



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director
David Godfrey, P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager

Date: March 8, 2007

Subject: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

RECOMMENDATION:

This memo is for information only.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

As directed by Council this memo represents the third of a series of memos describing our pedestrian safety initiative. The following items provide updates on several topics of interest.

Flashing crosswalks

- Inspection We are now on a regular inspection cycle looking at each location twice a month. This has already shown results as field crews have been able to identify and repair problems within one or two workdays.
- Parts The manufacturer (and sole supplier of parts) for most of our flashing crosswalks delivered 100 replacement heads in February. These heads were to be used to 1) build up our inventory of replacement stock and 2) repair heads that are currently out of service. The procurement of these parts marked a major step forward. Unfortunately, shortly after delivering the parts, they were recalled for a defect and are currently being reworked by the manufacturer. They will be resent to us in lots of 25 beginning in the next two weeks. Despite this setback, we have been able to repair the crosswalks noted below by using parts from our current inventory. Therefore, when we receive additional replacement heads they will be for future repairs.
- Locations that are out of service In our last report, 6 locations were out of service.
 - 1) Central Way and Market Street.
 - 2) Central Way and 4th Avenue.
 - 3) NE 68th Street and 111th Avenue NE.
 - 4) Market Street and 18th Avenue.
 - 5) Juanita Drive at Juanita Beach Park.
 - 6) NE 124th Street/105th Avenue NE

At this writing, all locations are working with the exception of locations 1 and 6. Signal Technicians from the Public Works Street Division were able to restore formerly scrapped components to repair most of these locations. A contractor completed the new installation at Central Way and 4th Avenue.

Central Way and Market Street is scheduled to be operational by the end of March. The contractor is scheduled to begin work during the week of March 12. Due to the traffic volumes and the extent of the work, repairs are estimated to be complete by end of the month. An extensive traffic detour plan will be implemented, and the repairs include new conduit, controllers and lights. Location 6 has a certain brand of in-pavement lights that are secured to the pavement by epoxy. This is the only such location in the City. Because the epoxy can only be used during warm and dry weather, timely repairs are limited. Our plan is to abandon the in-pavement lights at this location and to hang flashing lights from the mast arms that are currently in place in the median. These lights would be activated by the same push button that formerly activated the in-pavement lights. This will serve as an experimental type of crossing treatment that, if successful, could be used elsewhere. The project should be completed by the end of April. Once these two projects are completed we will have repaired all the locations first reported to Council in the beginning of the year.

Pedestrian Safety Task force

As reported earlier we established a Pedestrian Safety Task Force to monitor and evaluate programs, review new proposals, and make recommendations for improvement. The task force is comprised of representatives from Public Works, Police, IT, Parks, and representatives from the Youth Council and Peter Kirk Center. In addition, other staff and departments will be available depending upon the issue. It should be noted that in addition to the Task Force, Public Works has an internal team reviewing our pedestrian safety infrastructure. Others, including the City Attorney, have been involved as issues arise. The task force met on February 13th and the next meeting is scheduled for March 21st. At the February meeting we discussed plans for a youth oriented educational video and reviewed facts of the most recent pedestrian accident which happened on February 6. At the March meeting, we will discuss distribution of the "Ped Safety for Dummies" video. We will be joined by Andrea Okomski who's organization Pedestrian InRoads is involved with pedestrian safety education.

Ped Flag research

We are working on grant funded research to determine how to increase usage of pedestrian flags. During late March and early April, an observer will be gathering data on who uses ped flags and why. This information will be used to understand barriers and incentives to flag usage which can then be used to develop changes to the ped flag program and ultimately increase use. Research has shown that ped flags are effective in providing an increased level of safety for those who use them.

Street Lighting

We are entering into a small professional services contract to have a lighting expert conduct a fairly general review of lighting on Kirkland's arterials with special emphasis on crosswalks. This will result in recommendations for immediate and longer term improvements. We expect the results of this work in late spring.

Education

Council reviewed the recently produced "pedestrian safety for dummies" video at their March 6 meeting. As mentioned above, the Task Force is developing other education efforts and working on distribution of the "dummies" video. In addition, we are following up with Council direction to insure the brochure is distributed to schools and neighborhood groups. Public Works' variable message board has been deployed on several occasions to display pedestrian safety messages.