

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
July 16, 2013	

TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors

FROM: Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator Public Works Department
Through: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: Advance Warning Device (Intersection of Ocean Blvd. and Butler Road)

BACKGROUND:

At the June 18, 2013 Council meeting, Councilor Vaughan requested review and additional information from staff regarding the traffic control signals and advance warning system for the Ocean Boulevard and Butler Intersection. Councilor Vaughan advised his desire for his request was due to the poor visibility of the traffic signals.

Concerns regarding visibility are important as slow reaction time and diminished vision can make it difficult for drivers to see and react safely to an unexpected signal. In evaluation of the conditions at the intersection in question, staff consulted the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), ODOT, and motor vehicle accident (MVA) history at the intersection.

1. MUTCD:

The MUTCD governs the placement of signs signals and pavement markings on public roads. The purpose of having a single manual is to ensure that traffic control devices are applied uniformly across the state as well as the nation. This type of uniformity helps improve the overall safety and efficiency of our roadways

The MUTCD states: *If a signalized intersection is obscured by vertical or horizontal curvature, the **BE PREPARED TO STOP (W3-4)** or the **SIGNAL AHEAD (W3-3a)** warning signs may be used to warn motorists that they are approaching a signalized intersection.* In addition, a flashing yellow beacon interconnected with a traffic signal controller assembly may be used with this traffic signal warning sign to flash when the light is in the process of changing.



As you approach the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Butler Road, it is obscured by vertical and horizontal curvature. The current advance warning device installed on Ocean Boulevard on the West and East side of the travel lanes is a **SIGNAL AHEAD (W3-3a) 500 feet** prior to the intersection of Butler Road, and it constantly flashes yellow regardless of the status of signal.

2. ODOT:

Staff contacted State Traffic Engineer (ODOT) to discuss current configuration of the advance warning system along Ocean Boulevard. Staff was advised that ODOT placed the signal at that location when the roadway was under their control based on the traffic study which was conducted at the time and in accordance with the MUTCD. Staff was further advised that the current configuration still meets the MUTCD requirement.

3. MVA HISTORY:

Staff reviewed the past five (5) year MVA history for the intersection which includes both pre road diet reconfiguration and post road diet history. The pre road diet MVA history shows there were three accidents reported at the intersection between September 2009 and April 2011.

Pre Road Diet MVA History		
Date	Police Case Number	Details
Sept 2009	L200942573	While an accident was reported to 9-1-1, officers were unable to locate the accident; and no one involved in the reported accident ever contacted the police.
Nov 2009	L200995436	Police received a report that a vehicle struck an animal. Officers were unable to locate the animal.
April 2011	L20112059	Officers responded to a two vehicle accident at that location. Damages to the vehicles were minor. One vehicle slid into the rear-end of the other vehicle.

Post Road Diet MVA History		
Date	Police Case Number	Details
Sept 2011	P20113757	Patrol vehicle struck a vehicle while making a traffic stop. Officer failed to activate his overhead lights prior to turning in front of the vehicle.
Dec 2012	P20124698	Single vehicle accident at the intersection. Vehicle struck curb while traveling eastbound on Ocean. Vehicle was later reported to Coos County SO as a stolen vehicle. Probably alcohol and speed were a factor.

Without the signal at this location police administration believes this would elevate the intersection to high risk for both the motoring public and pedestrians (the signal also provides for a controlled intersection for pedestrians crossing Ocean Blvd at the location.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Given the above information staff recommends leaving the signals and advanced warning devices at the involved intersection as is.

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit (A) Map of Intersection; Exhibit (B) Pictures of Advance Warning Device, SIGNAL AHEAD (W3-3a).