

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA  
Parking and Traffic Committee Regular Meeting  
May 26, 2011

The Parking and Traffic Committee met in formal session at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 26, 2011 in the Alcazar Conference Room, City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Len Weeks, Chairperson and the following were present:

**1. Roll Call**      Len Weeks, Chairperson  
                            Phil Moan  
                            Clyde Taylor  
                            Verna Brown  
                            Richard Pinto

**Absent:**              Phil Moan (Excused)  
                            Jerry Dixon

**City Staff:**         Mark Litzinger, City Comptroller  
                            Ron Brown, City Attorney  
                            Carly Mason, Recording Secretary

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**2. Discussion regarding Carriage Routes**

Ron Brown, City Attorney, provided the committee with a copy of the current and proposed horse carriage routes. He said the City Commission had passed the carriage ordinance and noted that permits were in the process of being issued. He indicated that the franchise agreements and existing route would take effect on June 1, 2011. He indicated that the Bayfront/Castillo proposal would allow horse carriages to remain on the bayfront.

Mark Litzinger, City Comptroller, explained that a test pilot would be conducted for each of the proposed carriage routes.

Mr. Weeks asked for additional information regarding the proposed route submitted by Pete Weiland.

Mr. Brown replied that Pete Weiland, City of St. Augustine, Firefighter, submitted a proposed route that would take carriages off of Avenida Menendez and Marine Street.

Kelly McDaniel, Avalon Carriages, explained that her company would conduct a test for each of the proposed carriage routes and provide feedback to city staff. She said from a safety standpoint the right hand turns would be more appropriate and expressed concern regarding the safety of the horses when traveling along Cuna Street and Hypolita Street.

Mr. Brown asked how the traffic flow around Cathedral Place, King Street, and the Government House affected the carriages.

Ms. McDaniel replied that crossing over into the left hand lane was a concern.

Mr. Brown questioned whether the carriages would pose a problem for the pedestrian crossings located at Valencia and Sevilla Street, and the response was no.

Martha Graham, Director, Public Works Department, asked Ms. McDaniel to include parking details when providing feedback from each of the proposed routes.

Clyde Taylor suggested that the carriages travel in a pattern that would utilize right hand turns.

Mr. Weeks stated that the horse carriages traveling along Cordova Street from Valencia Street to King Street/Cathedral Place would increase traffic congestion.

Mr. Russom expressed concern regarding the carriages traveling from Valencia Street to King Street.

Mr. Weeks questioned whether Ms. McDaniel would prefer a particular route.

Ms. McDaniel replied that she would prefer the proposed day/night route.

Mr. Weeks asked each committee member to review each of the proposals and a discussion would take place at the subsequent meeting.

Mr. Brown questioned the timeframe of the pilot test.

Ms. McDaniel replied that she would begin the trial route proposals in June and would provide feedback to staff. She expressed concern regarding the carriages traveling near the construction located at Ribera Street/Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Ms. Brown asked about relocating the horses to the Visitor Information Center (VIC.)

Ms. McDaniel replied that visibility on the bayfront was very important. She indicated that relocating the carriages to the VIC would not allow drivers to overlook other carriages, which allowed drivers to take a short break.

Mr. Pinto expressed concern regarding the number of carriages on the street.

Ms. McDaniel expressed interest in creating a carriage route designated for Lincolnville.

B.J. Kalaidi suggested July 4, 2011 holiday weekend be included during the trial period.

### **3. Discussion regarding Commercial Delivery Vehicles**

Tara Bennie, Parking Coordinator, explained that large commercial delivery trucks were unable to enter the loading zones, due to non-designated vehicles parking in the loading zone forcing the trucks to unload products in the street. She said some drivers would prefer to receive a ticket versus looking for adequate parking space, due to the time constraint that the drivers followed.

Mr. Weeks suggested a copy of the loading zones be provided at the subsequent meeting and proposed creating a specified time period for deliveries.

Ms. Bennie indicated that misuse of the loading zones was a problem and indicated that a solution would need to be put in place in order to allow commercial trucks proper access to the loading zones.

Mr. Pinto questioned the lot most frequently misused, and the response was the Spanish Street lot.

Mr. Weeks suggested placing a sign located in the loading zone that would specify the appropriate vehicle size.

Mr. Litzinger said two spaces could be added to the Spanish Street lot, which would allow a 15 minute loading/unloading time period. He said the vehicles would be monitored to ensure proper use.

Ms. Graham explained that certain streets were not open to large vehicles, due to surrounding buildings incurring structural damage and stated that the St. Augustine Police Department issues permits to oversized commercial vehicles.

Ms. Brown suggested researching surrounding cities to retrieve commercial delivery vehicles information.

#### **4. Other Business**

##### **Parking hours around the Plaza:**

Mr. Litzinger explained that he had received positive feedback regarding the change of hours around the plaza from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

##### **National Park Service Parking Lot:**

Mr. Litzinger explained that Gordie Wilson, Superintendent, National Park Service (NPS), had requested that the City provide a street sweeper to perform routine upkeep, landscaping upgrades and electrical upgrades to the NPS parking lot. He said Mr. Wilson was in support of increasing the meter rates from .50 cents to \$1.50 and would attend the subsequent meeting to further discuss the request.

##### **Installation of a ramp for a handicap space located at the Plaza:**

Ms. Graham explained that a ramp would be installed for the existing handicap space located in the plaza, which would comply with legal requirements.

Mr. Litzinger explained that the ramp details would be brought back to the committee for review.

#### **5. Consideration of Next Scheduled Meeting – June 23, 2011**

#### **6. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 A.M.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Transcribed by Carly Mason