



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 19, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Introduction Of Ordinance Establishing Bus Stop Zones

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council introduce and subsequently adopt, by reading of title only, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Chapter 10.48 of the Municipal Code by Amending Section 10.48.090, Bus Zones to be Established.

DISCUSSION:

Section 10.48.090 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC) authorizes the Transportation Engineer to establish bus loading zones and bus layover zones for the purpose of parking standby buses.

Use of Bus Stops by Buses Other Than MTD

Based on the definition of a bus under the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and the existing SBMC ordinance, any vehicle defined as a bus may use the bus stops in the City of Santa Barbara. Buses are defined by the CVC as vehicles designed for and used for carrying 15 or more passengers. SBMC Section 10.48.090, as presently enacted, does not specify the type of bus that may use the bus stops and layover zones. When buses other than the Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) use the bus stops and layover zones, it impacts the ability of MTD buses to load and unload passengers in a safe and timely manner. Staff recommends that the SBMC be amended to clarify that the bus stop zones have been established for use by MTD.

Establishing of Tour Bus Loading Zones

Amendment of the SBMC to clarify that bus stop zones have been established for use by MTD creates the need to establish tour bus loading zones, so that visitors may be safely loaded and unloaded from designated areas near local attractions. Staff recommends that the SBMC be amended to grant the Transportation Engineer the authority to establish tour bus loading zones.

A letter of support from MTD General Manager, Jerry Estrada, is attached.

Use of MTD Bus Stops by Other Buses

At certain bus stops, other buses, such as tour buses or charter buses may desire to use bus stops that are intended for MTD. Allowing these other buses to utilize MTD bus stops is an efficient use of curb space, as long as MTD operations are not negatively impacted. Staff also recommends that Council grant the Public Works Director the authority to issue permits for other buses to use the bus stop zones, if a determination is made that such use will not negatively impact MTD's ability to safely and timely unload passengers.

Local commuter buses Vista and Clean Air Express will be accommodated at city bus stops.

Staff have reached out to the two known local users of MTD bus stops: the Santa Barbara Trolley, and the Landshark. Staff intends to accommodate these local businesses to the most reasonable extent possible, without impacting MTD operations.

Ordinance Committee recommended that this ordinance be forwarded to Council for approval.

ATTACHMENT: Letter from Jerry Estrada, MTD General Manager, dated March 11, 2015

PREPARED BY: Derrick Bailey, Supervising Transportation Engineer/mj

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 11, 2015

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ENGINEERING

Derrick Bailey
Public Works Department
City of Santa Barbara
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Bailey:

Thank you for the opportunity to coordinate on amending the City bus stop ordinance. MTD is supportive and appreciative of the ordinance to ensure MTD buses can load and unload passengers at bus stops designated for MTD use. MTD looks forward to working with the City Transportation Engineer when it is deemed necessary to allow other buses public or private in using such stops. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 963-3364 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Estrada", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry Estrada
General Manager