

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Be energy efficient!*

January 5, 2005

Mr. Elijah Mowbray
City of Santa Cruz
809 Center Street, Room 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Mr. Mowbray:

This letter documents the results of the Traffic Analysis performed jointly by the City and the Department of Transportation regarding issues at the southbound off-ramp connection to Morrissy Road. As a result of the count data, field reviews and analysis the following strategies were developed. Last year, the City School District closed the Branciforte School and re-assigned students to the Gault and Delaveaga schools. The re-assignment of students to the Delaveaga School increased enrollment from 360 to 560 students. The City Pedestrian and Bike Coordinator has worked with the school on a safe route to school program and was also successful in obtaining TEA enhancement grant money to improve sidewalks along the safe route to school. Currently, this route utilizes the existing marked crosswalks across Rooney Street, Pacheco Avenue and Morrissy Avenue. Some pedestrians cut directly across the off-ramp, a move that is discouraged. A recent poll conducted by the City found that among many locations in the neighborhood of the school, the SR1 Morrissy intersection is perceived as the one that has the greatest need for pedestrian safety improvements.

The Department concurs with the established safe route to school plan that routes pedestrians across Rooney Street to Pacheco Avenue. As such, pedestrian barricades should be placed to prohibit pedestrian crossings along the off ramp leg of the intersection. This action is further supported by the fact that the existing ADA ramps do not line up with the existing unmarked crosswalk across the off-ramp.

A number of short-term improvements were discussed and presented by the City, including re-striping of the intersection to create tighter turning radii, relocating limit lines, and installing painted islands. These modifications fall within City's right of way and we concur with any implementation the City finds effective in slowing the traffic through the intersection. Recently, the Department installed a pedestrian warning sign on the ramp approach to the intersection.

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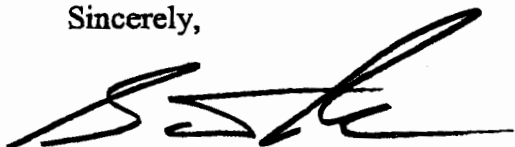
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Given that the increase in pedestrian volumes at the intersection was a result of local school enrolment changes, responsibility for mitigating the concern would normally fall on local jurisdictions. Given the potential to improve overall intersection operation, the Department would be interested in a cooperative effort to improve the intersection. In this regard, the Department would be willing to discuss a shared funding scenario where a local sponsor would install the stops with storage under permit and the Department would contribute some percentage of the funds necessary to construct such a project.

We understand that improvements to the Morrissey/Route 1 interchange are being considered as part of the Route 1/17 Merge Lane project. We continue to coordinate closely with the project development team to see if these improvements are viable within the context of that project.

Let us know if this type of strategy looks appealing to you. If you have any questions feel free to call Nevin Sams at (805) 549-3017.

Sincerely,



STEVE N. PRICE
Deputy District Director
Maintenance/Traffic Operations

Cc:Nevin Sams

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