



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

15-1074

Agenda Date: 1/29/2016

2016 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 16-09

TITLE Measures to Improve Pedestrian Safety on Homestead Road

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Public Works
Support Department(s): N/A

Sponsor(s):

Councilmembers: Whittum, Hendricks

History:

1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What are the key elements of the study?

The study would analyze pedestrian safety on Homestead Road from Lawrence Expressway to S. Bernardo Avenue. The study will identify any safety issues/concerns and propose measures to improve pedestrian safety. Treatments could include high visibility crosswalks, inroad lighted crosswalks, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, bulb outs (to reduce the pedestrian crossing distance) or any other measure to improve pedestrian safety throughout the corridor.

To improve the pedestrian circulation in the area between Heron Avenue and N. Blaney Avenue, the study will also evaluate the possibility of converting the existing dirt path (alley) connecting Homestead Road to Londonderry Drive to an ADA accessible path.

What precipitated this study?

On November 17, 2015, Staff presented a Study Issue regarding the possible conversion of part-time bike lanes on Homestead Road to full-time bike lanes. The full-time bike lanes would require removal of on-street parking at selected sections, which may displace the parking to the adjacent blocks and side streets. Council expressed concern that this could result in people parking on the other side of Homestead Road and causing them to cross Homestead Road in areas without cross walks.

Planned Completion Year: 2017

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Major

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$ 80,000

Funding Source: Will seek budget supplement.

Explanation of Cost:

The cost associated with this will be for consultant services. The consultant will need to gather and evaluate traffic, specifically pedestrian data. Collision data throughout the corridor will also be assembled and analyzed to identify problem areas and possible short and long-term mitigation measures. In addition, the consultant would be required to develop conceptual plans of possible improvements and cost estimates. The consultant would also lead community input meetings and assist with any BPAC and Council presentations.

Staff would be required to manage the contract, review all data and reports, review conceptual design and estimates, and participate in all community outreach meetings. While staff time is already budgeted, it is important to note that there will be reduced capacity to work on other efforts that the City Council may direct.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: Yes

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Position: Drop

Explanation:

The Council adopted staff's recommendation for the Homestead Road Bike Lanes Study Issue and maintained the parking and bike lanes as-is. With the existing conditions being maintained, staff does not expect a significant change in pedestrian patterns that would require a pedestrian safety study for Homestead Road.

However, the City has already adopted the following comprehensive safety plans/studies; 1) Pedestrian Safety and Opportunities Study, 2) Safe Routes to School Study, 3) Bicycle Plan, and staff is working on updating all three documents and combining them into one comprehensive safety document. These studies target improving safety for all users and reducing collisions within the City, and Homestead Road will be studied as a part of this process.

Lastly, to assure that no immediate improvements are needed, staff reviewed the last three years of collision data on Homestead Road. The data shows only five pedestrian collisions over 3.5 miles. Out of five collisions, three were determined to be the caused by the pedestrian and one was DUI related. On one occasion the driver ran the red light and was found culpable. The data shows that Homestead Road has an appropriate pedestrian safety record.

Prepared By: Shahid Abbas, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Reviewed By: Manuel Pineda, Director, Public Works

Reviewed By: Kent Steffens, Assistant City Manager

Approved By: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager