

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
CITY COUNCIL  
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: December 1, 2015  
To: Honorable Mayor and Honorable City Councilmembers  
From: Police Chief Jeff Weaver  
Subject: Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Improvements  
Recommendation: That the City Council authorize the Department of Public Works to make the following improvements/modifications as detailed below in the Staff Report.  
Funding: See each item below for funding

**INTRODUCTION:** This item is to request the City Council authorize the Department of Public Works to make the following improvements/modifications as detailed below in the Staff Report.

**BACKGROUND:**  
Periodically, the Police Department receives requests for pedestrian, bicycle and/or traffic safety improvements. The requests have been reviewed by Police Staff. After visiting the locations and discussing the concerns raised by the public, Staff determined that improvements to pedestrian and vehicle safety, and convenience, could be made as specified below.

**DISCUSSION:**

Request #1                    **Establish a No Parking Zone on the south side of Walker Avenue beginning at the eastern terminus of the existing sidewalk on the south side of Walker Avenue east of Petaluma Avenue, which is 21 feet west of the prolongation of the western curb of Eleanor Avenue.**

Source:                      Walker Avenue residents

Discussion:                Currently, there are no parking restrictions on Walker Avenue in its intersection with Eleanor Avenue and eastward. Walker Avenue east of Eleanor Avenue constricts substantially. When vehicles park on the south side of Walker Avenue east of the terminus of the existing sidewalk, the access for larger vehicles, most especially emergency vehicles, is impaired. The Fire Chief visited the location with Police Staff and helped draft this recommendation.

Funding:                    This can be accomplished within the existing Department of Public Works budget.

Recommendation:        Authorize the Department of Public Works to establish a No Parking Zone on the south side of Walker Avenue beginning at the eastern terminus of the existing sidewalk on the south side of Walker Avenue east of Petaluma Avenue, which is 21 feet west of the prolongation of the western curb of Eleanor Avenue.

Request #2                    **Establish a sixteen foot Red Zone on the west side of Morris Street northward from the driveway between 420 Morris Street and 400 Morris Street and establish sixteen foot Red Zones northward and southward from the driveway between 400 Morris Street and 380 Morris Street.**

Source:                      An area business owner

Discussion:                 An area business owner expressed concern that it is difficult to see oncoming traffic when exiting the driveways between 420, 400, and 380 Morris Street when vehicles are parked adjacent to the driveways. Currently, there is a sixteen foot Red Zone southward from the driveway between 420 Morris Street and 400 Morris Street. Police Staff visited the location and concurred that safety would be enhanced by creating a sixteen foot Red Zone northward from the driveway between 420 and 400 Morris Street and by creating sixteen foot Red Zones northward and southward from the driveway between 400 and 380 Morris Street.

Funding:                    This can be accomplished within the existing Department of Public Works budget.

Recommendation:        Authorize the Department of Public Works to establish a sixteen foot Red Zone northward from the driveway between 420 and 400 Morris Street and establish sixteen foot Red Zones northward and southward from the driveway between 400 and 380 Morris Street.

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Request #3                    **Establish a seven foot Red Zone westward from the driveway to 6790 Laguna Park Way and establish a seventeen foot Red Zone eastward from the same driveway.**

Source:                      An area business owner

Discussion:                 Currently, parking is not allowed within the first seven feet west of the driveway to 6790 Laguna Park Way or seventeen feet east of the same driveway. This restriction is indicated by parking "T"s that end at those locations. An area business that uses the driveway for large vehicles indicates that drivers often ignore the parking "T"s and encroach closer to the driveway which impinges the ability for larger vehicles to utilize the driveway safely. It is believed that painting the curbs red will generate better compliance.

Funding:                    This can be accomplished within the existing Department of Public Works budget.

Recommendation:        Authorize the Department of Public Works to establish a seven foot Red Zone westward from the driveway to 6790 Laguna Park Way and establish a seventeen foot Red Zone eastward from the same driveway.

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Request #4                   **Purchase and deploy static Speed Awareness Signs on Bodega Avenue, between Washington Avenue and Robinson Road, for east and westbound traffic.**

Source:                      Area neighbors

Discussion:                 Residents on Bodega Avenue between Washington Avenue and Robinson Road have long expressed concern about the speed of vehicles traveling on Bodega Avenue. A recent Speed Spy deployment showed that less than five percent of vehicles are traveling at or under the posted 25 MPH limit. The neighbors feel permanently deployed Speed Awareness Signs in the area for east and westbound traffic will increase compliance with the posted speed limit. Staff concurs with this belief.

Funding:                    The Speed Awareness Signs cost approximately \$6,500.00 each, so the total cost for the request would be approximately \$13,000.00. There are currently no funds allocated for this purpose. Purchases of this type are normally incorporated in the Capital Improvement Program budget, which has already been established for this Fiscal Year. Council can direct Staff to include this request in the CIP for Fiscal Year 2016/2017. If the Council wishes to expedite this expenditure, they may direct Staff to return with a reprioritized CIP for this Fiscal Year.

Recommendation:         Staff believes the purchase and installation of electronic Speed Awareness Signs in this area would increase compliance with the posted speed limit and, thereby, enhance safety.

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Request #5                   **Design, create and deploy signs at the entrances of Sebastopol that indicate to drivers they have entered the City Limits and, therefore, they need to obey all traffic laws, especially the speed laws, due to the increased presence of pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vehicles.**

Source:                      Bodega Avenue residents, Vice-Mayor Gurney, and Police Staff.

Discussion:                 The City of Sebastopol is bisected by two State Highway and two heavily traveled County Roads. As drivers transition from the County areas into the City Limits, it is imperative they obey traffic laws, most especially speed laws, due to the increased presences of pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vehicles within the City Limits. Staff, Bodega Avenue residents, and Vice-Mayor Gurney feel that signage that conveys the message to drivers that they've entered the City Limits and, therefore, need to obey all traffic laws, especially speed laws, would enhance safety.

Funding:                    The Department of Public Works believes the cost will be approximately \$600.00 which they indicated can be absorbed within their existing budget.

Recommendation:         Authorized Staff to obtain and install signs at the main entrances to the City of Sebastopol alerting drivers to the fact they have entered the City Limits and, therefore, they need to obey all traffic laws, most especially the speed laws.

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- Request #6                    **Establish a 2 Hour Zone on Healdsburg Avenue (SR 116) adjacent to 7225 Healdsburg Avenue, the Marigold Indian Bistro.**
- Source:                        The property owner at 7225 Healdsburg Avenue
- Discussion:                    The property owner of 7225 Healdsburg Avenue reported that vehicles often park on Healdsburg Avenue adjacent to that premise all day. He indicated that customers for businesses other than the Marigold Indian Bistro often park in their private parking lot since they are unable to utilize the street parking. The property owner felt establishment of a 2 Hour Zone would open up more street parking and lessen the frequency of vehicles utilizing the Marigold Indian Bistro's parking lot. Staff visited the area and noted this would be an extension of the existing 2 Hour Zone on Healdsburg Avenue east of this location and west of Pitt Avenue.
- Funding:                        This can be accomplished within the existing Department of Public Works budget.
- Recommendation:            Establish a 2 Hour Parking Zone on Healdsburg Avenue adjacent to 7225 Healdsburg Avenue.