



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 5, 2018

Re: Public Hearing for the Walnut Street Pedestrian Safety Project

Executive Summary

A public hearing is being held to consider the installation of a traffic calming device on Walnut Street between Melbourne Street and College Avenue. The estimated cost of the project is \$5,000.

Discussion

In the fall of 2017, Stephens College staff approached the Public Works Department regarding concerns with the safety of pedestrians using the crosswalks on Walnut Street on the Stephens College campus. In discussions between Stephens College and Public Works staff, it was agreed to consolidate the two crosswalks on Walnut Street to one crosswalk that would be enhanced with the installation of Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFB). The City would install the RRFBs at the crosswalk that would remain intact and Stephens College would be responsible for concrete work to the existing sidewalks and the removal of the ramps associated with the crosswalk that was being removed. The work was completed during the spring and summer months of 2018 and the improvements have been successful in bringing attention to pedestrians crossing Walnut Street.

One additional issue that still needs to be addressed is the speed of vehicles traveling on Walnut Street in the vicinity of the crosswalk. Of particular concern are westbound vehicles speeding to try to make the signal at the intersection of College Avenue and Walnut Street. Based upon this safety issue, a preliminary plan was developed to install a speed hump on Walnut Street west of Melbourne Street. This speed hump would slow westbound vehicles on Walnut Street as they are approaching the crosswalk and the intersection of College and Walnut Street.

An Interested Parties (IP) meeting was held for this project on August 8, 2018 at City Hall. There were two attendees at the meeting and both were supportive of the proposed installation of a speed hump on Walnut Street. Staff did receive one written comment about the lack of speed limit signs on Walnut Street and Public Works is in the process of installing additional speed limit signs.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The estimated cost for installation of a speed hump with signs and marking is \$5,000, which will be paid from Annual Traffic Safety Funds.

Long-Term Impact: Staff anticipates the replacement of the speed hump every 15 years.



Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
10/01/2018	149-18-Setting a public hearing for the proposed construction of a traffic calming device on Walnut Street between Melbourne Street and College Avenue
08/8/2018	IP Meeting Held

Suggested Council Action

After public comment and Council discussion, direct staff to move forward with the installation of a speed hump on Walnut Street between College Avenue and Melbourne Street.