

REPORT TO THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

City of Salinas, California

DATE: February 9, 2017

FROM: James Serrano, Transportation Manager

BY: Jose Saucedo, Assistant Engineer

SUBJECT: MULTI-WAY STOP AT THE ALISAL STREET AND CAPITOL STREET
INTERSECTION

RECOMMENDATION:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to receive report on the approval of a Multi-Way Stop at the Alisal Street and Capitol Street intersection.

DISCUSSION:

The City Council at its December 13, 2016 meeting approved the installation of a Multi-Way stop at the intersection of Alisal Street and Capitol Street Intersection at the recommendation of City staff. Such considerations by Council typically receive a recommendation from the Traffic and Transportation Commission. However, a vehicle collision with a pedestrian employed by the County, resulted in the County requesting the City immediately consider the Multi-Way Stop as an Interim control while a future traffic signal at the intersection is planned. Without time to bring this item to the Traffic and Transportation Commission, staff felt it was necessary to bring the request to Council immediately.

Background

City of Salinas Public Works has been in communication with the County of Monterey to install a traffic signal at the intersection of West Alisal Street and Capitol Street. The traffic signal was discussed after the Monterey County Government Center (MCGC) was built and the planned building of a parking structure at the southeast corner of the intersection of West Alisal Street and Capitol Street was to be built in conjunction with a traffic signal.

The City of Salinas conducted a traffic study of the intersection to verify that it met at least one of nine traffic signal warrants specified in the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Ca MUTCD). The intersection met five of the nine traffic signal warrants.

City staff evaluated accidents that occurred at the intersection and it revealed 12 broadside accidents in a five-year period. Typically traffic signals reduce broadside accidents therefore an installation of a traffic signal will reduce the number of broadside accidents at this intersection.

The West Alisal Street at Capitol Street is currently an uncontrolled intersection with a school crosswalk on the west side of the intersection crossing Alisal Street. West Alisal Street is a four lane arterial with parking allowed on both sides of the street and approximately 60 ft. in width from curb to curb with an average daily traffic volume of 11,600 vehicles.

The intersection of West Alisal and Cayuga Street is an uncontrolled T-intersection with a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) installed to enhance the safety of pedestrians crossing West Alisal Street.

The City of Salinas funded a lighted crosswalk at the intersection of West Alisal Street and Cayuga Street when the Monterey County Government Center was built and in 2014, the lighted crosswalk was upgraded to a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB), as those installations have shown to be more effective in getting motorists to yield to pedestrians.

Because of the number of right angle accidents at this intersection, and the projected timeline to complete the traffic signal at the intersection (expected by late December 2018), staff is recommending the installation of an INTERIM Multi-Way STOP at the West Alisal Street-Capitol Street intersection to address accidents more immediately, as allowed by the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Per California MUTCD section 2B.07 criteria A, where traffic signals are justified, the multi-way stop can be used on an interim basis, while arrangements are being made for the traffic signal installation. Based on the intersection meeting the warrants of a traffic signal that is now being planned for the intersection, staff recommended the approval of an interim Multi-Way stop pursuant to the Ca MUTCD.

The request for approval of the Multi-Way Stop was approved by Council in December. The Multi-Way Stop was installed in a two-stage process as is typical with these traffic control devices. Lighted stop signs were used for the next few weeks after installation to help acclimate drivers and pedestrians to the new control on the roadway. The lighted stop signs will then be removed and replaced with standard stop signs for multi-way stops.

ISSUE:

The Commission is requested to receive report from staff on the approval of a Multi-Way Stop at the intersection of the Alisal-Capitol intersection.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

The Multi-Way Stop was installed in December. There are no time considerations.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

The Multi-Way stop supports the Council Goal of Excellent Infrastructure.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to receive the report from staff on the approval and installation of a Multi-Way Stop at the Alisal Street and Capitol Street intersection.

Distribution:
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney

Back Up Pages:
Site Map
Relevant Sections of the Ca MUTCD