

Traffic Study Summary

Date: July 29, 2020
Prepared By: Jessica Perry, E.I.T., Engineer
Request: Restrict parking on Loma Vista Street between Becker Street and South Heynis.
Recommendation: No parking restriction at this time. Vehicles appear to be safe in their parallel parking positions.

Background

Loma Vista Street is a local residential street and is controlled by stop signs at I-35 Northbound Frontage Road and Morningside Drive. There are no curbs, sidewalks or posted speed limit signs along Loma Vista Street. There are “No Thru Truck Traffic” signs posted on Loma Vista Street at I-35 Northbound Frontage Road and Morningside Drive.

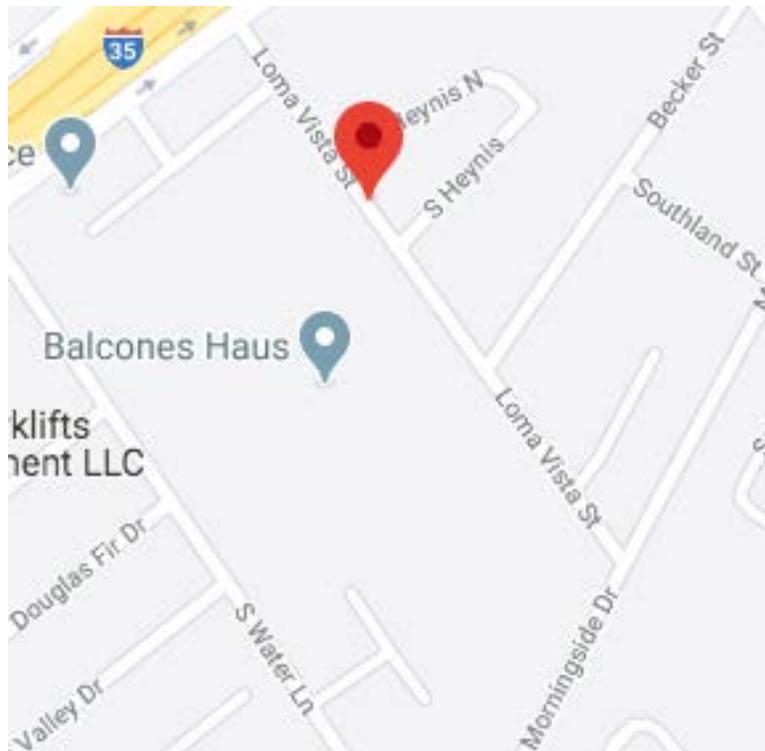


Figure 1. Loma Vista Street

An engineering study was completed to evaluate the necessity of restricting parallel parking on Loma Vista Street between Becker Street and South Heynis. The study was completed due to safety concerns for the vehicle traffic that shares the road with the parked cars. The cars park across the street from Balcones Haus (246 Loma Vista Street), which is an affordable senior living rental community. It is

believed, and it has been observed, that some of the staff parks across the street in order to take smoke breaks in their car.

Guidance

The Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) does not provide any warrants or guidance for this type of engineering study. Engineering judgment was used in the safety assessment of this study.

Site Investigation

Multiple site investigations were conducted along Loma Vista Street at multiple times throughout the day – during AM, midday, and PM peak times – over the course of the week of July 13 – 17, 2020. The investigation included a review of the road characteristics and pedestrian activity.

This street is located within a residential area, graded downhill from I-35 Northbound Frontage Road to Morningside Drive. There is some pedestrian activity in the morning before it gets very hot (during the summer).

Crash History

Traffic crash data for 2017 through July 2020 was found through TxDOT's Crash Records Information System. There were zero reported crashes along Loma Vista Street from I-35 Northbound Frontage Road to Morningside Drive during this time.

Data Collection

Traffic speed and volume, as well as pedestrian activity data were collected during the week of July 13 – 17, 2020 along Loma Vista Street between Becker Street and South Heynis. The data collection occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic, but otherwise represents fairly typical traffic conditions.

The results of this study show that a parking restriction is not warranted, on the basis that the street is wide enough to safely fit two lanes of traffic as well as the parked cars on the side of the road (see Figure 2). The street was measured to have a pavement width of 30 feet, and was consistent at multiple points on Loma Vista Street between Becker Street and South Heynis. Traffic was observed to drive slowly, and to have very low volumes at all times of day. The parked cars were not observed to be overcrowded on the side of the road, nor too far into the street, at any time of day throughout the week. Cars were also observed to routinely park alongside other blocks of Loma Vista than that between South Heynis and Becker Street.



Figure 2. Cars Parked Across from Balcones Haus on Loma Vista St - Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Recommendation

No parking restriction is recommended due to the pavement width providing safe conditions for two lanes of traffic in addition to the small amount of cars parked along the side of the road. Affected residents have the option to petition for parking restrictions as outlined on the City of New Braunfels website.