

SAN DIEGO COUNTY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 7, 2017 ~ 9:00 AM

5510 Overland Ave, Room 271

San Diego CA, 92123

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Items for Review**

SUBJECT		LOCATION	AREA	PLANNING/ SPONSOR GROUP
<u>SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2</u>				
2-A.	SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING	JULIAN AVENUE AT CACTUS STREET	LAKESIDE	LAKESIDE

SAN DIEGO COUNTY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT OF: July 7, 2017 **Item 2-A**

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: 2

SUBJECT: School Pedestrian Crossing

LOCATION: Julian Avenue at existing marked crosswalk at Cactus Street LAKESIDE (Thos. Bros. 1232 B-4)

INITIATED BY: DPW Traffic Engineering

REQUEST: Replace Flashing Warning Beacon with Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

PROBLEM AS STATED BY REQUESTER:

Local area residents, as well as staff from the Lemon Crest Elementary School, asked for a review of school related pedestrian activity on Julian Avenue in the unincorporated community of Lakeside on Cactus Street. They requested greater protection to the numerous crossers that are currently crossing.

Existing Traffic Devices

Julian Avenue is designated as a Mobility Element Light Collector road and is currently posted with a 35 MPH radar enforced speed limit.

Scholl age pedestrians traveling east on Julian Avenue from Lemon Crest Drive arrive at the signalized intersection at Los Coches Road and make safe crossings within the marked crosswalks during green arrow indications at the traffic signal.

Scholl age pedestrians traveling west on Julian Avenue from Lemon Crest Drive arrive at the intersection with Cactus Street where there is only a stop sign for Cactus Street. There is no sidewalk on Julian Avenue in this area and there is substantial observed pedestrian demand for crossing from the south side of Julian Avenue to the north side at Cactus Street at this uncontrolled intersection. There is an existing yellow marked school pedestrian crosswalk with a yellow flashing beacon at this intersection. Due to high pedestrian demand, this crosswalk is presently treated with a flashing yellow beacon to highlight pedestrian activity during school hours.

Collisions

There have been zero reported collisions at this intersection in the last 5 year 2 month period, 1-1-12 to 2-28-17.

Discussion

Lemon Crest Elementary School within the Lakeside Union School District is located at 12463 Lemon Crest Drive in Lakeside. DPW staff indicated that school age pedestrians traveling north into the community of Lakeside utilize a protected pedestrian pathway on the east side of Lemon Crest Drive to access residential apartments and homes along Julian Avenue and beyond. There is an approximate equal split of school pedestrians traveling east and west on Julian Avenue. Pedestrians traveling east on Julian Avenue arrive at the signalized intersection at Los Coches Road and make crossings within the marked crosswalks during green arrow indications at the traffic signal. In the other direction heading west on Julian Avenue, there is substantial observed pedestrian demand for crossing from the south side of Julian Avenue to the north side at Cactus Street at an uncontrolled intersection.

There is an existing yellow marked school pedestrian crosswalk across Julian Avenue at Cactus Street. Due to high pedestrian demand, this crosswalk is presently treated with a flashing yellow beacon to highlight pedestrian activity during school hours. Representatives from the community and the school district have described difficulty in the interactions between school aged pedestrians utilizing this marked crosswalk with increased traffic volumes, speeds at this location, and limited sidewalks in the area. Staff met with school representatives to discuss traffic control device options to further enhance the crosswalk on Julian Avenue at Cactus Street. Julian Avenue is currently posted with a 35 MPH radar enforced speed limit. There is one lane of travel in each direction, separated by a solid centerline stripe. The school representatives indicated that speeds on Julian Avenue are often well above 35 MPH.

DPW staff mentioned that the existing crosswalk has a yellow flashing beacon because there is substantial pedestrian activity in this busy residential area. In conjunction with staff reviews, DPW will be installing new edge lines to help guide pedestrians and motorists and will be replacing existing standard crosswalks with yellow continental style crosswalks along Julian Avenue.

The County Traffic Engineer (CTE) indicated that the intersection of Julian Avenue and Cactus Street presently has flashing beacons on a mast arm and supports additional pedestrian treatment at this location. The CTE described a new traffic control device approved in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) that can support significant pedestrian activity at an unsignalized location such as this. The device is called a pedestrian hybrid beacon that can be used in conjunction with a marked crosswalk. The device is superior to a standard crosswalk with flashers because it provides a push-button activated red signal for vehicles when crossing demand is present. The device is also intended to be an appropriate next-level treatment before a full traffic signal is considered. Based on roadway operating conditions in this area and the prevailing speeds, the pedestrian hybrid beacon would meet CA MUTCD guidelines for installation in this high pedestrian suburban location. The pedestrian hybrid beacon would operate similar to a temporary stop sign or signal and garners greater stop compliance.

The TAC discussed whether a pedestrian hybrid beacon can be installed at either a mid-block location or at the intersection. The CTE addressed this and clarified that the

Discussion continued

CA MUTCD, in its most recent 2014 Revision No. 2, allows the use of the pedestrian hybrid beacon at intersections. The CTE also indicated that active transportation goals endorse additional treatment on behalf of area pedestrians. The Caltrans representative relayed information that there are other traffic control devices available that can represent next-level pedestrian information such as a rectangular rapidly flashing beacon and/or in-roadway flashing lights that should serve as enhancements without requiring the expense of a pedestrian hybrid beacon. DPW staff indicated that although a full traffic signal may cost over \$750 thousand dollars, a pedestrian beacon could cost \$50 thousand and would likely be less because mast arms are already in place, the District 2 representative asked whether an approved pedestrian hybrid beacon could be installed in time for the next school year. DPW staff committed to accomplishing this task. The CHP El Cajon representative described the dense residential nature of this area and confirmed that there is occasional excessive speeding, especially due to the downhill grade from Prospect Avenue, and that there is considerable cut-through traffic on Julian Avenue. The Insurance and Brokers representative indicated familiarity with this road and supports enhanced operational or regulatory treatment on behalf of pedestrians.

The TAC recommends installation of a pedestrian hybrid beacon at the existing marked crosswalk to provide a superior crossing. As the sole opposition, the Caltrans representative voted against the proposal and preferred the rectangular rapidly flashing beacon with in-roadway lights as an alternative incremental action. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the pedestrian hybrid beacons as recommended by the TAC are expected to warn and control traffic at this unsignalized location to assist school zone and residential pedestrians in crossing Julian Avenue. A marked crosswalk with a pedestrian hybrid beacon provides a red signal and brings a higher rate of compliance on stopping traffic so pedestrians can cross much more safely.

The Lakeside Community Planning Group was provided the opportunity to comment and did not provide input.

Recommendation

The TAC recommends the installation of the pedestrian hybrid beacon on Julian Avenue at existing marked crosswalk at Cactus Street.

Necessary Board Action

File this report.