

Long Beach City Council

Presented by: Dr. Stuart L. Farber

July 21, 2015

1. Greetings—very pleased to be here with all of you today
2. Traffic congestion problems at Rogers Middle School and Lowell Elementary School exist and will be discussed further in this paper.
3. Mr. Rivas (Traffic Engineer Associate for city of Long Beach) took an auto traffic count on a school day between 8:15 and 9:15 AM on Monrovia Ave, (one-way street) between Appian Way and Vista Ave. The count was 1,058 vehicles—that's about 18 vehicles per minute.
4. Congestion. Rogers and Lowell do not provide parking space for employees or for guests. Their parking space is the residents' parking space. The school staff vehicles generally remain in that space for the entire day. This may cause residents to park blocks away from their homes. In addition to this situation, busses, trucks and oversize vehicles may serve to block up Monrovia Ave. More consideration should be given to school staff parking on Appian Way between Monrovia and Nieto avenues (where no homes exist) and parking on the unused area of school grounds. At Hoover Middle School, we have observed as many as 20 vehicles parked on the school grounds in a relatively small herringbone designed lot. This could be accomplished at both Rogers and Lowell.
5. Monrovia Avenue is a narrow one-way street often backed up with parents driving their children to and from school and often remaining in their vehicles for 30 minutes or more. School side street signage states "No parking 7:00 AM-4:00 PM on school days. A second sign directly below states: "Passenger loading and unloading permitted. Driver must remain in vehicle". (Police do not ticket drivers for parking illegally because they see drivers in the car), Parents facing impacted traffic, have often dropped their students off in the middle of the street causing potential danger to students and cars.

## **SUGGESTIONS:**

- 1. Continue to encourage students to bike or walk to school if they are able.**
- 2. Provide signage and appropriate curb color for Rogers on Monrovia Ave. where current signage exists, indicating “loading and unloading only—10 minutes from 7:00 AM-4:00 PM on school days”.**
- 3. Repair Monrovia Avenue street surface. Currently, there is approximately a 30 yard length of center street surface breakage offset from 1 to 5 inches. This has caused many bicycle accidents. I have personally assisted treatment to injuries suffered by 3 different bike riders at this spot. This section of Monrovia needs to be properly repaired.**
- 4. Rogers needs to provide adequate parking for numerous evening school programs to include: PTA, concerts, Open House, Back to School Night and other special programs. We suggest using the gated school entrance off Appian Way to the current blacktop area for program parking. On Sundays we have observed the members of the “Soundhouse Church” utilizing this very entry and parking for their members.**
- 5. There is a need for a crossing guard to be located at the intersection of Vista and Monrovia avenues. This will provide safer crossing for the children of both schools as they attempt to cross through the heavy traffic. This suggestion was made to Mr. Rivas at our Belmont Park Community Watch meeting about a year ago. Decisions were stalled according to Mr. Rivas because of need for a committee voting on the issue. As was stated in #3, as many as 1,058 vehicles will pass through this intersection in the hour before the start of school at both Rogers and Lowell. A similar situation will exist at the end of each school day.**