

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report

| MEETING DATE | AGENDA ITEM NUMBER |
|---------------|--------------------|
| June 18, 2013 | |

TO: Mayor Shoji and City Council

FROM: Jim Hossley, Public Works and Development Department Director
Through Rodger Craddock, City Manager *pee*



ISSUE: Thompson Avenue Pedestrian Crosswalk

BACKGROUND:

In 2011 city staff evaluated several crosswalk locations throughout the City that were in need of site visibility improvement. Some improvements made were fairly simple, for example, trim back bushes to allow a better view for approaching motorist. However other crossings needed to draw the motorist attention to the crosswalk. At those areas the city installed rapid fire blinking lights (RFBL) to get the attention of the motorist; Central Avenue near Ocean Boulevard, Newmark Avenue and Schoneman Street intersection.

Thompson Avenue currently does not have a crosswalk, and there have been several near misses from pedestrians crossing to access the clinics on the north side of Thompson Avenue from the hospital. Thompson Avenue dips down drastically for drivers headed west; therefore site visibility is limited as you approach from the east. Staff recommends installing a crosswalk in front of the hospital to include a rapid fire blinking lights (RFBL) system.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The cost to install the crosswalk on Thompson Avenue is estimated to cost \$15,000 which includes; ADA accessibility ramps, crosswalk markings, rapid fire blinking lights (RFBL) system, and advance warning signs. This project is budgeted in FY 2013/14 traffic safety supplies line item #02-320-520-2222.

ADVANTAGES:

A.) Help pedestrians orient themselves in finding their way across complex intersections; (B.) Help show pedestrians the shortest route across traffic; (C.) Help show pedestrians the route with the least exposure to traffic and potential accidents; (D.) Help position pedestrians where they can be seen best by oncoming traffic; (E.) Help use street lighting to improve pedestrian safety at night; (F.) Help direct and limit pedestrians to specific locations.

DISADVANTAGES:

People generally think of marked crosswalks as safety devices, and most jurisdictions give the pedestrian the right-of-way when in a crosswalk. However, there is evidence that many pedestrians feel overly secure when using a marked crosswalk. Feeling safe, they may aggressively enter crosswalks without proper consideration of approaching traffic in the mistaken belief that the motor vehicle can -- and will -- stop for them.

ACTION REQUESTED:

No action requested, staff intends to install a pedestrian crosswalk on Thompson Avenue.