



City of Arts & Innovation

Transportation Committee

TO: TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS DATE: AUGUST 11, 2016
FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WARD: 2
SUBJECT: PEARBLOSSOM DRIVE AND SYCAMORE CANYON BOULEVARD - TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PILOT PROJECT - DIRECT SUBMITTAL

ISSUE:

The issue for Transportation Committee consideration is implementation of a traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit ingress and allow for egress only at the following locations: 1) Pearblossom Drive at El Cerrito Drive; and, 2) Sycamore Canyon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Transportation Committee recommend that the City Council approve the proposed traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit ingress on Pearblossom Drive and Sycamore Canyon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive for the test period from September 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

On June 1, 2016, the Transportation Board (Board) reviewed this matter; five of nine members were present. The Board voted four to one in favor of recommending the proposed traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit ingress and allow for egress only on Pearblossom Drive and Sycamore Canyon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department has collaborated with the University Knolls Neighborhood over the past several years to develop solutions to address increased traffic volume and speed concerns created by cut-through traffic traveling through their neighborhoods via Pearblossom Drive and University Drive. These solutions have included traffic enforcement, signing and striping improvements, the installation of multi-way stops, adoption of a reduced 15 mile-per-hour (MPH) speed limit on University Drive due to the narrow and winding roadway characteristics, and in 2008 the implementation of peak hour turn restrictions on El Cerrito Drive and Canyon Crest Drive at Pearblossom Drive. Despite enforcement efforts and the various improvements, area residents continue to report cut-through traffic and violations of the posted Pearblossom Drive turn restrictions.

Due to ongoing neighborhood concerns related to continued cut-through traffic on both Pearblossom Drive and University Drive, the Public Works Department is proposing a four month pilot project which would prohibit ingress to Pearblossom Drive and Sycamore Canyon

Drive at El Cerrito Drive limiting movements to egress only at these intersections and eliminating the a.m. peak hour cut-through traffic entering the neighborhoods at these locations. The temporary pilot project would enable the Public Works Department to further assess the impacts of the changes in traffic circulation in the immediate area and allow residents to experience the effects on neighborhood traffic and their routes to and from their homes.

In order to achieve the temporary improvements for the proposed pilot project, the Public Works Department would need to purchase approximately 67 rubber car stops and 134 rebar spikes for installation of the temporary traffic pattern modification at an approximate estimated cost of \$3,000. These improvements would impact the ability of street sweepers to perform sweeping along the entire east side of Sycamore Canyon Boulevard north of El Cerrito Drive and service the property and area near the intersection of Pearblossom Drive and El Cerrito Drive. Additionally, red curb would be required on the west side of Pearblossom Drive adjacent to the improvements to allow for unobstructed egress. Refuse trucks and street sweepers would be unable to make a U-turn to service the opposite sides of each street requiring them to back-up multiple times creating safety concerns and inefficiencies in their travel routes. Accumulation of debris and/or weeds within the improvement areas would also require hand crew maintenance adding to the potential costs of the pilot project. Manually cleaning the area would be at a significantly reduced frequency compared to routine street sweeping, likely occurring only on a quarterly basis.

The Public Works Department supports developing creative alternatives to mitigate traffic impacts, however, it is important to note that the installation of rubber curbs will also result in potential negative impacts to the community and Public Works operations including the loss of on-street parking adjacent to the improvements, the shifting of residential traffic entering the neighborhood to nearby streets, and aesthetic effects which may be undesired by area residents. To allow for evaluation of the traffic volumes and impacts of the temporary traffic pattern modifications, the Public Works Department would conduct before and after traffic studies to determine traffic volumes on select area streets to determine if permanent improvements would be considered. A neighborhood meeting would also be conducted to receive resident input regarding the traffic circulation modifications and pilot program and to gauge resident support for potential permanent improvements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of material acquisition from outside vendors to implement the traffic circulation pilot project is estimated to be approximately \$3,000 and funding is available in Account #9520830-440313, Measure A Planning and Investigations. Costs related to hand crew quarterly maintenance are anticipated to be minimal due to the short term 4-month duration of the pilot project. Signage and red curb costs associated with the project are nominal and funding is available in the existing Public Works Department budget for fiscal year 2016/2017.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Scott G. Miller, Interim Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Site Map
2. Pearblossom Drive at El Cerrito Drive Exhibit
3. Sycamore Canyon Drive at El Cerrito Drive Exhibit
4. Traffic Management, Incorporated (TMI) Sales Quote No. 50714
5. Transportation Board Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2016
6. Presentation