

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

Date: May 8, 2000

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Traffic Study of Sierra Madre Boulevard and Paloma Street near Pasadena High School

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council directed staff to investigate the area near Pasadena High School for traffic and safety issues. A study was conducted of the traffic controls, speeds, traffic demand, and accident incidence on Sierra Madre Boulevard between Paloma Street and Washington Boulevard, and on Paloma Street between Altadena Drive and Sierra Madre Boulevard. The investigation showed that traffic and safety characteristics of the streets were within normal operating parameters for the type of street and surrounding land uses.

The passenger loading area in front of Pasadena High School has a number of accidents related to parking and passenger loading, the intersection of Sierra Madre Boulevard and Paloma Street has a number of broadside accidents involving northbound and eastbound traffic, and accidents on Altadena Drive indicate a potential speed problem.

The accident incidence at Sierra Madre Boulevard and Paloma Street should be improved with the programmed installation of separate left turn lanes and signal phases for left turning traffic on Sierra Madre Boulevard. The design is complete and construction should begin by September 2000, as apart of the FY 1999 CIP.

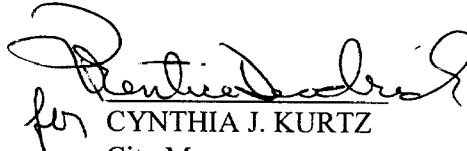
The Altadena Drive accident characteristics will be monitored in conjunction with periodic speed enforcement by the Pasadena Police Department.

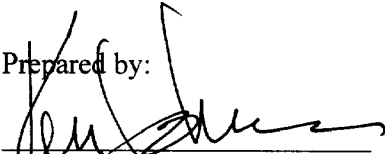
The accident picture on Sierra Madre Boulevard would be improved by relocating the passenger loading area in front of Pasadena High School off-street. These activities can be relocated to the

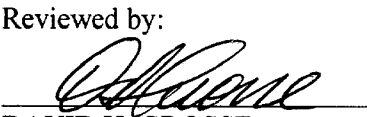
Victory Park parking lot without interfering with other uses of the lot. Our police department and the Pasadena Unified School District concur with the change. A work order will be prepared over the next month to relocate the loading, and installation will be completed during school summer break, in June or July. The Pasadena High School Master Plan includes a permanent solution: construction (unscheduled) of an off-street passenger loading and unloading area.


The median opening in Sierra Madre Boulevard just south of the school was investigated. The median opening serves residential uses and eases block-end congestion, and there are no safety issues that would warrant its closure.

Respectfully submitted,


for CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

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