



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 4, 2020

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

FROM: DAVID JACOBS, DIRECTOR

BY: JAMES SERRANO, TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

TITLE: RELOCATION OF SCHOOL CROSSWALK AT SHERWOOD SCHOOL

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution approving the relocation of the school crosswalk on South Wood Street at Sherwood School to improve accessibility and school pedestrian safety.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the relocation of the existing school crosswalk on South Wood Street to improve accessibility and school pedestrian safety.

BACKGROUND:

Sherwood Elementary School (Kinder to 6th grade) is located at 110 South Wood Street. South Wood Street is a 40-ft wide with two (2) vehicle travel lanes and parking. There are sidewalks on both sides of the street as well as along the lengths of the cross streets. A school crosswalk is located on the southern approach to the intersection of South Wood Street (Attachment 1). Staff received a request from a parent of a disabled student regarding the use of school crosswalk. Staff confirmed challenges with disabled access at the current crossing location.

Staff is therefore proposing to relocate the crosswalk to the northern approach to the intersection. The proposed location clears obstacles to the path of travel and allows the City to improve accessibility. New pedestrian access ramps compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards were constructed in support of the crosswalk relocation. The new location will provide a clear path of travel to the school and meet ADA requirements (Attachment 2). The new crosswalk will have a better path of travel, street lighting, high visibility crosswalk and accessible pedestrian ramps. Staff has also identified funding to upgrade the crosswalk and install rectangular rapid flash beacons (RRFB). A school bus stop will also be relocated with the movement of the crosswalk. The recommended changes along the school frontage was discussed with the Salinas City Elementary School District Transportation Department which coordinates with the school staff.

The relocation of the crosswalk will necessitate the removal of 5 1-hr parking spaces that now exists along the east curb line and south of the existing crosswalk. Incoming school buses will need the spaces cleared for the approach to the school. This will affect parking along the school frontage. Staff has coordinated the relocation plan with the Salinas Elementary School District. In addition, 75 feet of No Parking red zones will be needed to clear sightlines for the new crosswalk location along the westerly curb line north of Santa Maria Street. This will have an impact to residential parking that is currently available at the location. However, the new red zones are necessary to support the safe crossing of elementary school children on their way to and from school. The City cannot implement the crosswalk relocation and safety improvements without these red zones.

Staff is therefore recommending approval of the crosswalk relocation which includes the associated red zones in support of improving accessibility and pedestrian safety.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

The recommendation for the crosswalk relocation at of the school crosswalk on South Wood Street at Sherwood School was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission at its June 2020 meeting. The Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend to the City Council the relocation of the marked crosswalk at the South Wood Street/Santa Maria Street intersection in front of Sherwood School.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15301, Class 1(c)) because the actions consists of operation and minor alteration of an existing City street.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Relocation of school crosswalk is supportive of the City Goals of Public Safety and Investment Strategies/Risk Management.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Police Department is notified of the recommended relocation of the marked crosswalk. The Public Works Maintenance Yard staff will relocate the crosswalk. Public Works Traffic staff coordinated with the staff of Sherwood Elementary School.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There are sufficient funds in the City budget to implement the crosswalk relocation. As mentioned, the City also received federal funding to provide supporting flashing beacons for the crossing (RRFB). Improving and enhancing pedestrian facilities improve safety for City pedestrians. Encouraging non-motorized travel reduces wear on City streets, promotes reduction of emissions that affect climate change.

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ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Attachment 1: Existing Crosswalk

Attachment 2: Relocated Crosswalk