



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: March 3, 2015

Subject

Pilot Program for Early Morning Collection of Recology Containers on Select Streets in the Tri-School Area.

Recommended Action

Provide direction to staff on whether to implement the pilot program as proposed.

Discussion

Enhancing the safety of our roadways is an ongoing effort that benefits pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists of all age groups and is best achieved through continuous and multi-pronged efforts in the areas of engineering, education, enforcement and encouragement (the four E's). Projects may increase safety through the design and construction of engineered improvements. Programs may be designed to enhance safety through either one or a combination of changes in service, education and/or enforcement. To make a marked improvement of less congestion and increased safety, a combination of projects and/or programs is required.

At the November 6, 2014 community meeting on pedestrian, bicycle and traffic safety, staff received public input on a variety of projects and programs throughout the city. One comment was that on the day garbage and recycling containers are set out in the street for pick-up, they often encroach into areas used by bikes, causing bicyclists to sometimes travel into the vehicular through lane. The suggested benefit of changing the day or the time of garbage and recycling collection on these bicycle routes could remove this potential barrier and improve safety.

Staff contacted Recology to determine the feasibility of collecting containers on select streets in the Tri-School area for a 6-month pilot program either on a weekend day or, alternatively, beginning at 6:00 A.M. and ending at 7:15 A.M. on the regular collection day. Weekend collection seems problematic for several reasons. Noise from a 7:00 A.M. pick-up on a weekend would likely disturb more residents than during weekday

mornings, and since many people are out of town on weekends, containers could be left in the street for a much longer period and cause obstacles for weekend recreational bicyclists. Recology would have to additionally compensate drivers for weekend work, which could ultimately affect rates.

Recology responded that collection route times could be modified on regular collection days to accommodate the pilot program at no additional cost to the City. The City noise control ordinance requires a special exemption be completed for the increased noise that will occur prior to 7:00 A.M. For the exemption to be considered, each affected resident (approximately 500) received a written notice that was mailed on February 2nd, advising them of the proposed pilot program and of the opportunity to comment. Included in this notice was a statement that a public hearing may be conducted if there is controversy regarding this program. To date, approximately a dozen comments opposing the pilot program have been received. Many of the opposing comments site the inconvenience caused by early noise and that, because it is voluntary to remove the emptied containers prior to the school commute time, most containers will remain in the street anyway.

The pilot program alone will not resolve the issue of congestion and the effectiveness of the program will not be known until implemented. If implemented, Recology collection trucks will be out of the Tri-School area no later than 7:15 A.M. and residents will have the opportunity to collect their containers off the street prior to the beginning of the morning school commute. Prior to implementation, educational door hangers would be distributed to encourage residents living on the selected streets to retrieve their containers. The municipal code allows containers to remain on the street up to 24 hours after the collection time. No changes to on-street parking of vehicles are being proposed in this program. The only streets with restricted parking and a designated bike lane are portions of McClellan and Bubb Roads.

Public comment on this pilot program will assist the City in understanding and evaluating both community-wide and street-specific concerns.

Prepared by: Roger Lee, Assistant Director of Public Works

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – February 2nd & February 18th Notification to Residents

B – Aerial Map of Select Streets

C – Access Cupertino Comments

D – Draft Educational Door Hanger