

## TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

July 25, 2007

Item 7D

Discussion/Action

### Proposed Revisions to Alameda Municipal Code Regarding Reassignment of Technical Transportation Team Responsibilities, Modification of Transportation Commission Responsibilities and Appeal Process for Transportation Operational Decisions

#### BACKGROUND

The Technical Transportation Team (TTT) currently has responsibilities for making decisions or recommendations to the City Council on non-routine or controversial traffic operational issues recommended by staff. Staff has been working on modifying the Alameda Municipal Code (AMC) to reassign these responsibilities to the Public Works Director and other executive management managers, depending on the issue. The Transportation Commission (TC) would be the appeal board for the Public Works Director's transportation operational decisions.

In addition, on May 7, 2007, the City Council and the TC held a joint meeting, at which the Council indicated interest in having the TC focus on developing strategies to reduce the number of single occupant vehicle (SOV) trips at the Webster/Posey Tubes and the Bay Farm Island (BFI) Bridge. The TC is currently not empowered to conduct project-related activities, as the AMC authorizes the TC to make policy recommendations to the City Council.

#### DISCUSSION

##### **Overview of Current City Responsibilities For Transportation Operations**

###### *1) Current Duties of TTT*

The current AMC Section 8-1.4 assigns TTT as the hearing body for the public and administrator of non-routine transportation operational issues with the exception of certain traffic control devices such as stop signs, which must be approved by the City Council. Non-routine transportation operations decisions may include removal of on-street parking, establishment of parking meter locations, and other similar projects.

###### *2) Present Responsibilities of Transportation Commission*

AMC Section 2-8, which establishes and outlines the responsibilities of the Transportation Commission, currently empowers the TC to make policy recommendations to the City Council and monitor implementation of policy documents, but not to conduct activities related to the development of projects. More specifically, Section 2-8.1 states the following: "The Transportation Commission shall advise the City Council on City transportation policies, through the development of transportation plans including but not limited to Transit Plan, Bike Plan, Circulation Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Ferry Plan, and Transportation Demand Management Plan, and shall monitor, via quarterly staff reports, implementation of approved transportation plans and policies."

*3) Decision-Making and Appeals Processes for Transportation Operations Decisions*

Presently, as per the AMC Section 8-1.5 any interested person can appeal TTT decision to the TC or the City Council depending upon the nature of the matter under consideration. If a matter is referred to the TC and the TC recommendation is not acceptable to the community, anyone can then file an appeal to the City Council. This means residents opposing a project may have to attend three separate meetings: 1) the TTT, to make their initial argument against the project, 2) the TC, to file an appeal if they disagree with the TTT decision, and 3) the City Council, if the TC does not grant their appeal. The Council has requested that the implementation of such improvements be streamlined.

**Proposed AMC Revisions**

Public Works staff is currently working to develop recommended revisions to the AMC to address the concerns described above. The revisions will achieve the following:

- The modified AMC will assign all of the present responsibilities of the TTT to the Public Works Director and other executive management managers, depending on the issue. The decision will be based on traffic engineering studies or principles for the safe and adequate flow of all affected modes of transportation. The Public Works Director may elect to have the TC hear an item if he/she determines that public has significant conflicting views. Prior to implementing the decision, the Public Works Director will provide a notice of his/her decision to the affected parties along with the details of the appeal process.
- If operational decisions by the Public Works Director are appealed, such appeals will be reviewed by the TC. Appeals of such TC decisions will be heard by the City Council.
- The TC will be the approval body for angled parking, based on the Director's recommendation.
- The TC will be empowered to conduct and/or review transportation analyses related to specific transportation projects at the request of the City Council.

These changes will affect several sections of the AMC, and the detailed language is currently being finalized. This issue is being brought to the TC for input and to expedite the process to enable the TC to begin work on the Council's requested project-oriented tasks. Staff has tentatively scheduled the proposed code revisions for the August 21, 2007 City Council meeting.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS/FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the TC provide input on the intent and key elements of the proposed AMC changes as outlined above and recommend the approval of the modifications.

**Attachment**

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**TABLE 1 - SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRAFFIC OPERATIONS**

<b>Operational Issue</b>	<b>Current Authority</b>	<b>Current Appeal Body</b>	<b>Proposed Authority</b>	<b>Proposed Appeal Body</b>
Traffic control by police officer	Police Chief	N/A	Police Chief in consultation with PWD	N/A
Stop intersections	TTT recommends locations to City Council	City Council	PWD, based on warrants or local standards	TC
Parking prohibition – more than 1 space	TTT	City Council	PWD	TC
Parking prohibition – 1 space or less	PWD	City Council	PWD	TC
Parking prohibition, transit stops	PWD	City Council	PWD	TC
Parking prohibition, specified hours	TTT	City Council	PWD	TC
Parking prohibition, street sweeping	PWD	City Council	PWD	TC
Parking time limits	TTT	City Council	PWD	TC
Temporary parking prohibitions (72 hours)	Chief of Police	City Council	Police Chief in consultation with PWD	City Council
Angled parking	City Council; TTT designates spaces	City Council	TC; PWD to designate specific spaces	City Council
Disabled parking	TTT	City Council	PWD	TC
Official Vehicle Pkg.	Not assigned	N/A	City Manager	City Council
Vision safety zone (intersection visibility)	TTT	City Council	PWD	TC
Carpool parking	Planning and Building Director	City Council	Planning and Building Director, with PWD	City Council
Establishment of no cruising zones	TTT	City Council	Police Chief, with PWD	City Council
Pedestrian signal	Recommended by PWD, approved by TTT	City Council	PWD	TC
Safe routes to school	TTT, recommended by Police Chief and AUSD	City Council	PWD with Police Chief and AUSD	TC
Vehicle abatement	TTT	City Council	Police Chief	City Council
Time of operation of truck routes	TTT	City Council	PWD	TC
Temporary truck routes	Police Chief	City Council	Police Chief in consultation with PWD	City Council
Parking meters within parking meter zones	TTT	City Council	PWD	TC

(Note: TC = Transportation Commission, TTT = Transportation Technical Team, PWD = Public Works Director)