



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 13, 2020

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Transportation Planning and Parking Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: State Street Promenade Interim Intersection Delineators and Lighting

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order(s) to install interim Downtown State Street intersection delineators and lighting for a not to exceed amount of \$250,000; and
- B. Determine, pursuant to Santa Barbara Charter §817(c) and SBMC §22.22.140B that the public interest does not require review by the Historic Landmarks Commission of the interim intersection delineators and lighting.

DISCUSSION:

Downtown State Street opened to pedestrians on May 22, 2020 as a temporary pedestrian promenade to promote economic recovery pursuant to an emergency order issued by the City Administrator acting as Emergency Services Director. That same day and throughout the weekend, people and families visited the street. On May 28, the order was confirmed by the City Council's Emergency Economic Recovery Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5944). In the ensuing weeks, businesses staged restaurant seating within the public right-of-way. On August 11, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 5963 extending Ordinance No. 5944 through December and potentially through March 2021 if the COVID-19 emergency continues. Currently, State Street is open to pedestrians from Haley to Sola Streets.

The opening of State Street to pedestrians and expanded outdoor dining has successfully stimulated vitality to the Downtown. As a result, City Council appointed a State Street Subcommittee (Subcommittee) to provide a vision for the future of Downtown State Street. The Subcommittee is working on a broad outreach effort to establish a vision for the future of State Street. This may result in a capital project to implement that vision. The development of a capital project to execute the vision will likely take 2-3 years.

The current street configuration to operate State Street as a promenade closed to motor vehicles uses construction barricades and borrowed plantings. This configuration was

appropriate for the initial Ordinance period but not for the interim period. Although not permanent, the interim intersection control could look less like a construction detour and more appropriate to the aesthetic and commercial feel of State Street. Additionally, the existing construction barricades are not effective at channelizing bicyclists and pedestrians, which are now sharing the roadway section. Finally, the lighting on the roadway section of Downtown State Street is not designed for people and activities. The interim promenade could use more lighting within the roadway section.

The Subcommittee is recommending that City Council approve the installation of interim intersection delineators and lighting that can last until a permanent street design is determined and implemented. If approved by City Council, traffic control in the form of large terracotta pots and iron-looking traffic delineators will be installed at intersections in addition to a green bike path that would channelize and separate bicyclists and pedestrians. The pots will have plantings with intersection signage mounted on the side or top, rather than on construction barricades. The intersection delineators will also allow for Fire Department access, as well as the various services that use vehicles on the street early in the morning and for the Farmer's Market. The Holiday tree lighting is scheduled to be installed starting November 1. The additional experimental string lighting will be installed parallel to and across the street to enhance public safety and ambiance to the street.

Staff is also recommending that City Council determine the interim delineators and lighting not require review by Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) because of the limited options available for the traffic delineators and because they are temporary.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The Subcommittee has recommended a not-to-exceed cost of \$200,000 using Measure C Business Corridor Funds. Since this recommendation, the Traffic Engineer increased the number of pots by 30% to ensure no vehicle intrusion onto the State Street Promenade. Accordingly, staff is recommending a not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000. This funding was designated for Downtown State Street upgrades and maintenance that have been put on hold because the street design may be modified. There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Measure C Capital Fund budget to cover the recommended costs.

ATTACHMENT: Typical Intersection Delineation

PREPARED BY: Robert J. Dayton, Transportation Planning and Parking Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Brian D'Amour, Acting Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office