



Marine Advisory Commission

Long Beach, California

205 N. Marina Drive, Long Beach, CA 90803

David Thornburg, Chair
Mark Turpin, Vice Chair
Camille Daniels

Colin Kelly
Ted Kuhn
Elizabeth Lambe

Theresa Marino
Tom Mayes

May 6, 2019

Mayor Robert Garcia
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach, California 90802

RE: MAC Position on Marina Drive Reconfiguration

Dear Mayor Garcia,

The Marine Advisory Commission has reviewed the City's Marina Drive Complete Streets Revitalization plan presented at the February 14, 2019, MAC meeting. Our understanding is that The City intends to impose a "road diet" by eliminating two of the four existing traffic lanes, which is the current configuration. We were told that this is an effort to slow down traffic along Marina Drive and add disabled accessible sidewalks and bike lanes in both directions. We were told that reducing lanes by 50% would result in only a 10% change in traffic flow. No empirical data were presented to support the 10% assumption. We have also reviewed the proposed Alamitos Bay Parking and Circulation Master Plan.

The Commission supports developing more creative efforts to provide access to disabled persons and bicyclists, but we believe the Marina Drive plan shown to us will make it very difficult, if not impossible, for Alamitos Bay Marina (ABM) boaters to access the Basin 3 parking lots on the south side of the road. We recognize that business development on both sides of Marina Drive, for example the San Pedro Fish Company, the 2nd & PCH complex, and likely continuation of the Sunday Farmers Market will greatly increase the traffic flow on this street. As we already know, Marina Drive gets very congested currently when the Farmers Market is open, let alone after the road diet has its effect. Furthermore, the planned diagonal parking spaces, turn lanes, and traffic lights will cause additional traffic flow restrictions. Because of these factors, we are convinced that the City's assumption of a 10% change in traffic flow is a severe underestimate of the true impact. Indeed, we believe that Marina Drive will become very congested, especially when boaters are most likely to need it.

The boat owners, whose slip fees have helped pay for the parking lot construction and maintenance are entitled to have easy access to their slips. Since boaters' fees increase 2% yearly, we feel that the City is further reducing boat owner access and increasing parking impacts while, at the same time, incrementally increasing their fees. Public transportation is not an option for them since they typically have boating equipment to haul to and from their boats using private vehicles. We also feel that access to and from the Marina Pacifica condominiums and the Davies Boat Ramp, while already congested, will be further negatively affected by the proposed road diet on Marina Drive.

We support the proposed parking plan's suggestion that parking meters be installed in the Basin 3 parking lots. However, the meters will not be installed for potentially weeks or months after 2nd & PCH opens. We anticipate that employees from 2nd & PCH will likely use the Basin 3 parking spaces rather than take customer spaces within the complex. This adds to the negative impact upon boat owners at least until the meters are installed, as customers and employees of 2nd & PCH will park in the Basin 3 lot, rather than pay for parking inside the shopping complex.

We recommend that either the present four-traffic lane configuration of Marina Drive be maintained or, at the very least, remove the planned diagonal parking along the Second & PCH project. We feel that the diagonal parking will have the largest negative impact on traffic flow. We agree that the planned right and left turn lanes should be constructed to facilitate access to the ABM. We also applaud the installation of parking meters, with proper concessions to boat owners who are already paying monthly fees to use the lot.

Sincerely,


David Thornburg, Chair


Mark Turpin, Vice Chair


Camille Daniels, Commissioner


Colin Kelly, Commissioner


Ted Kuhn, Commissioner


Elizabeth Lambe, Commissioner


Theresa Marino, Commissioner


Tom Mayes, Commissioner

c: California Coastal Commission
Long Beach City Council
Patrick H. West, City Manager
Linda Tatum, Director, Development Services
Gerardo Mouet, Director, Parks, Recreation and Marine
Elvira Hallinan, Manager, Marinas and Beaches