



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Police Chief Darius Engles
MEETING DATE: December 06, 2006
SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSED
IMPROVEMENTS TO SUNSET DRIVE (STATE HWY 68)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and Authorize the Mayor to Send the Letter to the California Department of Transportation Giving the City's Approval For Their Proposed Re-striping and Signage Upgrade to Sunset Drive (State Hwy 68) Between Forest Avenue and Congress Avenue For the Purposes of Improving Traffic and Pedestrian Safety.

DISCUSSION:

In May, 2006, the City Council sent a letter to the California Department of Transportation requesting that they conduct a traffic study on Sunset Drive particularly at the intersection with 19th Street. This action was taken because of a pedestrian fatality on February 9th, 2006 in the crosswalk at the intersection of Sunset Ave and 19th Street. CalTrans responded back to the City in late August that they were completing a proposal in regard to our request.

CalTrans is proposing to re-stripe Sunset Drive from Forest Avenue to just north of Congress Avenue. Sunset Drive is currently four lanes with parking on the west side. They propose to reduce the through lanes from four (4) lanes to two (2) lanes, add a two way left turn lane, install a left turn lane into the school's parking lot, relocate the existing crosswalk across Sunset at 19th Street southerly about twenty (20') feet, and paint an island at the crosswalk on Sunset at 19th Street to provide pedestrian protection. They will also upgrade the school signing package to meet current standards. Caltrans has requested a letter from the City responding to their request in order for them to proceed with the work. The work will begin in about three (3) months and take a couple of days or so. It should be noted that the City of Pacific Grove's Traffic & Safety Commission and the Pacific Grove Unified School District Board have both heard presentations and have approved the CalTrans proposal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None to the City of Pacific Grove, all costs to be borne by the California Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

- Letter to California Department of Transportation for Mayor's signature
- Map

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


Darius E. Engles
POLICE CHIEF

REVIEWED BY:



Digitally signed: I have reviewed this document

James J. Colangelo
CITY MANAGER

December 01, 2006

Ms. Deb Larson, Acting District Safety Engineer
California Department of Transportation
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401- 5415

Dear Ms. Larson;

In the spring of 2006, the Pacific Grove City Council requested that CalTrans conduct a traffic study on Sunset Drive (State Hwy 68) particularly at the intersection with 19th Street which is opposite the campus of Pacific Grove High School. The request was made as a result of a fatal accident with a pedestrian that occurred in the crosswalk at Sunset Drive and 19th Street on February 9, 2006.

CalTrans completed the study and recommended that State Highway 68 (Sunset Drive) be restriped from Forest Avenue to Congress Avenue. This section is currently four lanes and the proposal is to reduce it to two lanes with left turn channelization and to relocate the crosswalk on Sunset Drive southerly to better position it at 19th Street. CalTrans will also upgrade the existing school signing to current standards.

In discussions with CalTrans, the City of Pacific Grove was advised that all costs to complete the improvements as described will be the responsibility of CalTrans. The City also inquired about the installation of a flashing, lighted crosswalk across Sunset Drive at 19th Street. It was stated that CalTrans does not have available funding at this time to fund the flashing crosswalk. The CalTrans representative did state that CalTrans will allow the installation of the crosswalk under an encroachment permit issued to the City of Pacific Grove at some later time.

It should be noted that the City of Pacific Grove's Traffic and Safety Commission and the Pacific Grove Unified School District Board have approved the plan as presented by CalTrans at their respective meetings with the specifications indicated above.

The City of Pacific Grove would like to accept the proposal from the California Department of Transportation to re-stripe that portion of Sunset Drive (State Hwy 68) from Forest Avenue to Congress Avenue and to install school signing and any other traffic control devices that CalTrans deemed applicable to the situation. We further understand that all costs of this work will be borne by the California Department of Transportation.

The City Council of the City of Pacific Grove would like to thank the California Department of Transportation for their efforts in considering the City's request for improving the traffic and pedestrian safety at this location.

Sincerely,

DANIEL E. CORT
Mayor, City of Pacific Grove

