



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: MARCH 28, 2017

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WARD: 1

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AND EXTEND THE PEDESTRIAN MALL, KNOWN AS MAIN STREET RIVERSIDE, ON MAIN STREET FROM TENTH STREET TO ELEVENTH STREET; AND AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13.20.010 OF THE RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE TO REVISE THE PEDESTRIAN MALL BOUNDARIES

ISSUES:

Adoption of a Resolution to establish and extend the southerly limits of the existing pedestrian mall, known as Main Street Riverside (Pedestrian Mall), to Eleventh Street; and adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 13.20 of the Riverside Municipal Code to reflect the southerly boundary modification to the Pedestrian Mall.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt the attached Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment 1) for the extension of the Pedestrian Mall from Tenth Street to Eleventh Street;
2. Overrule the objections made regarding the establishment and extension of the Pedestrian Mall;
3. Adopt the attached Resolution (Attachment 2) to establish and extend the Pedestrian Mall from Tenth Street to Eleventh Street (Project); and
4. Introduce and subsequently adopt the attached Ordinance (Attachment 3) amending Section 13.20.010 of the Riverside Municipal Code revising the Pedestrian Mall boundaries.

BACKGROUND:

On October 26, 1965, pursuant to the Pedestrian Mall Law of 1960 (Streets & Highways Code sections 11000 et seq.), the City Council adopted Resolution No. 10393 to establish Main Street as a pedestrian mall from Sixth Street to Tenth Street, excluding Mission Inn and University Avenues. The City Council determined said mall was required for public interest and convenience and would not unduly inconvenience vehicular traffic.

On January 16, 2007, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 6929 amending the boundaries of the Pedestrian Mall to re-establish Ninth Street as a two-lane public roadway between Market Street and Orange Street in order to enhance downtown traffic circulation. The roadway work was completed in conjunction with the Pedestrian Mall rehabilitation project completed in June 2010.

On December 20, 2016, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 23131 declaring its intention to establish and extend the Pedestrian Mall on Main Street from Tenth Street to Eleventh Street. In order to establish and extend the Pedestrian Mall, a public hearing is required with a 90 day public notice period prior. At least 90 days prior to this hearing the adjacent property owners were notified and Resolution No. 23131 was posted at various locations including at each street intersection and every 300 feet within the Project limits (Attachment 4).

DISCUSSION:

The City intends to extend the Pedestrian Mall to include the section of Main Street between Tenth Street and Eleventh Street (Attachment 5). Due to the number of pedestrians that are associated with the Justice Center and surrounding businesses on a daily basis, to provide for a more walkable area and pedestrian mobility within the downtown core, the public convenience and necessity warrant the creation of the extended Pedestrian Mall. The Project will provide for improved pedestrian walkability and connectivity between the Justice Center and the Raincross District (City Hall to the Convention Center and beyond) in the downtown area, and will not impact through traffic on Tenth Street and Eleventh Street. Vehicular traffic will still utilize Market Street as the main thoroughfare.

The proposed Pedestrian Mall modifications will include the removal of the existing concrete curbs, gutters, and roadway pavement, and replacing them with new improvements including colored asphalt consistent with the color scheme of the existing pedestrian mall; decorative seating with umbrellas for an informal public communal dining area; and other utility infrastructure as necessary for temporary special event uses. The existing parkways along Main Street including the concrete sidewalk, light fixtures, and landscape areas will remain for pedestrian use.

Providence Bank currently leases the property located at the southwesterly corner of Main Street and Tenth Street. City staff met with representatives regarding the proposed improvements and concerns were raised in regards to loss of accessibility to their business including their automated teller machine currently located off Main Street. Specifically, two temporary parking stalls will be removed adjacent to their business currently located on Main Street. As a result, the City is proposing to convert two metered parking stalls currently located adjacent to their business on Tenth Street to 20 minute parking stalls.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared for the Project and was made available for a twenty (20) day comment period from February 8 through February 28, 2017. Staff received four comment letters to the MND: Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, Superior Court of California – County of Riverside, Riverside County Bar Association and Provident Bank (Attachment 6). Staff has reviewed the comment letters and have provided detailed responses (Attachment 7). The comments do not raise any issues that have not already been adequately analyzed in the MND. Many of the comments raised are regarding the loss of parking stalls. Staff has already been working on those replacement parking stalls, including reconfiguration of existing on street parking to provide continued ADA access. Any changes made to the MND in response to the comments merely clarify, amplify and make insignificant changes to an already adequate MND and as such, recirculation of the MND is not required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the attached Resolution and amendment of the City Municipal Code. Any construction contract(s) related to the extension of the Pedestrian Mall will be brought back to City Council for approval.

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

Attachments:

1. Mitigated Negative Declaration
2. Resolution
3. Ordinance
4. Resolution No. 23131 Affidavit
5. Location Map
6. Comment Letters
7. Responses to Comment Letters
8. Presentation