



CITY OF SANTA CRUZ  
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS  
COMMISSION  
AGENDA REPORT

DATE: September 6, 2013

AGENDA OF: September 16, 2013  
DEPARTMENT: Public Works  
SUBJECT: Crosswalk Request at Jewell Street

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RECOMMENDATION: For information only.

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Discussion of a marked crosswalk on Ocean Street at Jewell was raised with the Planning Commission approval of the Memory Care facility on Jewell Street at the Elks property. The traffic consultant for the developer also provided a traffic report for the proposed development.

When considering marking a crosswalk, staff reviews the following information for the location to help guide the decision: number of lanes, presence of a median, collisions, traffic volumes, pedestrian volumes and delays, traffic speeds, lighting, and sight distance.

The following summarizes the information:

Ocean Street at Jewell is a two lane road with bike lanes and no parking and no median, has 12-15,000 vehicles per day and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 35 miles per hour. It is a primary arterial route serving the San Lorenzo Valley and Santa Cruz. It connects to Highway 1 and 17, with the nearest on-ramps 600 feet from Jewell Street. Jewell Street is a minor residential street with a public meeting facility. There are 5 recorded collisions at the intersection over a 10 year period (2003-2013) of which 2 are broadsides, 1 is a fixed object, 1 is a rear-end and 1 is a sideswipe. There are no recorded pedestrian or bike collisions.

The corner site distance from Ocean at Jewell is less than recommended for a 40 mph speed, though stopping site distance is sufficient. In light of this staff has sent notices to adjacent property owners to trim vegetation along the eastern Ocean Street frontage to improve sight distance. Other sight constraints include utility poles and street lights. There is one intersection safety light (street light) on the northeast corner of the intersection. Several visits to the site by staff to observe pedestrian/auto behavior resulted in no pedestrian sightings. Staff attempted street crossings during AM peak hour traffic and found there to be multiple sufficient gaps to make the crossing and little delay as a pedestrian.

Following review of the information, staff continues to not recommend marking the crosswalk on Ocean Street at Jewell. Speeds on the street are on the upper end of what is recommended for an uncontrolled marked crosswalk (The MUTCD recommends not marking crosswalks at uncontrolled locations where speeds exceed 40 mph). Comparatively with other similar city intersections, the collision history is low, and below the criteria required to apply for safety

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grants. A locally funded pedestrian flasher is in the \$30,000-\$50,000 price range and there are higher use areas in the city that would be a better choice for limited funding.

Staff will install advance Pedestrian Warning signs, 100 feet upstream each direction of the unmarked crosswalks, to alert motorists of the potential for pedestrians in this location. A work order has been initiated.

Submitted by: Christophe J. Schneider, Assistant Director/City Engineer

Robert Solick, Principal Management Analyst

Attachments:

Ocean – Jewell Area