

ACONA Meeting Notes

January 7, 2014

After introductions, the following topic was discussed: **Parking and Traffic in Altadena**
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LA County Public Works Traffic & Lighting Division: Tommy Muttaraid, Jennifer Aborida

Parking Questions

What are the parking "laws" in Altadena?

The county website is the best place to look for the ordinances dealing with county areas, which includes Altadena. There is also a list of fines.

Link: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/ordinance/>

Anything that needs fixing goes to the Traffic & Lighting Division; anything that needs to be enforced goes to the CHP.

Are the parking "laws" different by area in Altadena? For example, at the top of Loma Alta and Lake where hikers park?

There are zones, but normally there are signs posted indicating any parking restrictions.

Can you park your cars in front of open driveways on residential streets?

No. You will be issued a parking ticket if you do that. If you park your car in the driveway but blocking the sidewalk, that is also a ticket.

Who do residents of Altadena call for parking issues?

626-296-8100 CHP, Officer Miller. 323-526-5185 Sheriff's Parking Enforcement; the Altadena Sheriff's Station has parking enforcement officers, but they are only on duty Monday-Friday during the day.

What about school areas where parents park on residential areas? Sometimes that blocks spaces for the residents

Because of manpower issues there can't be steady enforcement, but the CHP does try to get around to all the school areas to see if there is a problem.

There are some areas that have totally restricted parking during school hours, but those areas are trying to revoke that regulation because residents can't park there either.

Traffic Questions

What are the speed limits in the residential areas of Altadena?

They are posted, and can vary from street to street, but if not posted, residential speed limit is 25 mph.

What steps have to be taken to get "speed bumps" or "traffic lights"? What are the most frequent issues which CHP officers have to respond to/issue tickets or warnings, for drivers in Altadena?

There are a lot of considerations that come into play for a street to have speed humps. They have to do a traffic study to look at volume of traffic, average speed (85% of people driving over 35 mph). Must be a local street; can't be a minor arterial, a bus route, a high volume route. Traffic must be in the 500-2000 range per day for the street to have speed humps. Streets that are too steep can't have speed humps.

Is there a process for stop signs?

County doesn't consider stop signs a traffic calming measure.

If there is shrubbery blocking the view at a corner, what can be done?

If it's on private property, the county can't do anything, but if it's on the easement, the county can clear the shrubbery.

If there is a place where large vehicles that are parked restrict the line of sight at an intersection, can something be done?

The county can do a sight distance study to see if the curb close to the intersection needs to be painted red.

What about permit parking for hiking areas?

It could be done.

An option that could address parking issues: Preferential parking district: Closed off to all but residents. But residents bear the cost of permitting and enforcement.

Could the county put in a public parking area at the top of Lake, for example?

If it's a national park, then the county doesn't have jurisdiction.

If there is someone that is chronically speeding, can we report it, and what will happen?

The CHP will send out a letter to the individual if you have a license plate number.

If we see strangers sitting in parked cars for long periods of time, should we call?

Yes, call the Sheriff's Department.

If we need a street light, what should we do?

Contact Traffic and Lighting; they will conduct a needs assessment.

When neighbors see speeders on radar-enforced streets, what can they do?

Isolated incidents: not much. If there are many violations, the CHP will come out and investigate.

What about people who park blocking fire hydrants?

The traffic enforcement officers stationed at the Altadena Sheriff's department will add this to their patrol items and ticket if they see a violation.

911 Questions

Is it true that if someone calls 911 from a cell phone in Altadena, for an emergency, the call goes to the CHP vs. a paramedical dispatch?

In Altadena, your call will probably still go to the CHP, but there's a new system that will route the call to your local agency. It's a cell provider issue as well.

What number should cell phone or residential phone callers use for

1. Car/traffic/accident related emergencies?
2. Other traffic and parking related issues?

Call 911 and the dispatcher will route the call. Routing is very fast, so calling 911 shouldn't result in any loss in response time.

Call the local number for non-emergency situations.

Final Questions

What are the most frequent questions which the CHP gets from either callers, or people pulled over?

"Was I doing something wrong?"

What are the answers?

On the freeway, any speed over the limit is a violation. On surface streets, the officers have more discretion, depending on road conditions.