

Legislation Text

File #: 15-3909, **Version:** 1

SCHOOL ZONE IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Improve Transportation Systems

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Council directed staff to install upgrades to all school zones in the city and ensure consistency between all school zones. However, as detailed plans for each zone are being developed, staff would like Council to reconsider and clarify the need for each school zone regulatory sign assembly to be identical. Staff recommends two different installations for school speed zone assemblies: one assembly for arterials and collectors, and a different assembly for local streets. Arterial and collector streets will have solar powered assemblies consisting of LED flashers, school speed limit signs, and speed feedback displays. Local streets will have solar powered assemblies consisting of LED flashers and school speed limit sign; the speed feedback display will be omitted on local streets.

Staff will present recommended improvements for each school zone, including material, labor and equipment cost estimates, and a tentative schedule for implementing the improvements. Attached for your review is a graphic depicting the recommended St. Helens Elementary school zones to highlight the arterial street and local street school zone speed sign assembly locations. Similar graphics will be provided at the workshop for each school zone. Staff will request direction from Council regarding installation of two types of school zone speed assemblies.

At the May 24, 2015 joint workshop with the Longview School District Board, members of the board requested, and Council directed staff to evaluate safe walking routes to schools. Staff would like clarification on the scope and expected outcome of this evaluation.

Additionally, staff will also discuss the status of the in-ground warning lights at the pedestrian crossing at 15th Avenue and Commerce Avenue near Lower Columbia College. As staff has experienced at all of the City's installations of in-ground warning lights, the system is difficult and costly to maintain, with lights failing, wiring short-circuiting, and parts difficult to acquire. Recent heat expansion of the concrete street panels caused further damage and repairing the existing in-ground lighting is no longer an option - it must be replaced. Staff recommends against replacing the in-ground lighting, and instead will recommend installation of additional above ground warning lights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direction to staff.