



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Public Works • (209) 966-5356



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-74

MEETING: March 12, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Peter Rei, Public Works Director

RE: Approve Letter to Caltrans Requesting Changes to the Proposed Pedestrian Signal at 8Th Street

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter to CalTrans Requesting Changes to the Proposed Pedestrian Signal at 8Th Street and Authorize the Chairman to Sign the Letter. The letter to CalTrans is requesting changes to their proposed installation of a pedestrian crossing signal at the intersection of Highway 140 and 8th Street in Mariposa.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

At the November 13, 2012 Board meeting, CalTrans made a presentation of their study of several crosswalks in Mariposa. This presentation included a recommendation for a Hawk Systems pedestrian signal at the intersection of 8th Street and Highway 140. Following substantial discussion concerning this signal staff were instructed to work with Caltrans to see if a lesser installation would be acceptable. This letter will formalize that request to Caltrans

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:


If the letter is not sent, it is reasonable to assume that CalTrans will continue with their plan to install the Hawk System pedestrian signal.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter to Caltrans Regarding Crosswalk (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Rick Benson, County Administrator/6/2013

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor

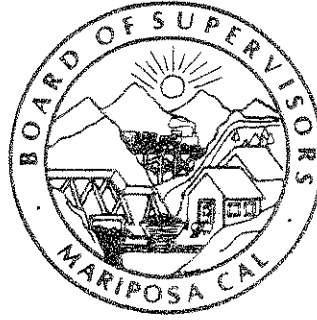
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

AYES: Janet Bibby, Kevin Cann, John Carrier, Merlin Jones

EXCUSED: Lee Stetson

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 LEE STETSON
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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March 12, 2013

Director Carrie Bowen
District 10 Caltrans Director
1976 East Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Stockton, CA 95205

Subject: Downtown Mariposa Crosswalk Study and proposed corrections

Dear Director Bowen:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors sincerely thanks you for responding to our request for a crosswalk safety study along State Route 140 through the town of Mariposa. On November 13, 2012, Mr. Duper Tong and others of your staff presented the study results and a draft of proposed corrections. The Board and public were very enthusiastic with the proposed safety improvements with the exception of those at the intersection of 8th Street and State Route 140, especially the High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) system.

We strongly object to the HAWK system as a first step in dealing with a relatively minor problem. The State Highway 140 crosswalk at 8th Street is more intensely used during brief periods, most notably around noon and 3:30 PM each day during the school year when there is a brief flood of students. The highest use of the 8th Street crosswalk is always during daylight hours and the intersection gets little to no use during other periods, even during the major tourist season in summer. Additionally, the HAWK infrastructure would be an affront to the cultural and historic theme of this small mountain community.

The Board of Supervisors requests that Caltrans work with us and the County Public Works staff to implement a lesser, more aesthetically acceptable approach to the 8th Street crosswalk. Noting that for the past decades the crosswalk has simply been denoted with a painted definition, we would prefer a less visually offensive action as a first step. A more appropriate and community accepted improvement than the HAWK overhead yellow and red lights might be user activated Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights embedded in the road surface, along with roadside signs which if necessary could be caution lighted.

We believe the enhanced surface definition, LED lighting and some improved overhead intersection lighting as proposed in all other crosswalk areas will dramatically improve pedestrian safety while respecting the cultural and historic nature of downtown Mariposa.

Again the Board of Supervisors is appreciative of Caltrans' proactive effort to abate the growing pedestrian safety problem in this town and county which is almost 100% financially dependent on successful tourist experiences. Please contact the Board of Supervisors or Public Works Director at 209-966-5356 for further interaction and we look forward to continuing to work with you on an acceptable solution.

Sincerely,

KEVIN CANN
Vice-Chair of the Board