

TO: JAMES APP, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ROBERT A. LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CDBG-FUNDED LED-LIGHTED CROSSWALKS
DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2002

Needs: For the City Council to decide which intersection is to be provided with LED-lighted crosswalks with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds.

- Facts:
1. The City Council has allocated a total of \$24,000 from 2002 CDBG funds to install LED-lighted crosswalk in one intersection.
 2. The purpose of installing LED-lighted crosswalks is to enhance the safety of pedestrian elementary and middle school students. LED lights are installed in the paved surface at the crosswalk and flash and alert oncoming traffic that pedestrians are using the crosswalk. There are advance flashing LED pedestrian signs ahead of the lighted LED crosswalks to give advanced warning to drivers of the upcoming crosswalks.
 3. The lights are designed to be visible both day and night. They may be activated either by infrared beams emanating from bollards placed next to the curb (as they are in Marsh Street in San Luis Obispo) or via pushbutton.
 4. The Police Department has identified three intersections as having the most need for LED-lighted crosswalks to enhance the safety of pedestrian students.
 - a. 24th and Oak Streets (serving Flamson Middle School);
 - b. Spring and 17th Streets (serving Bauer-Speck Elementary Schools);
 - c. Spring and 36th Streets (serving Georgia Brown Elementary School).

Analysis and Conclusion: LED-Lighted Crosswalks are not subject to warrant criteria used for traffic signals, and the Council has discretion to place the LED-Lighted Crosswalk at whichever intersection it believes has the greatest need.

The intersection that appears to have the most hazardous situation in terms of pedestrian safety is 24th and Oak Streets. The Flamson Middle School Campus is the venue for numerous special events during the year such as Paso Robles High School football and soccer games; High School Commencement Exercises; and a variety of concerts and plays in Flamson Auditorium. During such events, a large number of vehicular trips are generated and a large number of attendees park in the Oak Street corridor. At such times, the intersection of 24th and Oak Street becomes considerably more hazardous to pedestrians. Additionally, almost all of these events take place at night, when visibility is greatly diminished, further exacerbating the hazard level. The other two intersections do not serve such venues, and do not experience such peak usage.

Also of note, 24th Street becomes Highway G-14, a major County artery linking the City with the Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio. A large number of motorists using this route are not local, and would not be as fully-aware of the hazards associated with pedestrians attending school or special events.

The two other intersections still have need for LED-Lighted Crosswalks. And this need may be met with future allocations of CDBG-funds.

Policy Reference: Federal regulations for the Community Development Block Grant Program, General Plan and Redevelopment Implementation Plan

Fiscal Impact: The LED-Lighted Crosswalks program addressed by this report is to be funded with CDBG funds. There will be no impact to the General Fund.

Options: That the City Council, by minute action, direct staff to seek bids to install LED-Lighted Crosswalks at one of the following intersections:

- a. 24th and Oak Streets (serving Flamson Middle School);
- b. Spring and 17th Streets (serving Bauer-Speck Elementary Schools);
- c. Spring and 36th Streets (serving Georgia Brown Elementary School);
- d. Amend, modify or reject the foregoing options.

Prepared by:

Ed Gallagher
Housing Programs Manager

ED\STIMPS\LED CROSSWALKS 02\DECISION CCR 100102