



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2016**
FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WARD: 2**
SUBJECT: PEARBLOSSOM DRIVE AND SYCAMORE CANYON BOULEVARD – TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PILOT PROJECT

ISSUE:

Approve a traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit ingress and allow for egress only at Pearblossom Drive at El Cerrito Drive and Sycamore Canyon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the 4-month traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit ingress on Pearblossom Drive and Sycamore Canyon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive for the test period from September 22, 2016 through January 22, 2017.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Transportation Committee (Committee) met on September 8, 2016, with Chair Davis and Vice Chair Mac Arthur present, to consider the proposed 4-month traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit ingress on Pearblossom Drive and Sycamore Canyon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive. After discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council approve the pilot project and requested that the Public Works Department return to the Committee with updated information and recommendations in early 2017 following the culmination and evaluation of the pilot project.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

The Transportation Board (Board) met on June 1, 2016, with five of nine members present, to consider the proposed 4-month traffic circulation pilot project to prohibit ingress on Pearblossom Drive and Sycamore Canyon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive. After discussion, the Board voted four to one in favor of recommending Transportation Committee approval of the pilot project.

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.

DISCUSSION:

Due to ongoing neighborhood concerns related to continued cut-through traffic on both Pearblossom Drive and University Drive, the Public Works Department proposed 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.

As traffic accessing University of California Riverside (UCR) contributes to the cut-through traffic experienced by these neighborhoods, it was necessary for the Public Works Department to have the temporary pilot project improvements in place prior to September 22, 2016 when school resumed from summer break and the fall session began to allow for a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot project impacts. As a result, after Transportation Board and Transportation Committee recommendations in support of the pilot project were obtained on June 1, 2016 and September 8, 2016 respectively, the Public Works Department proceeded with implementation of the pilot project. In order to achieve the temporary improvements for the proposed pilot project, the Public Works Department purchased approximately 67 rubber car stops and 134 rebar spikes for installation of the temporary traffic pattern modification at a cost of approximately \$3,000.

These improvements are anticipated to 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. Red curb was required on the west side of Pearblossom Drive adjacent to the improvements to allow for unobstructed egress. Additionally, the improvements will impact access by refuse trucks and street sweepers which are 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 will also require hand crew maintenance adding to the potential costs of the pilot project. Manually cleaning the area will 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 has conducted traffic studies before improvements were installed and will conduct additional traffic studies after the project is in place to assess traffic volumes on select area streets and determine if permanent improvements would be considered. A neighborhood meeting will also be conducted to receive resident input regarding the traffic circulation

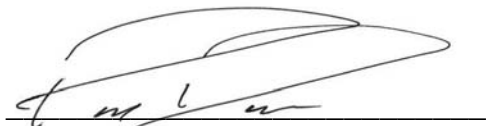
modifications and pilot program and to gauge resident support for potential permanent improvements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of material acquisition to implement the traffic circulation pilot project was approximately \$3,000. Funding was available and provided for 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 were nominal and funding was 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, PhD, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Concurs with;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Davis', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Davis, Chair
Transportation Committee

Attachments:

1. Site Map
2. Pearblossom Drive at El Cerrito Drive Exhibit
3. Sycamore Canyon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive Exhibit
4. Traffic Management, Incorporated (TMC) Sales Quote No. 50714
5. Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2016
6. Transportation Board Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2016