



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2019

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

FROM: DAVID JACOBS, DIRECTOR

BY: ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER

TITLE: REMOVAL OF UNCONTROLLED MARKED CROSSWALKS AT TWO LOCATIONS

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a resolution to remove uncontrolled marked crosswalks located at two locations in accordance with the City Crosswalk Policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a Resolution approving the removal of the uncontrolled marked crosswalks across Constitution Boulevard at Manchester Street; and across John Street at Magnolia Drive.

EXECUTITVE SUMMARY:

Staff received requests to reevaluate the marked uncontrolled crosswalk at Constitution Boulevard and Manchester Drive; and at John Street and Magnolia Drive. Staff conducted an analysis according to the guidelines outlined in the Salinas Crosswalk Policies Guidelines. Staff recommends the removal of these marked crosswalks that do not meet the requirements necessary to justify a marked crosswalk.

BACKGROUND:

In California, a legal crosswalk exists where a sidewalk meets a street, regardless of whether the crosswalk is marked. Pedestrians may legally cross any street except at unmarked locations between signalized crossings, or where crossing is prohibited. Marked crosswalks reinforce the location and legitimacy of a pedestrian crossing. A marked crosswalk alone is not a safety device, as the general public perceives them to be. Pedestrians must exercise caution when crossing any street, marked or unmarked.

The City of Salinas initiated Crosswalk Policy Guidelines to prescribe a formal and transparent process for marked crosswalk implementation. It provides information to be used when making decisions about where standard crosswalks can be marked; which crosswalks require pedestrian

enhancements; and where crosswalks will not be marked due to safety concerns resulting from volume, speed, or sight distance issues.

In addition, near both locations recommended for crosswalk removal, the City recommended crossing locations at the nearest intersections have been further enhanced to support pedestrian activity.

Uncontrolled Crosswalk at Constitution Boulevard and Manchester Drive.

Staff received a request to reevaluate the uncontrolled marked crosswalks at the intersection of Constitution Boulevard and Manchester Drive. The requester had observed there was a resurfacing project on going and requested the crosswalk be evaluated for removal before it is restriped. The requester referenced a 2018 pedestrian collision in this vicinity. Per the Crossway Policy Guidelines, a traffic study identified that less than 20 pedestrians cross per hour at this uncontrolled marked crosswalk location and that the unmarked crosswalk location is not along a suggested route to a school path or connects two pedestrian generators (school, bus stop, or hospital). In addition, without additional pedestrian enhancements, the uncontrolled marked crosswalk at Constitution Boulevard and Manchester Drive no longer meets the requirements necessary to justify a marked crosswalk at this location.

Traffic conditions and development projects will continue to be monitored. If in the future a crosswalk is warranted it would be installed with the necessary enhancements consistent with City policy. Consistent with California Vehicle Code Policy, a 30-day notice was posted at the crosswalk indicating the consideration for removal.

The recommended crossing is at Constitution Boulevard at Independence. The City provided enhancements of the crosswalk to the triple 4-style crosswalk that provides better visibility of the crosswalk to both vehicles and pedestrians.

Uncontrolled Crosswalk at John Street and Magnolia Drive.

The City is completing a roadway maintenance project to resurface segments of John Street. The resurfacing project required the review and reevaluation of existing striping. The crosswalk at John Street and Magnolia Drive was determined to be inconsistent with the City's crosswalk policy and best practices. Per the Crossway Policy Guidelines, the nearest appropriately marked or protected crosswalk is less than 300 feet away on a four-lane roadway. This distance is a reasonable distance and does not pose an unnecessary inconvenience to the pedestrian's path of travel. The recommended crossing location is therefore at the signalized controlled intersection at John and Sanborn Road. The uncontrolled marked crosswalk at John Street and Magnolia Drive no longer meets the requirements necessary to justify a marked crosswalk at this location.

Consistent with the California Vehicle Code, a 30-day notice has been posted at the crosswalk indicating the consideration for removal.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

The recommendation for the removal of the uncontrolled marked crosswalk at Constitution Boulevard and Manchester Drive was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission at its June 2019 meeting. A resident who uses the crosswalk questioned the reason for removing the crosswalk and staff responded to questions. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend to the City Council the removal of the uncontrolled marked crosswalk at Constitution Boulevard and Manchester Drive based on the City's crosswalk policy.

The removal of the crosswalk at John Street and Magnolia Drive was brought to the Traffic and Transportation on July 11, 2019. The Commission did not receive any comments from the public. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend the removal of the crosswalk.

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" and "Well Planned City and Excellent Infrastructure" by removing the uncontrolled marked crosswalk at Constitution Boulevard and Manchester Drive.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Public Works staff works with the Legal Department on issues regarding crosswalks to ensure consistency with City policy. Public Works also coordinates with the Police Department when appropriate for traffic enforcement to support traffic devices.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There is no cost for the crosswalk removal. The roadway resurfacing project has covered the existing markings and new markings will not be installed.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: Resolution
- Attachment 2. Crossing Study Summary Constitution Blvd.
- Attachment 3. Crossing Study Summary for John Street
- Attachment 4: City of Salinas Crosswalk Policy Guidelines
- Attachment 5: Location Map