

IMPROVING SAFETY AND MOBILITY IN THE 400 BLOCK OF 12TH AVENUE S

Forklift Use by the Hau Hau Market (412 12th Avenue S)

BACKGROUND

The *Making the Parking System Work* program (MPSW) has been assisting to improve traffic safety and mobility for several years starting with participation in the Little Saigon Traffic Summit convened by the Department of Neighborhoods in September 2001. Program staff is aware of the long history of citizen and community complaints about the impact of the forklift use on and around the 400 block of 12th Avenue S., and has documentation of these complaints for at least the past three years. SDOT is also aware of the significant amount of time and energy that staff from the City Department of Planning and Development, the Department of Neighborhoods, and the Department of Transportation has expended over the past four years attempting to improve this situation.

CONDITIONS ON FORKLIFT USE

On June 16, 2005, MPSW staff Randy Wiger and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer Jeff Britsch met with the Hau Hau Market owner to discuss our concerns about traffic safety and mobility on and around this block of 12th Avenue S.

At our meeting Officer Britsch required the following:

- a) That the Hau Hau Market acquire a permit from the Department of Transportation for their forklifts.
- b) That the forklifts not be used on-street or in the public right-of-way during peak hours of 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.
- c) That the forklifts not be used on-street or in the public right-of-way during hours of darkness (up to 30 minutes before sunset and until 30 minutes after sunrise).
- d) That the forklifts used on-street or in the public right-of-way must have:
 - Working stop lights visible on rear
 - Working turn signals
 - A slow-moving vehicle triangle attached on the rear
(*these items may be acquired from a truck repair or truck supply business*)
- e) That the forklifts' load must always be secured properly with cargo attached to the pallet by shrink-wrap, netting, and/or tie-down, or similar secure device.
- f) That any forklift making a mid-block crossing and/or traveling on a sidewalk must have a certified flagger present.
- g) That the forklifts obey all traffic laws just like any other motor vehicle when being operated on the street.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

MPSW staff Randy Wiger also identified the following actions that the Department of Transportation and/or other City department will take:

No Parking or Stopping

All parking or stopping will be prohibited on the west side of the 400 block of 12th Avenue S. similar to the regulations that currently exist on the east side of this block. Specifically, signs that read "No Stopping - Tow Away Zone" will be installed. If a vehicle stops or parks on the west side of this block for any length of time after the signs are installed it will be at risk for immediate ticketing and/or towing. This regulation is already in effect on the east side of this block.

Load Zone on S. King Street

There is a "Truck Only" load zone currently located in the middle of the north side of the 1000 block of S. King Street (in front of Acme Poultry) that can be used by any vehicle with truck license plates for up to 30 minutes. The Department of Transportation will work to tighten the restrictions on this loading zone to reduce the likelihood that passenger vehicles will illegally park there and block it from being used by commercial delivery vehicles that service businesses in the immediate area.

Customer Parking

The Department of Transportation will install 1-hour parking time limit signs on the north side of S. King Street immediately adjacent to the Hau Hau Market. Additionally the Department will investigate the possibility of installing 1-hour parking time limit signs on the west side of the 500 block of 12th Avenue S., immediately adjacent to a warehouse used by the Hau Hau Market, as well as on the north side of the 1000 block of S. King Street on the 12th Avenue S. end of the block.

Loading Berth

If a loading berth is installed at the Hau Hau Market using with the entrance on 12th Avenue S., then adequate maneuvering room must be provided so that vehicles can turn around and enter 12th Avenue S. facing forward. The Hau Hau Market may assist to inform customers or vendors using the loading berth that they must not back out onto 12th Avenue S, but must turn around and exit onto 12th Avenue facing forward.

Posts on 12th Avenue S

In 2003 the Department of Transportation installed a series of metal posts on the sidewalk edge on the east side of the 400 block of 12th Avenue S., from S. Jackson Street up to the driveway/curb cut serving the Hau Hau Market. This was done to prevent vehicles from pulling up and stopping or parking on the sidewalk. The Department may choose to install additional metal posts on other places on this side of the block up to S. King Street.

South Jackson Street Improvement Project

Additionally, the South Jackson Street Improvement Project will soon begin and will improve traffic signals, pavement, and bus shelters on S. Jackson Street between 12th Avenue S. and 14th Avenue S., and on 12th Avenue S. between S. Jackson Street and S. Weller Street. More details on this project are available by contacting project manager Connie Zimmerman at (206) 684-5184 or by e-mail to connie.zimmerman@seattle.gov.

ENFORCEMENT

The details of the conditions on forklift use and of the additional actions have been communicated to relevant City enforcement personnel, and this area will continue to receive heightened enforcement. Citizens who observe what they believe to be a violation may call the non-emergency police number of (206) 625-5011 to request enforcement. For emergencies, please call 911.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the *Making the Parking System Work* program, contact Randy Wiger at (206) 684-8186 or randy.wiger@seattle.gov, or visit the program website at www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/neighborhoodparking.htm.