



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2021

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WARD: 1

SUBJECT: MARKET STREET AND SIXTH STREET – TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PILOT PROJECT

ISSUE:

Consideration of a traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit through and left-turn movements at the eastbound and westbound approaches at the intersection of Market and Sixth Streets.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve a one-month traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit through and left-turn movements at the eastbound and westbound approaches of the intersection of Market and Sixth Streets.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

On September 1, 2021, the Transportation Board reviewed this matter with seven of ten members present. Following discussion, the Board voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve the establishment of a 1-month traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit through and left-turn movements at the eastbound and westbound approaches of the intersection of Market and Sixth Streets.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department may utilize turn-restrictions to prohibit specific turning movements particularly during peak commute hours. Pilot projects using temporary improvements including rubber curbing and signage offer the ability to assess the impacts of traffic circulation changes prior to the consideration of installation of more costly and permanent improvements.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Fox Plaza Project required specific traffic mitigation measures to be implemented as conditions of development including installation of traffic diverters to prohibit through and left-turn movements at the eastbound and westbound intersection approaches of Market and Sixth Streets and such measures were being applied to 'The Mark' Project. This EIR was developed prior to the installation of the High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) signal on Market Street at Sixth Street and the City wishes to pilot the improvements and discuss with business owners prior to both the pilot and potential full project implementation

DISCUSSION:

The Public Works Department is proposing a one-month pilot project to prohibit through and left-turn movements at the eastbound and westbound approaches to the intersection at Market and Sixth Streets to allow for assessment of impacts to traffic, pedestrian crossing activity at the intersection utilizing the existing HAWK signal, and local businesses prior to proceeding with permanent diverter improvements in accordance with traffic mitigation measures required as a condition of development with “The Mark” based on the Fox Plaza Project EIR. Installation of traffic diverters may also result in potential negative impacts to the community including the loss of on-street parking adjacent to the improvements, the shifting of area traffic to nearby streets, affects to local businesses due to changes in access, aesthetic effects, and potential effects to Public Works services and emergency vehicle operations. To allow for evaluation of the traffic, pedestrian, and local business impacts of the temporary traffic pattern modification, the Public Works Department has conducted traffic studies before improvements and will conduct additional studies after the project is in place to assess traffic volumes on select area streets and determine if permanent improvements would be considered. The 1-month pilot would take place outside of the Festival of Lights and after The Mark is completed. A meeting with business owners in the immediate area will also be conducted during the pilot project to receive input regarding the traffic circulation modifications, perceived impacts, and to gauge support for potential permanent improvements.

MARKET ST/6TH STREET

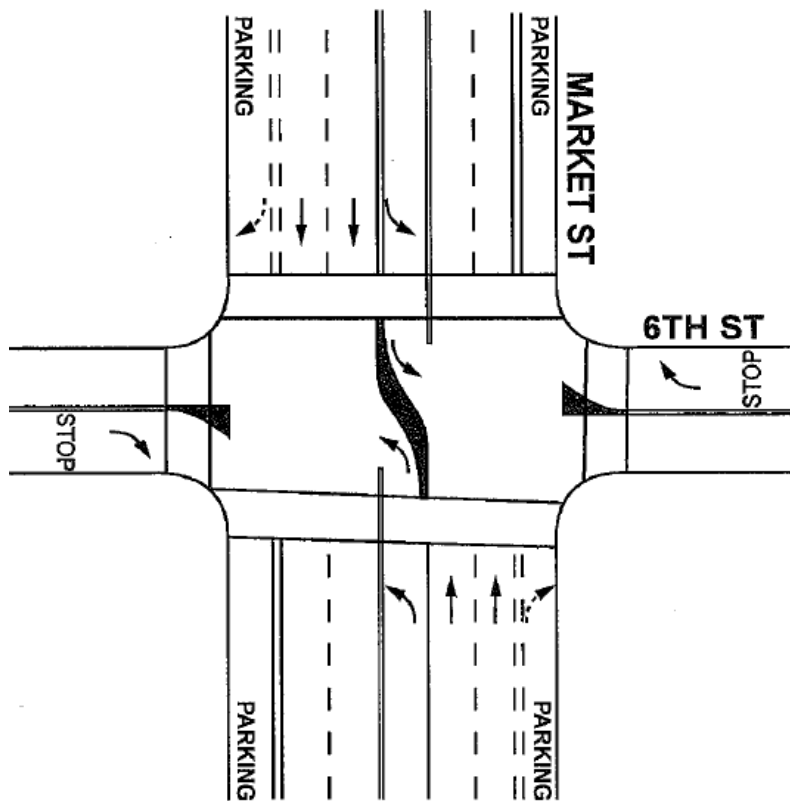


Figure 1: Exhibit of potential traffic pattern modification as detailed in the adopted Fox Plaza EIR

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The Infrastructure, Mobility, and Connectivity strategic priority aims to ensure safe, reliable infrastructure that benefits the community and facilitates connection between people, places, and information. This project aligns with the goals below:

Goal 6.1 – Provide, expand and ensure equitable access to sustainable modes of transportation that connect people to opportunities such as employment, education, healthcare, and community amenities.

Goal 6.2 – Maintain, protect, and improve assets and infrastructure within the City’s built environment to ensure and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.

Furthermore, this project aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. Community Trust – The Public Works Department will host a meeting with business owners in the immediate area during the pilot project to receive input regarding the traffic circulation modifications, perceived impacts, and to gauge support for potential permanent improvements.
2. Equity –The proposed project manages the intersection’s access points while maintaining the connectivity for all users including bicyclists, pedestrians and buses.
3. Fiscal Responsibility – The traffic diverters are a cost-effective measure to regulate access movements, minimize vehicular conflict points, and improve overall traffic safety conditions. The pilot project will allow for evaluation of the proposed improvements to ensure the cost of permanent infrastructure is justified.
4. Innovation – The left turn and through movement restrictions are inventive in meeting the community’s changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships with the adjacent business owners.
5. Sustainability & Resiliency – The construction materials specified for the proposed projects meet or exceed industry standards, many of which can be reused for future pilot projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact of this action is estimated to be \$5,000. The costs include sign fabrication and installation, as well as rubber curbing and rebar materials or raised pavements markers and channelizers and installation to implement the pilot project. Funds are budgeted and available in the General Fund, Public Works Streets Maintenance Division, Signing Supplies account number 4110100-424143.

Prepared by: Gilbert Hernandez, Interim Public Works Director
Certified as to availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by: Kris Martinez, Interim Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Site Map
2. Aerial Map