



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

DATE: December 7, 2023

TO: Parking and Public Improvements Commission

FROM: Erick Lee, Public Works Director

BY: Helen Shi, Senior Civil Engineer

SUBJECT: Receive Public Testimony and Provide a Recommendation to the City Council on the Conceptual Plans for the Manhattan Beach Boulevard at Pacific Avenue Improvements Project

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parking and Public Improvements Commission receive public testimony and provide a recommendation to the City Council on the conceptual plans for the Manhattan Beach Boulevard (MBB) at Pacific Avenue Improvements Project (Project).

BACKGROUND

In September 2022, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) granted funding of \$1,200,000 from the South Bay Measure M Multi-Year Sub-Regional Programs - Transportation System & Mobility Improvements Program for the Project.

On May 2, 2023, the City Council approved the funding agreement and appropriation of \$1,200,000 for the Project. On May 10, 2023, Metro staff executed the final funding agreement.

Currently, MBB provides two westbound travel lanes east of Pacific Avenue. To the west of Pacific Avenue, two MBB westbound travel lanes merge into one through travel lane. The merging length is only about 60 feet. During the peak commuting periods (7-9 AM and 4-6 PM), vehicles are often queued in the first westbound through travel lane behind drivers stopped to make a westbound left-turn at Pacific Avenue, which further congests the short

merging area. This causes safety concerns and disturbs the traffic flow with sudden stop-and-go traffic patterns. The residents who live near this intersection frequently complain about loud speeding/braking noises and have reported traffic accidents.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this project is to extend the merging area along MBB at Pacific Avenue, reduce congestion, improve driver and pedestrian safety, improve mobility for all users, and provide smoother traffic flow by reconfiguration of the intersection layout. Based on input from staff, the design engineer, and conversations with the community, five preliminary design concepts have been developed and are described below.

Conceptual Plan No. 1:

- Install new crosswalk at the west leg of the intersection with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps.
- Improve intersection signal system, including Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) system installation/upgrades, signal poles and signal heads and push button upgrades.

Conceptual Plan No. 2:

- Install new crosswalk at the west leg of the intersection with ADA ramps.
- Improve intersection signal system, including APS system installation/upgrades, signal poles and signal heads and push button upgrades.
- Remove two parking spaces along the north side of MBB and extend the merging area length from 60 feet to 250 feet west of Pacific Avenue to comply with the State policy and Caltrans standard.

Conceptual Plan No. 3:

- Install new crosswalk at the west leg of the intersection with ADA ramps.
- Improve intersection signal system, including APS system installation/upgrades, signal poles and signal heads and push button upgrades.
- Add eastbound and westbound left-turn lanes and protected left-turn signal phases to reduce conflicting traffic and improve vehicular and pedestrian safety.
- Relocate westbound merging zone from west of Pacific Avenue to east of Pacific Avenue, and extend the length of the merging zone to 250 feet east of Pacific Avenue.
- Reduce the second westbound through lane by approximately 300 feet east of Pacific Avenue.

Conceptual Plan No. 4:

- Install new crosswalk at the west leg of the intersection with ADA ramps.
- Improve intersection signal system, including APS system installation/upgrades, signal poles and signal heads and push button upgrades.
- Add northbound and southbound left-turn lanes and protected left-turn signal phases to reduce conflicting traffic and improve vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Conceptual Plan No. 5:

- Install new crosswalk at the west leg of the intersection with ADA ramps.
- Improve intersection signal system, including APS system installation/upgrades, signal poles and signal heads and push button upgrades.
- Add westbound left-turn lane and protected left-turn signal phase to reduce conflicting traffic and improve vehicular and pedestrian safety.
- Relocate westbound merging zone from west of Pacific Avenue to east of Pacific Avenue, and extend the merging zone length to 250 feet.
- Add bike lane along south side of MBB and bike sharrows on the north side of MBB. Prohibit on-street parking (approximately 10 parking spaces) along north side of MBB between Fisher Avenue and Laurel Avenue.
- Reduce the second westbound through lane by approximately 300 feet east of Pacific Avenue.

It should be noted that Conceptual Plan No. 1 (Crosswalk on west leg) has been added to all concepts because it does not affect the alignment of the other concepts. Also, Conceptual Plan No. 4 (Pacific Avenue turn lanes) can be recommended independently or in conjunction with other concepts.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION, OUTREACH, AND COMMENT

Public outreach has been conducted during the planning phase of the Project to inform the public of the proposed improvements, especially with the community adjacent and most directly affected by the project improvements. This included a community meeting on April 20, 2023, a City Council meeting on July 5, 2023, and emails and phone calls between the City staff and the community. Regular updates are also provided on the Project website.

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 attend this meeting.

Additional public outreach will be conducted during the design process. All public comments and recommendations regarding the intersection design and equipment details will be considered, as appropriate, during the design phase. Targeted outreach will occur before the start of construction for residents and businesses located near and/or adjacent to construction activities.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the Commission review and provide comments on the proposed preliminary design concepts for the Project. Staff will then present the preliminary design concepts and the Commission's recommendation to City Council. Once a preferred concept is approved by City Council, the design consultant will continue with detailed design work and develop documents for formal construction bidding. Construction is expected to begin in early 2026.

EXHIBIT:

- A. [Project Conceptual Design Plans](#)