



City of Sonora
Tuolumne County
"Queen of the Southern Mines"
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Area Code 209

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Police Department	532-8143
Fire Department	532-7432
Opera Hall/Redevelopment-Grants	532-7725
City Engineer	532-1867

Date: April 18, 2023
To: Parking and Traffic Commission
From: Gerard J. Fuccillo, City Engineer
Subject: Comments to P&TC Requests received February to April, 2023

1. P&TC Request 1 02-14-2023 Fairview Lane -Parking Space Removal

Request Summary: This is a request from Elizabeth Rico of the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office requesting that one parking space along Fairview Lane at the parking lot entrance to 175 Fairview Lane (TC Superintendent of Schools Office) be eliminated to improve visibility of vehicular traffic for public safety. The request includes a letter requesting that one parking space be eliminated by painting the curb red for 15'-20' northwesterly of the parking lot entrance on Fairview with pictures of the proposed parking space proposed to be eliminated. (See Attachment A to the agenda: 1-P&TCommReq-02-14-23-FairviewLaneParking.pdf)

I reviewed this matter in the field and found that the lower elevation in the parking lot to Fairview Lane makes it difficult to see a vehicle traveling southeasterly on Fairview Lane to a vehicle trying to exit the parking lot. I would recommend that the one proposed parking space be eliminated by painting the curb red for 20 feet. It is normal to eliminate one parking space each side of a parking lot exit entrance for site distance.

2. P&TC Request 2 03-14-2023 Forest Road Stop Sign Removal.

Request Summary: This is a request from Donn Swartz representing Adventist Church requesting that 2 stop signs be removed on Forest Road at the intersection of Sylvan Drive. The location is at the entrance the old Sonora Community Hospital at Sylvan drive where there is a three way stop intersection of South Forest Road (City street) with two privately maintained roads used by the public (North Forest Road and Sylvan Drive). It is requested that stop signs for both the northbound and southbound direction along Forest Road be removed and that the Sylvan Drive stop sign remain. Applicant claims that traffic at the intersection has been reduced with the closure of Sonora Community Hospital, and that presently a third of the vehicles on Forest Road ignore the stop signs. (See Attachment B to the agenda: 2-P&TCommReq-3-14-23-Forest Road StopSigns.pdf)

I have reviewed the request in the field and recommend that stop signs on Forest Road remain and that the request be denied. The subject intersection is an odd shaped intersection, nearly a wye shape where every vehicle entering the intersection has to make a turn. There is also the old hospital parking lot which enters the intersection and which serves offices and a fitness center.

The privately maintained portion of Forest Road north of the intersection serves a church, schools, as well residential parcels, and pedestrian traffic from the area and the Dragoon Gulch trail. Forest Road at times acts as a bypass of Washington Street, and in the past there have been speed problems where Adventist Church has installed speed bumps to slow traffic down. The speed zone established by the church on North Forest Road is 10 mph.

In observation of the intersection with traffic, it is true that not every vehicle stops at the stop signs on Forest Road, some just make a California stop and slowly cruise through the intersection. However, this does slow down traffic and makes the drivers more observant to other vehicles and pedestrians. Removal of the stop signs may increase the probably of an accident. Vehicles on Forest Road will just cruise though the intersection at speed.

If the Commission wishes to approve the request to remove the stop signs on Forest Road, they should also remove the Stop Ahead sign on the northbound Forest Road approach to the intersection.

3. P&TC Request 3 04-03-2023 Fire Lane in the Bank of America Parking lot.

Request Summary: At the request of Paul Breaux, Fire Chief Aimee New has requested that the Commission address a fire lane along the north side of the Bank of America Parking lot (Stockton Street side of the parking lot west of Green Street). Mr. Breaux has emailed 2 photos of the parking in the parking lot. (See Attachment C to the agenda, email from Aimee New: 3-P&TCommReq 04-03-23FireLane BofAParking lot.pdf).

In review of the item photos in the field, it appears that parking along the north side of the parking lot is obstructing angle parking maneuvering, as well as use of the parking lane as a fire lane. The Commission should request that the Bank of America paint the curb on the north side of the parking as a fire lane with no parking signing similar to the curb painting and signing on the south side of the parking.

In regard to the second photo in the attachment which appears to be out of marked parking space parking, I do not see how the City can enforce out of marked space parking without a specific request from the Bank of America.

4. P&TC Request 4 04-07-2023 No parking on east side of Maple Street from Lytton St. to Bulwer St.

Request Summary: This is a request of Ariane Cannon a resident of Maple Street to extend the No Parking zone on Maple Street for the entire east side of Maple Street between Lytton Street and Bulwer Street, for safety, property damage, and law enforcement reasons. (See Attachment D to the agenda: 4-P&TCommReq 04-07-23-Maple St No Parking.pdf)

I have reviewed the request in the field, and recommend that Maple Street be marked for No Parking both sides, between Lytton Street and Bulwer Street. The street is barely 15' in width in most places and has a drainage ditch along the upper side. Parking on either side will create problems as noted in the request, the street is simply too narrow to provide for street parking.



Gerard J. Fuccillo
City Engineer

Agenda attachments:

Attachment A: 1-P&TCommReq-02-14-23-FairviewLaneParking.pdf

Attachmeet B: 2-P&TCommReq-3-14-23-Forest Road StopSigns.pdf

Attachment C: 3-P&TCommReq 04-03-23FireLane BofAParking lot.pdf

Attachment D: 4-P&TCommReq 04-07-23-Maple St No Parking.pdf