

NTMP Report – November 2005

A number of members of the Board met with Jack Weiss this morning (November 17, 2005) to discuss the NTMP and his desire to "tweak" it. The meeting was friendly, courteous, and hopefully fruitful for our community. After many meetings and discussions with the membership, it was evident that under no circumstances would everyone in the community be satisfied no matter what the outcome of negotiations with the Council Office. As a result, it became evident to us that our best approach would be to deal with Councilman Weiss in a way that would hopefully realize the maximum benefits to the community, preserve the NTMP and its goals and further the implementation as soon as possible of the remainder of the mitigations.

Mr. Weiss had already been moved to drop his suggestion of a right turn lane into Cheviot Hills Park from Pico as a result of our communications suggesting the safety threats this implementation might pose. However, he was steadfast in his resolve to add a second right turn lane off of Motor onto Pico.

Rather than oppose this directly, we took the position of disagreeing in principle, but agreeing to not oppose the implementation with the following considerations:

- 1) We requested that traffic counts on Monte Mar and Cresta, which feed into that last stretch, be taken prior to restriping, since we feel that this change might draw more cut-through traffic onto the final stretch of Motor. Recounts of traffic on these critical side streets are to be done during the 6 months following implementation of the right lane, after which we will sit down at the table again to reassess the impact of the lane addition.

- 2) Parking on the east side of Motor along the side of Hillcrest Country Club will be either totally eliminated or greatly curtailed in order to facilitate adding the right turn lane without disruption of the planned center median strips which are to be placed.

- 3) Mr. Weiss will negotiate with LADOT to move the traffic counting north of the intersection of Manning and Motor from its present location on National in order to obtain a more appropriate evaluation of traffic flow. He will also prevail upon LADOT to further meter traffic to conform to the 600 car/hr. maximum using these new counts.

- 4) The Council Office will move to facilitate the implementation of Phase 2 of the NTMP by LADOT and Trammel Crowe. Having met with Trammel Crowe's representative, it is our understanding that they are ready to begin this work as soon as logistically possible and funding will not be a barrier to full implementation.

- 5) Mr. Weiss unequivocally stated that this is the one and only change he is proposing to the NTMP and that no further changes are being considered. He stated his continued support for the complete project.

As a result of this meeting, our feeling is that we have won more than we have lost. Any threat to the dissolution of the NTMP is not a reality as we see it. Furthermore, in keeping our relationship with the Council Office both cordial and cooperative, it is most likely that we will continue to have Mr. Weiss' support in the many areas which we will be needing it in the future. The concessions we obtained surrounding the addition of the right turn lane will be most beneficial in the long run, as well as allowing a reappraisal of the Weiss change at a predicted date based on hard evidence.

Our meeting with Mr. Muhlstein, who represents not only Trammel Crowe, but also the Condo development at Constellation Place and Fox, was extremely cordial and left us with the feeling that we share interests that will be most beneficial to our community in terms of traffic, transportation, and support of our neighborhood institutions. This hopefully will turn into a long-term partnership which will be most valuable.

If anyone has specific questions concerning any of these matters, please contact me or Greg and we would be pleased to answer you as best we can.

By Robert Simon, Traffic Committee Co-Chair



Left to right: Councilman Weiss, Board president Kevin Hughes, traffic committee co-chairs Greg Pulis and Robert Simon.