

Proposed 2010 Council Study Issue

DPW10-01 Policy on Roundabouts

Lead Department Public Works
Element or Sub-element 1.1 Land Use and Transportation
New or Previous New
Status Pending **History** 1 year ago None 2 years ago None

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?

Roundabouts are a type of roadway design for intersections that create a one-directional circular traffic pattern and feature yield to enter traffic control. Council is interested in evaluating a policy to consider roundabouts at intersections that now or in the future would otherwise feature four way stop control.

2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

The City's current policy on roundabouts was developed in 2000. Policy 1.2.6 of the Council Policy Manual states "The City shall actively evaluate possible candidate locations for roundabouts. The City will consider the use of roundabouts as a traffic control alternative for future traffic control installations at major city intersections, and as part of the "Stage 2" traffic calming strategy for minor residential streets, particularly locations with significant collision history."

3. Origin of issue

Council Member(s) Howe, Swegles, Chu
General Plan
City Staff
Public
Board or Commission none

4. Multiple Year Project? No Planned Completion Year 2010**5. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?**

Does Council need to approve a work plan? No
Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? No
If so, which?
Is a Council Study Session anticipated? No
What is the public participation process?
 Council public hearing

6. Cost of Study

Operating Budget Program covering costs
 115 Transportation and Traffic
Project Budget covering costs
Budget modification \$ amount needed for study
Explain below what the additional funding will be used for

7. Potential fiscal impact to implement recommendations in the Study approved by Council

Capital expenditure range	\$501K or more
Operating expenditure range	\$51K - \$100K
New revenues/savings range	None

Explain impact briefly

Because Sunnyvale's roadway network is essentially built out, construction of roundabouts will likely involve retrofitting existing intersections. This likely involves substantial pavement and concrete work and potentially right of way acquisition. The addition of concrete features will require a higher degree of maintenance than a typical intersection, particularly if any landscape or hardscape is included. If multiple intersections are retrofitted, the costs could be substantial, although staff cannot anticipate at this time how many intersections might be retrofitted.

8. Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommendation Against Study

If 'For Study' or 'Against Study', explain

Under current City policy, staff may consider roundabouts as an alternative to 4 way stop control. If a policy to retrofit existing stop controlled intersections is under consideration, staff does not believe there is a compelling reason to retrofit, at considerable expense, existing 4 way stop controlled intersections. While there is some evidence that roundabouts provide a greater measure of safety due to a reduction in potential conflict points, there is no evidence that 4 way stop intersections in Sunnyvale are experiencing particularly high collision rates to warrant modification. Current policy calls for the City to evaluate roundabouts as an alternative to signalization and as a traffic calming or safety measure. This policy better balances the financial aspects of roadway design alternatives, and applies in situations where new traffic controls are being considered rather than in a retrofit situation. Existing policy could be expanded to include evaluation of roundabouts as an alternative to new 4 way controls; staff believes that new 4 way stop controls are likely to occur only at intersections with single lane approaches, however. Previous study determined that applying a roundabout design to the typical geometry of a single lane approach intersection in Sunnyvale necessitates considerable redesign of the vertical and horizontal elements of the intersection, and likely would require right of way acquisition. In this situation, staff does not believe the cost-benefit of a roundabout versus a four way stop is likely to be comparable or favorable.

9. Estimated consultant hours for completion of the study issue

Managers	Role	Manager	Hours			
	Lead	Witthaus, Jack	Mgr CY1:	40	Mgr CY2:	0
			Staff CY1:	80	Staff CY2:	0
	Interdep	Fitzgerald, Kelly	Mgr CY1:	10	Mgr CY2:	0
			Staff CY1:	25	Staff CY2:	0
Total Hours CY1: 155						
Total Hours CY2: 0						

Note: If staff's recommendation is 'For Study' or 'Against Study', the Director should note the relative importance of this Study to other major projects that the Department is currently working on or that are soon to begin, and the impact on existing services/priorities.

Reviewed by

Mauri O'Rear

Department Director

10/1/09

Date

Approved by

[Signature]

City Manager

10-10-09

Date

Addendum

A. Board / Commission Recommendation

Issue Created Too Late for B/C Ranking

Board or Commission	Rank	Rank
	Rank	Rank
	1 year ago	2 years ago
Arts Commission		
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee		
Board of Building Code Appeals		
Board of Library Trustees		
Child Care Advisory Board		
Heritage Preservation Commission		
Housing and Human Services Commission		
Parks and Recreation Commission		
Personnel Board		
Planning Commission		

Board or Commission ranking comments

B. Council

Council Rank (no rank yet)
Start Date (blank)
Work Plan Review Date (blank)
Study Session Date (blank)
RTC Date (blank)
Actual Complete Date (blank)
Staff Contact