



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: JUNE 22, 2021

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC DIVISION

FROM: DAVID JACOBS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

BY: ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER

TITLE: REMOVAL OF THE UNCONTROLLED MARKED MIDBLOCK CROSSWALK ON WILLIAMS ROAD

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion approving a resolution to remove the uncontrolled marked midblock crosswalk on Williams Road.

RECOMMENDATION:

Public works staff recommends the removal of the uncontrolled marked midblock crosswalk on Williams Road.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City is preparing for roadway resurfacing project on Williams Road. City staff developed new striping plans for the road to ensure everything meets existing design standards. Staff has determined the uncontrolled marked midblock crosswalk on Williams Road does not meet City policy. Staff is recommending that crosswalk markings be removed.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Salinas adopted Crosswalk Policy Guidelines (Attachment 1) to prescribe a formal and transparent process for consideration of marked crosswalks. It provides information to be used when making decisions about where 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.

The Traffic and Transportation Commission was requested to consider the removal of two uncontrolled crosswalks at East Romie Lane and Alamenda Avenue and at a midblock location at Williams Road at the August 9th, 2018 Commission meeting. The Commission voted to continue

discussion and requested a recount of the crossing demand at each location. Repeating a count is often problematic, because pedestrian and driver behavior often changes once people become aware they are being observed for a traffic study, and the secondary counts measured significantly higher crossing demand. The City's crosswalk policy indicated that with sufficient crossing demand, the crosswalk is warranted, but the uncontrolled crosswalk should be closely monitored and enhanced with other pedestrian crossing improvements. The Traffic and Transportation Commission requested the crosswalk remain but the Commission cannot appropriate funds for crosswalk enhancements. City staff could not secure a Capitol Improvement Program (CIP) budget for this crosswalk enhancement project, and instead pursued an Active Transportation Program grant in 2020. The grant results were published in March, 2021 and the City's project was not selected for award. With funding opportunities exhausted, the crosswalk improvements now appear infeasible. Without the crosswalk enhancements, the uncontrolled marked midblock crosswalk on Williams Road does not meet City policy, and therefore staff is recommending it be removed.

City of Salinas Public Works plans to restripe Williams Road between Freedom Parkway and the Gabilan Plaza Apartments. The pavement restriping project requires staff to reevaluate the existing crosswalk and determine if preserving the existing uncontrolled crosswalk is warranted. Staff collected crossing demand and traffic data at both locations to evaluate if roadway conditions warranted a marked crosswalk without additional enhancements. The initial counts at both locations did not satisfy warranting a marked crosswalk and therefore additional crossing enhancements are not warranted. Marking a crosswalk where no longer warranted or where crossing conditions are not ideal can increase the collision potential of marked crosswalk.

Consistent with California Vehicle Code Policy, a 30-day notice was posted at the crosswalk indicating the consideration for removal, prior to the Traffic and Transportation Commission Meeting. At the Traffic and Transportation Commission Meeting the commission voted 5-1 to keep the existing crosswalk as is. Staff's recommendation is to remove the uncontrolled marked midblock crosswalk on Williams Road.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

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

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This action supports the Council's initiative of Public Safety.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There is no cost to remove the uncontrolled marked midblock crosswalk on Williams Road. The removal will occur during pavement project and when the roadway is restriped the crosswalk will not be replaced.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Attachment 1: City of Salinas Crosswalk Policy Guidelines