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PRESS RELEASE

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La Salle Street Parking Changes

Recently, Texas Department of Transportation made some changes to the roadway on La Salle Street at the intersection of Washington as well as the parking spaces on La Salle St.

TXDOT explains that the purpose was to provide ADA accessibility next to Miller’s Theater. A bulb-out of the sidewalk on the corner was created. This was required due to the elevation changes between the roadway and the sidewalk and the allowable space between the building, the drainage inlet and signal pole. This provided access to the sidewalk for pedestrians which created an issue with northbound vehicles on LaSalle, making a right turn onto Washington. Therefore, to provide for safer movement of vehicles making the right turn, and protection of pedestrians on the corner, we needed to shift the centerline on LaSalle more to the west toward the medical clinic. The angled parking on that corner then needed to be converted to parallel parking. There were previously five angled parking spaces at this location, but they did not meet current standard for allowable distance from a travel lane. The parking spaces were also problematic in that they forced drivers to back out into a lane in very close proximity to an intersection with limited visibility of approaching traffic due to the offset intersection alignment. Shifting the centerline of the roadway even closer to the curb line on the west side made this existing situation even worse. Changing from angled to parallel parking improved these issues. Redesigning the parking spaces to parallel spots reduced the parking to two spaces but allowed for much safer maneuvering. TXDOT made sure to leave one space as ADA accessible parking and provided safe space for traveling to and from the parking area to the ramps. The redesign also improved visibility around the corner for drivers and pedestrians.

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