



City of Carson

Report to Mayor and City Council

May 7, 2013
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF A FENCE IN THE MEDIAN OF AVALON BOULEVARD BETWEEN SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD AND 228TH STREET TO PREVENT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Farrokh Abolfathi

Submitted by Farrokh Abolfathi
Acting Director of Public Works

David C. Biggs

Approved by David C. Biggs
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Mayor Dear and Councilmember Gipson.

A request was received from a resident of 238th Street to consider constructing a fence in the median of Avalon Boulevard between 228th Street and Sepulveda Boulevard to prevent pedestrians from crossing the street along this segment of Avalon Boulevard (Exhibit No. 1). This request was submitted as a result of a self-reported near-miss (non-collision) between a vehicle and two pedestrians at the intersection of 238th Place and Avalon Boulevard.

II. RECOMMENDATION

DIRECT staff to develop a Capital Improvement Program project to be considered for evaluation as part of adopting the FY 2013/14 - 2017/18 Capital Improvement Program.

III. ALTERNATIVES

1. DENY the request to install a fence in the median of Avalon Boulevard.
2. TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

Avalon Boulevard between Sepulveda Boulevard and 228th Street is a four lane arterial street with a raised median. There are four signalized intersections along this segment of Avalon Boulevard and two unsignalized intersections (Exhibit No. 2). The signalized intersections are at Sepulveda Boulevard, Scottsdale Drive, Bayport Street, and 228th Street and the unsignalized intersections are at 238th Place and Idabel Avenue. The median on Avalon Boulevard has openings at all four signalized intersections and at the Idabel Avenue intersection to accommodate left turns. The median is continuous through the 238th Place intersection, so left turns cannot be made at this intersection.

A request has been made by a resident to install a fence in the median of Avalon Boulevard between 228th Street and Sepulveda Boulevard to prevent pedestrians

from crossing Avalon Boulevard (Exhibit No. 3). As stated in the email transmittal, the request was initiated because the resident almost hit two pedestrians while turning right onto Avalon Boulevard from 238th Place.

It is currently legal for pedestrians to cross Avalon Boulevard at 238th Place and at mid-block locations between Scottsdale Drive and Sepulveda Boulevard. The presence of a median does not render it illegal to cross the street. At the location where 238th Place intersects with Avalon Boulevard (where the requester's near-miss occurred), the driver of a vehicle should yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian that is crossing the street because the intersection has an "unmarked" crosswalk according to the California Vehicle Code. An unmarked crosswalk is essentially the continuation of the sidewalk across the street and motorists should treat an unmarked crosswalk the same as they would a painted crosswalk.

If a pedestrian were crossing Avalon Boulevard at a location away from the intersection, the pedestrian should yield the right-of-way to a vehicle. However, the driver would have the duty to exercise due care for the safety of any pedestrian upon the roadway according to the California Vehicle Code. Furthermore, the California Driver Handbook indicates that any time a driver comes to a place where people may cross or enter the vehicle's path, the driver should look to the left and right for pedestrians or vehicles before proceeding. These rules are applicable to the situation at Avalon Boulevard and 238th Place.

The California Vehicle Code states that pedestrians shall not cross the roadway between adjacent intersections that are controlled by traffic signals. This makes it illegal to cross Avalon Boulevard between 228th Street and Bayport Street, or between Bayport Street and Scottsdale Drive because these intersections are signalized and there are no unsignalized intersections at intermediate locations between the adjacent intersections. Pedestrian crossings are legal, however, between Scottsdale Drive and Sepulveda Boulevard because of the presence of the unsignalized intersections at Idabel Avenue and 238th Place.

The primary issue under consideration is whether or not a fence should be installed in the median of Avalon Boulevard. Observations at the location indicate that pedestrians occasionally cross Avalon Boulevard through the median; however, the pedestrian volumes are low as compared to the location on Del Amo Boulevard where a fence was recently installed. While the Del Amo Boulevard location had hundreds of pedestrians crossing the street each day, the Avalon Boulevard location was observed to have only one or two pedestrians per hour crossing the street through the median, except during the morning and afternoon periods when approximately 30 students cross the street while walking to and from school. Furthermore, a review of the collision statistics for a five-year period indicated that there was only one incident involving a pedestrian at the locations where the median is in place. The pedestrian volumes and collision statistics do not, therefore, indicate that a fence would be necessary.

It should also be noted that a fence in the Avalon Boulevard median would not be continuous because it would have gaps at each of the locations where the median has an opening; i.e., at the four signalized intersections and at the intersection of Avalon Boulevard and Idabel Avenue. If a fence were to be installed, some pedestrians might elect to cross the street at the ends of the fence instead of at the intersections. This type of behavior, which has frequently been observed at the Del Amo Boulevard location, would be more risky than the current practice of crossing the street through the median.

With regard to cost, it is estimated that the requested fence would cost \$220,000.00. This estimate is based on the cost for installing the fence in the median of Del Amo Boulevard, which was approximately \$100.00 per linear foot. The requested fence on Avalon Boulevard between 228th Street and Sepulveda Boulevard would be approximately 2,200 feet in length. At \$100.00 per linear foot, the total cost of materials and labor would be \$220,000.00.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

If an Avalon Boulevard median fence were approved as part of an update of the five year Capital Improvement Program, funds in the estimated amount of \$220,000.00 would have to be appropriated in the fiscal year for which the project were programmed.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Location map. (pg. 5)
2. Aerial view. (pg. 6)
3. Email from resident requesting fence in median. (pgs. 7-8)

\\Carson_nas\devsvrs\ENGINEERING DIVISION\Agenda1\2013\05-07-13 CC Avalon Median Fence.docx

Prepared by: Richard Garland, Traffic Engineer

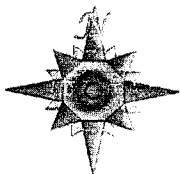
TO: Rev09-04-2012

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council

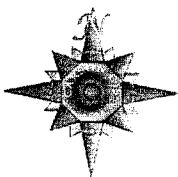
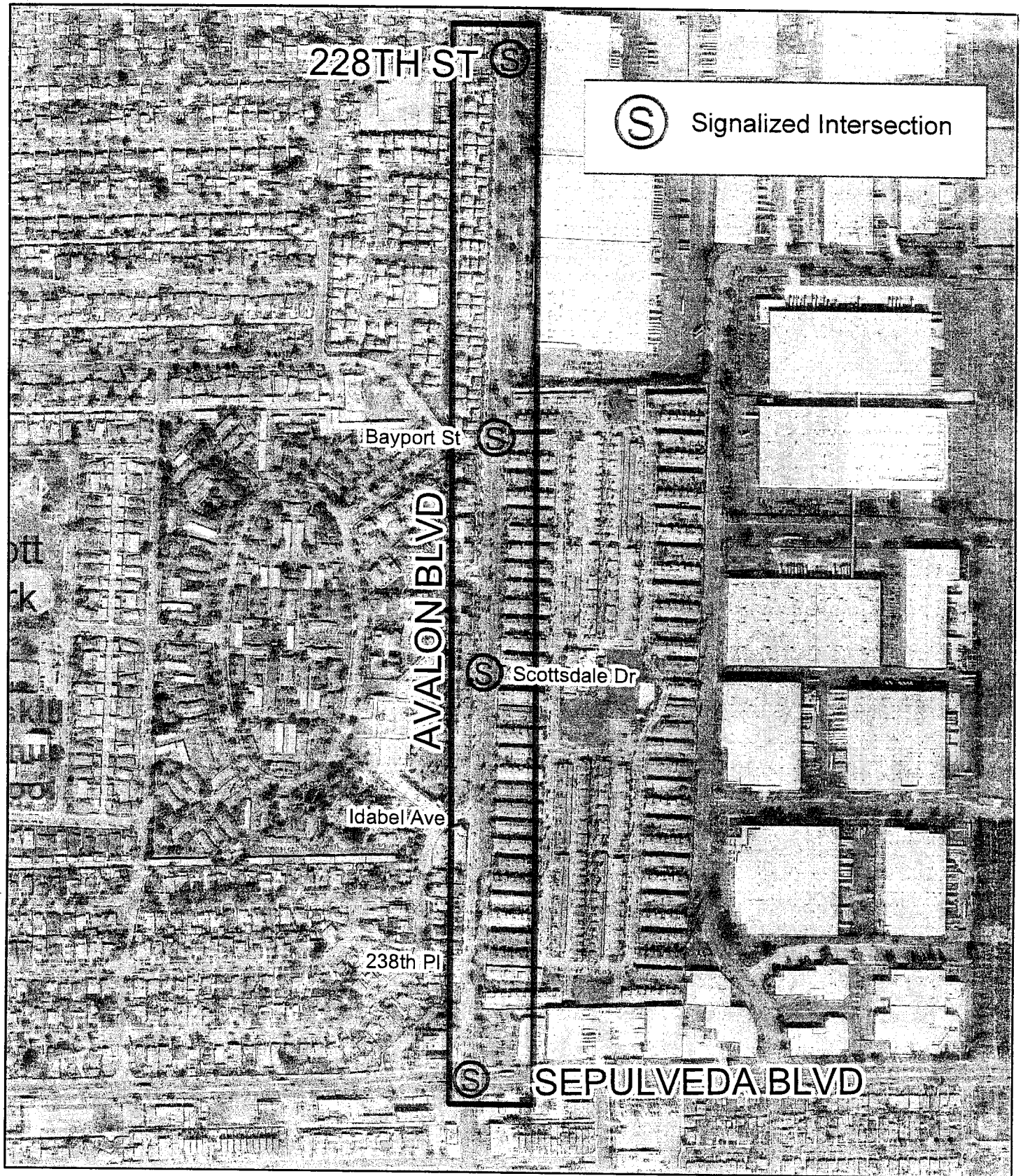
Date _____ Action _____



Location Map
Request for Fence in Median -
Avalon Boulevard Between Sepulveda Boulevard and 228th Street

EXHIBIT NO. 1





Aerial View
Request for Fence in Median -
Avalon Boulevard Between Sepulveda Boulevard and 228th Street

EXHIBIT NO. 2



Lisa Berglund

From: Mike [allnew399@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 8:54 AM
To: Lisa Berglund; Charlotte Arrick
Subject: Fwd: Proposed City Council Action

Please place this item on the city council agenda at the next council meeting. Mike

"Together There's Nothing We Can't Do"

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <mgipson@carson.ca.us>
From: veronica maese <vmaese@pacbell.net>
Date: April 10, 2013, 7:46:31 AM PDT
To: "mgipson@carson.ca.us" <mgipson@carson.ca.us>
Cc: "mgipson2013@gmail.com" <mgipson2013@gmail.com>, "idear@carson.ca.us" <idear@carson.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed City Council Action
Reply-To: veronica maese <vmaese@pacbell.net>

Dear Councilman Gipson:

It was a pleasure meeting you at our Neighborhood Watch meeting last night (April 9, 2013).

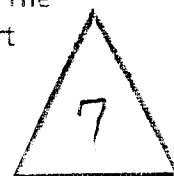
One of the issues I would like to address (and be put on the next City of Carson Council Meeting) is the installation of some type of fencing on the medium on Avalon Boulevard between Sepulveda and 228th Street.

In late February, of 2013 as I was on my way to work in the morning, I was turning right onto Avalon Boulevard at the T-Intersection of 238th Place and Avalon. I made a complete stop and looked for traffic approaching Southbound on Avalon, as I proceeded to make my right turn, I looked up and started to accelerate, when I suddenly noticed two children in the front of my vehicle (right passenger side). Needless to say, I was startled, because I did not expect anyone coming across the medium from the other side of Avalon Boulevard (Scottsdale). I almost hit these two children! I pulled over to make sure they were both okay, they were both very frightened but said they were fine.

I continued onto work thinking of what "could have happened". I realize now after going over the scenario in my mind, that the sun shining into my window that time of the morning, and the kids illegally crossing the street, could have made this conversation so much different. I do not feel that we should have to wait for horrible accident to occur to do something about this.

I spoke with Mayor Dear and the SOA Officers at the March Neighborhood Watch Meeting. The SOA Officers said they would have a "stronger Police presence on Avalon Boulevard and start giving out J-Walking Tickets". I travel that route every morning, and have yet to see any

EXHIBIT NO. 03



officer's present. Not only that, just last week I saw a mother with a baby stroller crossing in that same area.

With a surplus in the City of Carson's Budget, I feel that the installation of some type of Decorative Fencing to prevent a tragic accident from happening is the least the City Council could approve. We have heard how well we are doing as a City and all the new construction being done, but have yet to see any monies given to the South Side of Carson.

I would appreciate not only being put on the agenda at the next meeting, but would also like if you could forward any information I would need to circulate a petition in my area. I look forward to your prompt attention to this matter.

Best Regards,

Veronica White Maese
455 E. 238th Street
Carson, CA 90745
310-433-3174

