

REPORT TO THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

City of Salinas, California

DATE: August 11, 2016

FROM: Robert C. Russell, P.E., City Engineer

BY: James Serrano, Transportation Manager

SUBJECT: SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDATION:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to receive a report on the City's Plan for School Safety Activities in the City of Salinas.

DISCUSSION:

School traffic safety requests are received very often by City staff and these receive a high priority for response. Often the requests are for traffic control devices at school locations. Also, staff often finds that the necessary devices for school zones are already in place and that the activities of all street users create congestion issues at school zones for brief periods on a daily basis which are an inconvenience to people travelling at or through school zones.

In March, school districts requested a list of City activities that support school safety. In addition, on May 4, Monterey County Supervisor Jane Parker held a school safety meeting in May 2016 at Mission Park Elementary School inviting TAMC, County, and Salinas Police and Traffic Staff to discuss safety issues at schools, in response to school parents concerned for safety of their children travelling to/from school.

Therefore, Traffic staff produced a list of City activities that include short-term and longer term projects that addresses school safety.

Background

Annually, Traffic staff reviews striping and signing needs at school locations during the summer when school is out in order to make sure that required traffic control devices at school locations are present and in good condition at the start of school. In general, there are three areas that staff focuses on for routine annual evaluation:

1. Crosswalk striping. Crosswalks are installed by Council action after traffic evaluation. The City uses thermoplastic striping for all striping needs because of its longer life and better visibility. The paint is applied to the pavement with heat and binds to the road better, and it resists traffic abuse/wear much better than standard traffic paint well. Crosswalks at school

locations are typically in better condition than other crosswalks in the City. High visibility crosswalks are provided at uncontrolled (meaning no STOP or signal controls) crosswalk locations at schools meet the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards. Yellow crosswalks are provided at other school crossings, per MUTCD standards. Crosswalks can last over 7 years.

2. School Zone signing. The CA MUTCD prescribes the signing requirements at school zones. Staff ensures that the appropriate school zone signs are in place at all school locations in the City. There may be other street signs (parking signs, street name signs, etc.) that are not necessarily related to school zones which the City maintains on an as needed basis. There are a total of 665 school zone signs throughout the City.
3. Curb Markings. These are painted red curbs (no parking zones) related to crosswalks and stop control devices. These generally provide clearance for sight visibility. These are refreshed on an annual basis.

The attached report shows school improvements that traffic staff is working on in the short-term, intermediate term and not-so long term.

ISSUE:

The Commission is requested to receive report from staff on school traffic safety activities.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

It is the desire of staff to complete the short term activities by September 2016.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

The City's focus on school safety supports Council Goals of a safe, livable community.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to receive the report from Public Works traffic staff on school safety activities.

Distribution:
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney

Back Up Pages:
City of Salinas Schools Project List