

CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

C-23

333 West Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach, CA 90802 • (562) 570-6383 • FAX (562) 570-6012

August 10, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: Amendment to Section 10.14.020.A of the Long Beach Municipal Code
Relating to the Modification of the One-Way Traffic Operation on Wehrle
Court Between Ximeno Avenue and Bennett Avenue (District 4)

DISCUSSION

The Traffic and Transportation Bureau received a request from a constituent to change the direction of the existing one-way westbound operation on Wehrle Court, between Ximeno Avenue and Bennett Avenue, to a one-way eastbound operation. Several complaints have been received from constituents residing near the intersection of Bennett Avenue at Wehrle Court regarding northbound traffic on Bennett Avenue encountering a dead-end at Wehrle Court and having to make multiple point turns in order to turn around to proceed southbound on Bennett Avenue back to Anaheim Street or travel the wrong way on Wehrle Court to reach Ximeno Avenue. Several of these motorists traveling eastbound on Anaheim Street are attempting to "cut" through the residential neighborhood north of Anaheim Street and west of Ximeno Avenue via Bennett Avenue and Wehrle Court, to bypass the Ximeno Avenue at Anaheim Street intersection during the p.m. peak period, when this intersection becomes congested.

Various property damage has been reported by constituents residing on the north side of Wehrle Court at Bennett Avenue, as a result of motorists partially encroaching on their properties while backing up in order to turn around to proceed in the opposite direction. The request for a reversal in the one-way traffic operation on Wehrle Court between Ximeno Avenue and Bennett Avenue was raised in order to eliminate this existing problem.

Staff has instituted various measures in the past, through signage, to address this situation, including the posting of "NOT A THROUGH STREET" signs at the intersection of Bennett Avenue at Anaheim Street and turn restriction signage on the north side of Wehrle Court opposite Bennett Avenue, in order to discourage motorists from using Bennett Avenue and Wehrle Court to bypass the Ximeno Avenue at Anaheim Street

**ADMINISTRATION,
PLANNING & FACILITIES**
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 9th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802
Ph. (562) 570-6383
Fax (562) 570-6012

AIRPORT
4100 Donald Douglas Dr.
Long Beach, CA 90808
Ph. (562) 570-2600
Fax (562) 570-2601

**ENGINEERING & STREET
MAINTENANCE**
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 9th Floor
Long Beach, CA. 90802
Ph. (562) 570-6634
Fax (562) 570-6012

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**
2929 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90806
Ph. (562) 570-2850
Fax (562) 570-2861

FLEET SERVICES
2600 Temple Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90806
Ph. (562) 570-5400
Fax (562) 570-5414

**TRAFFIC &
TRANSPORTATION**
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 10th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802
Ph. (562) 570-6331
Fax (562) 570-7161

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intersection. Despite the installation of signage, the cut-through traffic situation continues to persist.

Staff has evaluated this situation and concluded that a reversal in the one-way operation on the subject portion of Wehrle Court would enhance overall traffic circulation and safety and will not adversely impact traffic circulation or safety in the area. The traffic signal at the Ximeno Avenue at Anaheim Street intersection will be modified to provide protected-permissive left-turn phasing in the eastbound direction in order to provide additional capacity for the eastbound Anaheim Street to northbound Ximeno Avenue left-turn movement and decrease overall congestion at this intersection during the p.m. peak period. Through this modification of the traffic signal, staff is hopeful that cut-through traffic on Bennett Avenue and Wehrle Court can be minimized.

A petition circulated among the residents of Bennett Avenue between Anaheim Road and Wehrle Court and Wehrle Court between Bennett Avenue and Ximeno Avenue indicates that 95 percent of the residents support the conversion of the existing one-way westbound operation on the subject portion of Wehrle Court to a one-way eastbound operation. Staff has verified that the proposed changes in traffic circulation will not adversely impact traffic circulation or safety in the area. Therefore, staff has no objections to the proposed one-way conversions. The affected street segment is highlighted on the attached vicinity map.

This letter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Lisa Peskay Malmsten on July 29, 2004 and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on August 2, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is not time critical.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of materials and labor for the implementation of the change in one-way operation on this street is estimated at \$500. Sufficient funds are budgeted in the General Fund (GP) and in the Department of Public Works (PW) to support this activity.


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IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Request the City Attorney to prepare an amendment to Section 10.14.020.A of the Long Beach Municipal Code, by modifying the following subsection:

"71. (East) Wehrle Court, from Bennett Avenue to Ximeno Avenue"

Respectfully submitted,


CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DR:EN:ap
350-06 one way traffic Wehrle

Attachment

APPROVED:


 CHRISTINE I. SHIPPER
GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER