



## **CITY OF SALINAS**

### **TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

---

**DATE:** JANUARY 10, 2019

**DEPARTMENT:** PUBLIC WORKS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

**FROM:** ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER

**TITLE:** SALINAS CROSSWALK POLICY UPDATE AND  
TRANSPORTATION GRANT ACCEPTANCE

#### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

It is recommended that the Traffic and Transportation Commission recommend that the City Council:

- 1) Approve a Resolution adopting the Salinas Crosswalk Policy Update;
- 2) Approve a Resolution accepting an (Highway Safety Improvement Program) HSIP grant received for City crosswalk updates; and
- 3) Approve a Resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to execute agreements related to the Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Public works staff recommends that the Traffic and Transportation Commission recommend that the City Council:

- 1) Approve a Resolution adopting the Salinas Crosswalk Policy Update;
- 2) Approve a Resolution accepting an HISP grant received for City transportation projects; and
- 3) Approve a Resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to execute agreements related to the Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant.

#### BACKGROUND:

The City of Salinas adopted the Crosswalk Policy Guidelines (Attachment 1) to prescribe a formal and transparent process for marked crosswalk policy. It provides information to be used when making decisions about where a standard crosswalk can be marked; where crosswalks with special treatments, such as high-visibility crosswalks, flashing beacons and other special features, should be employed; and where crosswalks will not be marked due to safety concerns resulting from volume, speed, or sight distance issues.

Staff is recommending an update to the Salinas Crosswalk Policy Guidelines to include a section for a prioritization policy (pages 25-26), so that staff can be better equipped to pursue future grant opportunities. Following the Crosswalk Policy Guidelines, staff will consider appropriate treatments consistent with the guidelines for new uncontrolled crossings. However, many existing uncontrolled marked crossing may require new treatments, because they had been installed before the policy was adopted, or because over time the vehicular speeds, volumes and crossing demand of an uncontrolled crossing change. Existing crossings that may require improvements may be prioritized and upgraded as City resources become available. Therefore the City would routinely monitor its various uncontrolled marked crossings to evaluate consistency with the City's crosswalk Policy Guidelines and make recommendations. Marked crosswalks found to be inconsistent with the Crosswalk Policy Guidelines will be recommended for treatments or removal in accordance with these guidelines. If more uncontrolled marked crosswalks are found in need of additional treatments than there are City resources, the crosswalks should be scored and ranked using the proposed scoring criteria for the Salinas Crosswalk Policy Guidelines. Thus, staff recommends the policy update.

#### Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant Acceptance

City staff actively seeks funding opportunities to help support transportation infrastructure projects. Staff prepared an application for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 9 grant program. One of the available funding criteria includes a set-aside for pedestrian crossing enhancements, which has a maximum amount of \$250,000. City staff identified six (6) uncontrolled crossing locations where the application of enhanced treatments would likely be warranted based on the approved Salinas Crosswalk Policy Guidelines. Staff prepared an application for HSIP grant funding to install flashing beacons at all 6 locations. Attachment 2 show these locations proposed for funding by the grant. In December, 2018 staff was informed the project was selected for HSIP funding for the maximum amount of \$250,000. The grant program requires a minimum 10% match from the agency.

Council will be requested to accept the HSIP grant funds and to authorize the Public Works Director to execute agreements related to the Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant. Staff therefore requests the Commission to recommend to the City Council the acceptance of this grant. The acceptance will commit the City to the project and to meeting certain milestones, specifically preliminary engineering by September 2019 and construction by December 2021. Staff plans to continue pursuing grant funding to implement pedestrian safety enhancements throughout the City.

#### CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Removal of an uncontrolled marked crosswalk on City street is exempt under CEQA 15301, Class 1(c) since the actions consists of operation and minor alteration of an existing City street.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This action supports the Council's initiative of Safe, Livable Community by removing the uncontrolled marked crosswalk at said locations.

#### FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The total estimated cost for the pedestrian crossing enhancements project (6 locations) is \$347,000. The maximum funding contribution from the HSIP grant is \$250,000. One of the crossing locations at Buckhorn Drive and Sanborn Road has development impact fees allocated to partially fund a signal. These impact fees will be leveraged as the local match. Improvements at this location will include poles and mast-arms that can easily be converted to a signal when necessary.

The crosswalk policy update with the proposed prioritization scoring process will commit City staff to routinely monitor uncontrolled crosswalks in relation to resources and to improve the City's ability to compete for grant funds. The cost will be in staff time and new equipment to conduct crossing demand counts. Additional monitoring efforts can be absorbed in the Transportation and Traffic Division's operating budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: City of Salinas Crosswalk Policy Guidelines (2019 Update)

Attachment 2: Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements Maps and Plans