



DATE: October 26, 2016

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission
FROM: Daniel Varela, City Staff
SUBJECT: W Edith Avenue and University Avenue Crosswalk Improvement - Design

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss the design of the W. Edith / University Crosswalk Improvements 65%

BACKGROUND

This project originated from a study focused on the safety of students traveling to and from Gardner Bullis Elementary as part of the Pedestrian Master Plan. The study found that the crossing location for students coming down University and turning onto Edith is unclear. The intersection is not marked for crossing and is awkwardly aligned which creates visibility issues for pedestrians and drivers. The study recommends a project to improve safety by installing a marked crosswalk and other enhancements such as a ladder crosswalk or a beacon enhanced electronic pedestrian crossing.

In March 22, 2016, City Council requested staff to accelerate implementing improvements on the W. Edith Avenue and University Avenue intersection after residents voiced concerns for crosswalk safety.

The City retained CSG Consultants as the design consultant for this project.

DISCUSSION

Staff and CSG Consultants developed a 65% conceptual design of crosswalk improvements with project limits bound by the intersection of University Avenue and W. Edith Avenue. The current design contains three new ADA Portland cement concrete curb ramps, one bulb-out, ladder crosswalk striping for the north/south direction, In-Road Warning Lights (IRWL), and advanced yield markings with signage. IRWL have already been implemented in areas with high student volume (i.e. Almond Avenue /N. Gordon Avenue, Almond Avenue at Almond Elementary).

The current design calls for signage with flashing lights around the perimeter of lower intensity than that of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). A similar concept was implemented on STOP signs at the intersection of El Monte/ Springer.

ALTERNATIVES

These improvements are intended to provide students with maximum visibility and safety as they cross W. Edith Avenue and travel to and from Gardner Bullis Elementary.

However, there is one alternative that can be considered to reach a similar goal:

1. In lieu of in-ground flashing lights, use Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB).
 - a. Pros
 - i. Higher visibility/warning for oncoming traffic.
 - b. Cons
 - i. Effective pole placement would flash directly onto adjacent homeowner's properties.
 - ii.

RRFBs were initially considered for the crosswalk during conceptual design. However, City staff and CSG Consultants were unable to locate an effective pole placement that would mitigate blinking lights from flashing into adjacent homeowner properties.

NEXT STEPS

Staff and CSG Consultants will continue to develop the plans and specifications as per the feedback received. If the project scope changes based on the collective feedback, then Staff will update the Council regarding the change in scope.

There is still on-going coordination between the City and the County regarding the placement of advanced warning signs and striping within County jurisdiction. Barring any drastic changes, the design should be completed by the end of the year.

Attachment:

W. Edith/ University Avenue Design