



**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: October 26, 2023

TO: Parking and Public Improvements Commission

FROM: Erick Lee, Public Works Director

BY: Helen Shi, Senior Civil Engineer

SUBJECT: Valley Drive / Ardmore Avenue Crossing Enhancement Project at 17th Street and 18th Street

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Parking and Public Improvements Commission receive public testimony for the Joslyn Center Crosswalks Improvement Project provide recommendations for staff consideration.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the pedestrian crosswalks at Valley Drive and 17th Street (midblock crossing in front of the Joslyn Community Center), Ardmore Avenue and 17th Street, Valley Drive and 18th Street (midblock crossing in front of the Live Oak Park kid's playground), and Ardmore Avenue and 18th Street are uncontrolled crossings along a major route for residents and visitors who visit the Civic Center, Live Oak Park, Joslyn Community Center and many other City destinations. These crossings can be enhanced to provide better visibility of pedestrians to motorists.

The City Council and Parking and Public Improvements Commission (Commission) have made pedestrian safety and crossing enhancements a high priority. During a May 3, 2017 City Council retreat, the Council proposed a Plan Zero Pedestrian Improvement Plan. Plan Zero's goal is to eliminate traffic-related pedestrian accidents and fatalities. Following that, staff was directed to explore various crosswalk enhancement opportunities such as flashing beacons, in-roadway warning lights and special signal timing.

On September 26, 2019, the Commission discussed the recommendations of the City Traffic Engineer regarding the methodology and prioritization of crosswalk enhancements following a Citywide evaluation. The Commission supported staff's recommendations, suggesting that pedestrian volume be considered as a ranking criterion and that the improvements be constructed in phases so that interim low cost measures could be completed sooner.

On February 4, 2020, the City Council approved the Commission's recommendation to incorporate proposed crosswalk enhancements into new or ongoing projects as part of the City's Capital Improvement Program. The staff report with recommended crossing locations for improvements are provided as an attachment to this report.

The pedestrian crosswalks proposed by the Joslyn Center Crosswalks Improvement Project (Project) are included in the approved priority list. The Project will improve safety at high volume crossings by implementing treatments that will enhance pedestrian safety and increase visibility and awareness for both drivers and pedestrians.

The Project plans and specifications were completed in conformance with Caltrans design standards in July 2023, and on July 25, 2023, the project was advertised on the City's Bid Opportunities webpage and the City's Bid Portal with PlanetBids (an online service that connects vendors, suppliers and contractors to government procurement opportunities). Three bids were received and opened on September 12, 2023 and are currently under review.

DISCUSSION

The Project will be constructed in phases based on available funds. The first phase will improve the crosswalks on Valley Drive at 17th Street and 18th Streets. The following improvements are proposed:

- Remove existing curb ramps and construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant ramps;
- Install Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFB);
- Remove existing striping and install thermoplastic continental crosswalks;
- Install ADA parking signs and re-arrange parking spaces to add an additional ADA parking space; and
- Install new signs.

The construction contract is planned to be awarded for Phase I in December 2023 by the City Council, and construction is scheduled from early 2024 to June 2024.

The future Phase II will include additional pedestrian improvements on Ardmore Avenue at 17th Street and 18th Street, and a new ADA-compliant path across the Veterans Parkway. The design for Phase II is complete and is anticipated to be advertised for construction bids in July 2024.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION, OUTREACH, AND COMMENT

The project team conducted multiple outreach meetings with stakeholders, including public agencies, nearby communities and Grand Prix Cycling Club during the design phase of the project to present the project designs and their benefit to the community. The public outreach meetings are listed below:

8/24/2021 City Council meeting to award contract for the project design
6/30/2022 Meeting with Grand Prix Cycling Club for design plans
9/14/2022 Meeting with Grand Prix Cycling Club for design plans
10/3/2022 Meeting with general public for design plans

All public comments and recommendations to the design and equipment details have been analyzed and considered, as appropriate, during the design phase.

In addition, a courtesy notice was mailed to all property owners and residents within a 500-foot radius of the subject location with instructions on how to comment on the project and/or attend this meeting.

EXHIBITS:

- A. [Project Design Plans \(Link\)](#)