



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Transportation Board

**TO: TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**DATE: AUGUST 2, 2017**

**FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**WARD: 2**

**SUBJECT: ALLEY BETWEEN FRANKLIN AND KANSAS AVENUES AND LINDEN AND FIFTH STREETS – CONVERSION TO ONE-WAY TRAVEL**

**ISSUE:**

Consideration of conversion of the alley located between Franklin and Kansas Avenues and Linden and Fifth Streets from two-way traffic operations to one-way eastbound travel only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Transportation Board recommend that the City Council adopt an ordinance:

1. Converting the alley located between Franklin and Kansas Avenues and Linden and Fifth Streets from two-way traffic operations to one-way eastbound travel only; and
2. Revising Section 10.76.020 of the Riverside Municipal Code to reflect the one-way eastbound travel designation for the alley located between Franklin and Kansas Avenues and Linden and Fifth Streets.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Public Works Department can designate traffic on select roadways and alleyways within the City to move only in one direction. Streets or alleys specified for one-way travel are appropriately signed, striped, and/or marked to indicate the lawful direction of traffic movement. One-way streets and alleys are adopted into and reflected in the City's Municipal Code Section 10.76.020.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Public Works Department received a petition from 100% of residents living adjacent to the alley which runs between Franklin and Kansas Avenues and Linden and Fifth Streets requesting to convert the alley from two-way traffic operations to one-way eastbound travel only. Residents, in collaboration with Longfellow Elementary School, Riverside County Health Department, and Resident Leadership Academy (RLA) graduates of the Kaiser Permanente founded Eastside Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Zone Initiative, have been partnering to develop strategies and identify potential improvement projects aimed at increasing the overall health and wellbeing of Eastside area students and residents by promoting increased physical activity and lifestyle along with Safe Routes To School programs. In April 2016, participants identified the alley which sits between Linden and Fifth Streets and connects Franklin and

Kansas Avenues as a pivotal improvement project for enhancing pedestrian safety and promoting walking to and from school. This alley serves as a vital connection for students and parents that walk to Longfellow Elementary School from nearby neighborhoods, however, residents indicate that current conditions, unpaved and uneven dirt surface, pooling of water during inclement weather, lack of lighting, and two-way vehicular traffic traveling within the alley raise safety concerns for pedestrians and discourage increased walking within the community and to and from nearby Longfellow Elementary School.

On October 17, 2016 residents and RLA graduates organized an alley cleanup event and worked together to fulfill the first step of their alley restoration goal by trimming bushes, removing trash, and covering pot holes. City staff in attendance assisted residents and use of the City's 311 System to report graffiti or any loitering or suspicious activity within the alleyway. As a second step, RLA graduates also developed a "Walking Wednesday" program in conjunction with Safe Routes to School, engaging both student and parent participation on the first Wednesday of each month by encouraging children to walk to school and securing parent volunteers to observe pedestrian activity along select school routes thereby increasing safety and decreasing vehicular traffic near the school. Volunteers also surveyed parents regarding their perspectives on safety and use of the alley and conducted student pedestrian counts within the alleyway. Their data showed a total of 192 children walking within the alley on their route to and from school during the three month period from April through June 2017. Additional observations by RLA graduates showed significantly higher overall pedestrian use of the alley in relation to vehicular use (see Attachment 3).

The Public Works Department evaluated alley operations and conditions and met with Eastside residents and RLA graduates on May 30, 2017 to review viable alley improvement options and consider potential advantages and disadvantages associated with each option. The preferred alternative included paving of the alley, converting vehicular travel from two-way to one-way eastbound only, and striping a designated pedestrian path to separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Changing the vehicular travel path within the alley from two-way to one-way eastbound only requires approval and adoption of an ordinance to officially specify the alleyway as eastbound only travel. Approval of the proposed changes and future paving and striping improvements would better serve the community by providing a safer, more conducive walking environment for student and adult pedestrians en-route to school and other destinations within the Eastside neighborhoods.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost of the proposed signage improvements to convert the alley to one-way is estimated to \$800. Funding is available in the existing Public Works Department budget, Signing Supplies account number 4110100-424143, to cover this cost.

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Approved by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director

#### Attachments:

1. Site Map
2. Aerial Map

3. Kansas Ave. & Franklin Ave. Alleyway Case (Prepared by RLA Graduates)
4. Final Improvements Exhibit