

CITY OF DANA POINT
AGENDA REPORT

Reviewed By: DH CM CA

DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2007

TO: CITY MANAGER/CITY COUNCIL

FROM BRAD FOWLER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF INTERIM TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON DEL PRADO AND PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY BETWEEN COPPER LANTERN TO BLUE LANTERN

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the City Council 1) receive and file this staff report providing status on the speed reduction results from the interim traffic calming measures the City Council approved in February 2007 on Del Prado and Pacific Coast Highway from Copper Lantern to Blue Lantern.

BACKGROUND:

Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Del Prado between Blue Lantern and Copper Lantern exist as a couplet, two one-way streets with three lanes on each street. That configuration has existed since the early 1980's when the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) changed the configuration.

The City assumed ownership of Pacific Coast Highway in November 2005 from Caltrans. Since that time, the City has made numerous improvements to PCH and Del Prado including synchronization of traffic signals.

A goal has been to reduce the speed of vehicles on Del Prado and Pacific Coast Highway without causing congestion that would force travelers to use additional residential neighborhoods. At Council direction, staff identified several potential short term actions that could be implemented to slow traffic inexpensively on an interim basis.

Although speeds on PCH were only slightly elevated above normal tolerances, the speeds on Del Prado were elevated more significantly. As a result, City staff proposed more traffic calming measures on Del Prado than PCH. A description of the minor traffic calming measures that were implemented is as follows:

Down coast direction (Del Prado)

1. Stripe narrower lanes in the down coast direction at the approach to Del Prado from PCH.
2. Install two Electronic Speed Control Devices on PCH/Del Prado, one approaching Blue Lantern and one on the island between Ruby Lantern and Amber Lantern.
2. Restripe Del Prado just east of Blue Lantern to include only two lanes and introduce a meandering chicane (slight curve to naturally calm traffic).
3. Modify existing signage to more clearly alert drivers that they are entering a 35 mile per hour zone near Blue Lantern.

Up coast direction (PCH)

1. Install an Electronic Speed Device on PCH at Copper Lantern as vehicles enter the couplet.
2. Install an additional Electronic Speed Device on PCH near Amber Lantern to catch incoming traffic from Golden Lantern where the flat straight of way begins.

Additional Measures (PCH/Del Prado)

1. Engineering also reviewed traffic signal timing and set signals accordingly to help motorists proceed through at 35 mph, although signal timing alone cannot control speed.
2. Police Services continues to provide enforcement on Del Prado and PCH to aid in keeping vehicle speeds at the speed limit.

The traffic calming measures were implemented in March and April 2007 after Staff collected speed data for Del Prado/PCH. Speed data was collected in advance of implementation of the abovementioned measures to allow staff to determine their effectiveness.

DISCUSSION

Staff has collected speed data again in various segments of PCH and Del Prado, and has documented a significant reduction in average speeds. Here are the results as follows:

Roadway Segment	Range of Original Speeds	Range of Speeds After Implementation	Range of Reduced Speeds
NORTHBOUND (WESTBOUND)			
PCH, Copper Lantern to Golden Lantern	37 to 40 mph	32 to 34 mph	5 to 6 mph

Roadway Segment	Range of Original Speeds	Range of Speeds After Implementation	Range of Reduced Speeds
PCH, Golden Lantern to Blue Lantern	34 to 35 mph	31 to 32 mph	3 mph
SOUTHBOUND (EASTBOUND)			
PCH, Selva to Blue Lantern	38 to 45 mph	31 to 39 mph	6 to 7 mph
Del Prado, Blue Lantern to Golden Lantern	35 to 39 mph	32 mph	3 to 7 mph

In summary, this has been an effective solution to significantly reduce speeds in the downtown couplet, both on PCH and Del Prado. This is particularly noticeable on the approach side from the north as you drive onto Del Prado.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of these traffic calming measures was in compliance with the Strategic Plan Initiative to maintain, modernize and beautify the City’s infrastructure and neighborhoods.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

None

ACTION DOCUMENTS:

None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

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None