

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Completed Pedestrian Safety /Traffic Safety Projects
DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department
PRESENTED BY: Paul Haines, Public Works Director, Jesus Sanchez,
Operations Mgr., Rich Meredith, P.E., City Traffic Engineer,
Denise Turner, Chief of Police

ISSUE STATEMENT:

The purpose of this staff report is to inform the Council of the Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Safety enhancements that have been completed throughout the City.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required. This staff report presents a progress report that identifies the projects completed addressing Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Safety.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney N/A

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INTRODUCTION

Recognizing that Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Safety issues are a substantial component in the quality of life of residential neighborhoods, the Shoreline City Council has made traffic safety one of their major goals. As the City of Shoreline grows, we have increasing numbers of pedestrians and transit users competing for street space with increasing numbers of motorists. Our neighborhoods in Shoreline are concerned about speeding traffic and commuters "cutting-through" their streets. Pedestrian school safety is paramount as the population base of students continues to increase.

Since the City's incorporation, traffic safety concerns have been voiced by residents, business communities, school districts and other quasi-governmental agencies asking for solutions and assistance in addressing Pedestrian and Traffic safety.

Committed to ensuring that these traffic concerns are addressed, the Council has annually set aside funding for traffic safety programs. This funding has enabled enhancements to Pedestrian and Traffic safety in the City of Shoreline.

BACKGROUND

To address Pedestrian and Traffic Safety, the Council funded several traffic safety programs. The City of Shoreline Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program was first funded in 1999 and has continued to be funded through 2008. This program addresses neighborhood traffic safety concerns and enables citizens and community groups to become involved with the improvement process. The Pedestrian Improvement Program is a program that evaluates pedestrian safety needs, and selects and makes annual improvements to include walkways, sidewalks, paved paths and crosswalks. This program was funded in 2003 and continues to be funded through 2008. In 2003, the Council granted funding for a city traffic engineer and a traffic engineer technician to develop a traffic services unit that would begin to address the traffic issues more responsively and efficiently.

"Enhance our program for safe and friendly streets" is Goal #2 in the 2003-2004 City Council's work plan. Pedestrian safety and traffic safety is of concern and the Council has supported efforts to make the streets in Shoreline safe for all users. Following the direction of the Council, the Department of Public Works embarked on and completed Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Safety projects in locations throughout the City.

Discussion

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Safety Improvements:

- **In-pavement crosswalk flashers** were installed at three locations. These warning lights warn drivers that pedestrians are crossing, using yellow lights embedded in the pavement at the crosswalk. Automatically activated by pedestrians, these lights flash along the crosswalk stripes and are much more visible than standard crosswalk markings. This enhancement to increase pedestrian school safety is a pilot program

project and will be evaluated after a period of three years from the dates of implementation.

- The following locations selected were based primarily on the fact that children were crossing major collector and arterial routes:
 - **North 155th and Wallingford – Parkwood Elementary**
 - **North 175th and Wallingford – Meridian Elementary**
 - **15th Ave NE and NE 170th -- Briarcrest/Ridgecrest Elementary**
- **Project Cost:** Total project cost was \$ 59,696.40 of which \$ 33,999.99 was grant funded. Final cost: \$ 25,696.41
- **Funding Source:** Roads Operations

- **Pedestrian Safety Improvements – N 175th St – Aurora to Fremont Ave N Shorewood High School**

Traffic safety concerns were brought to the City's attention by the administration at Shorewood High School. Problems with ingress and egress out of the school parking lot and speeding were highlighted. The City installed two radar speed signs along N 175th St. Ingress and egress changes were made to the school parking lot with additional signage added. Audible pedestrian signals, c-curbing and asphalt were installed at the N 175th St and Fremont Ave N intersection. Additionally, the City installed a street print crosswalk with curb ramps. The street print, valued at \$3,800, is a demonstration project furnished entirely by the manufacturer.

- **Project costs:** \$ 28,707.03 of which \$ 3800.00 was a demo project furnished by manufacturer. Final cost: \$ 24,907.03.
- **Funding Source:** Roads Operations

- **Pedestrian Safety Improvements – Innis Arden**

City staff worked with the community of Innis Arden to identify traffic issue concerns relating to pedestrian safety and speeding. The City completed the installation of speed humps along NW Springdale Ct. New stop signs, a traffic island, realignment of the road and stopbars were installed at Ridgefield Rd NW and NW Springdale Ct. New curb gutter, sidewalk, curb ramps and drainage replaced the existing curbing to improve pedestrian crossings and safety.

- **Project costs:** \$ 17,340.72
- **Funding Source:** Roads Operations

- **Curb Space Management Projects**

Evergreen Elementary School – Installation of signs, curbing, and ramps were completed.

Crista Elementary School – No parking signs were installed.

Highland Terrace Neighborhood – No parking signs, and limited parking signs were installed along designated routes.

Sunset Elementary School – Installation of extruded curbing

- Project costs: \$ 10, 725.40
- Funding Source: Roads Operations

- **Motorist Education and Enforcement Projects (Police)**

School Zone speed enforcement – Traffic officers work school zone speed enforcement daily. During the first two quarters of 2003 officers issued 134 citations.

Seat Belt Enforcement - In the second quarter of 2003 the Traffic Safety Commission launched the Click it or Ticket campaign. Traffic officers issued 114 seat belt violation citations. Shoreline Police received a grant to fund overtime for this project.

Enforcement – Officers issued 3,142 citations in the first and second quarters of 2003. These citations were for speed and a variety of moving violations.

Abandoned Vehicles – Traffic officers responded to 420 abandoned vehicle complaints in the first two quarters of 2003.

Crosswalk Sting Operations – in 2002 traffic officers conducted several cross walk stings.

Traffic Complaint Investigations – Traffic officers responded to and evaluated 333 traffic complaints. These complaints are not part of the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program and may include arterials.

The Traffic Unit continues to focus their enforcement efforts on the areas in the City where the highest incidents of accidents occur and when requested as part of the NTSP program.

SUMMARY

As City staff continues to identify enhancements to Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Safety, we are pleased with the positive reactions and responses we have received from the community on each of these projects.

As many of the projects mentioned are pilot program projects, we will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of these changes focused on measurable outcomes.

Projects in progress include the completion of the N 183rd and Dayton Ave N closure, the installation of radar speed signs at Shorewood High School, and the additional installation of no parking signs and limited parking signs in the Highland Terrace Neighborhood.

Additionally, Council Ordinance 329 requires the construction of frontage improvements on development projects that enhances pedestrian safety, with the requirement of sidewalk construction, such as the Parker's Casino. The project required the construction frontage improvements along North 170th, abutting Parkers, including 6' sidewalks, 4' amenity zone, curb and gutter and half street improvements by next spring 2004. These types of requirements only enhance and provide measurable protection for our city residents.

Finally, our annual Curb and Ramp program continues to improve pedestrian walking routes, by repairing or replacing damaged curb, gutter and sidewalks as well as meeting new federal regulations regarding wheel chair ramps.

Future projects will include implementing traffic circles as traffic calming devices in several locations, installing in-pavement wheel chair detectors and audible count down pedestrian heads in the North City Re-development Project and Aurora Corridor Project, updating and revising the school walking route maps, reviewing residential permit zoning (RPZ), and participating in the development of the Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan. All city capital projects as part of development, will also have a venue requirement for mitigation that will address pedestrian and traffic impact.