

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Doug Monn, Interim Public Works Director
SUBJECT: No Right Turn on Red at Intersection of 13th Street and Riverside Avenue
DATE: March 21, 2006

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider restricted traffic movement (no right turn on red during designated hours) at the intersection of Riverside Avenue (northbound) onto 13th Street (eastbound) for a 4-week test period.

FACTS:

1. Mayor Mecham has suggested prohibiting northbound Riverside Avenue right turn on red onto 13th Street between the hours of 3:00 and 5:30pm.
2. Councilman Heggarty has suggested that northbound motorists attempting to turn from Riverside Avenue onto 13th Street are causing the intersection to clog and that enforcement would play an important role in addressing this issue.
3. Councilman Picanco has expressed concerns regarding the potential effectiveness of restricting northbound Riverside Avenue right turns without addressing southbound Riverside Avenue left turns, which appear to also be causing congestion.
4. A Traffic Study to measure the impact of the suggested changes is estimated at \$20,000 and could be performed by URS Corporation should the City Council decide to do so.
5. The Streets and Utilities Committee considered this request at their February 24, 2006 meeting. The committee voted 2-0 to recommend a 4-week temporary test period restricting northbound right turns from Riverside Avenue onto eastbound 13th Street between the hours of 3:00pm and 5:30pm Monday through Friday while a traffic study is undertaken to measure the affects of the aforementioned change.

**ANALYSIS
AND
CONCLUSION:**

The intersection of Riverside Avenue and 13th Street is one of the busiest intersections within the City of Paso Robles. During peak hours the intersection is clogged with motorists who enter the center of the intersection and then are stopped by non moving traffic in front of them. It has been suggested that the right turn movement in question should be restricted during peak hours on a trial basis while a formal traffic study is undertaken to examine the impacts and options.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

Cost of signage estimated at \$150 plus police enforcement and traffic study estimated at \$20,000. Currently sufficient funds are available in the Gas Tax - Traffic Calming Fund Budget Account No. 200-310-5235-293 for the cost of the proposed study.

OPTIONS:

- a. Recommend that City Council consider approval of:
 - 1) A 4-week temporary test period restricting northbound right turns from Riverside Avenue onto eastbound 13th Street between the hours of 3:00pm and 5:30pm Monday through Friday while a traffic study, costing an estimated \$20,000, is undertaken to measure affects of the aforementioned change.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
TO APPROVE A 4-WEEK TEMPORARY TEST PERIOD
TO RESTRICT TRAFFIC MOVEMENT (NO RIGHT TURN ON RED)
AT THE INTERSECTION OF 13TH STREET AND RIVERSIDE AVENUE

WHEREAS, the intersection of Riverside Avenue and 13th Street is one of the busiest intersections within the City of Paso Robles; and

WHEREAS, during peak hours the intersection is clogged with motorists who enter the center of the intersection and then are stopped by non moving traffic in front of them; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2006, the Streets and Utilities Committee considered a request to restrict traffic movement (no right turn on red during designated hours) at the intersection of Riverside Avenue (northbound) onto 13th Street (eastbound) for a 4-week test period; and

WHEREAS, the committee voted 2-0 to recommend a 4-week test period restricting northbound right turns from Riverside Avenue onto 13th Street eastbound between the hours of 3:00pm and 5:30pm while a traffic study is conducted to measure the affects of the change; and

WHEREAS, the cost of signage is estimated at \$150 and the Traffic Study to measure the impact of the suggested change is estimated at \$20,000. Funds are currently appropriated in the existing Gas Tax - Traffic Calming fund Budget Account No. 220-310-5235-293 to offset the cost of the proposed study.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does hereby approve a 4-week temporary test period restricting northbound right turns from Riverside Avenue onto eastbound 13th Street between the hours of 3:00pm and 5:30 pm Monday through Friday while a traffic study is undertaken to examine the impacts and options.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 21st day of March 2006 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cathy M. David, Deputy City Clerk