police