

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 25, 2024

PREPARED BY: Randy Chavez, Deputy Director of Public Works

REQUEST: APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY DOG PARK PARKING AND THE EL PASEO MID-BLOCK CROSSWALKS

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve additional street parking and a standard crosswalk with a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) system on University Park Drive.
2. Approve the replacement of three RRFB systems at mid-block crosswalks on El Paseo and Larkspur Lane.
3. Approve two new mid-block crosswalks with RRFB systems on El Paseo.
4. Approve asphalt finish with decorative art on all five mid-block crosswalks.
5. Authorize the removal of multi-colored decorative crosswalk painting.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

On March 14, 2024, the City Council held a study session to discuss two items, including parking at University Dog Park and existing and proposed two additional mid-block crosswalks on El Paseo. In addition, staff have since held an Active Transportation Program (ATP) Subcommittee meeting to present additional information and seek clarification and direction. The following recommendations are a direct outcome of the discussions held during these sessions.

### University Dog Park

At University Dog Park, there are 13 parking spaces, with 2 designated for ADA use. This limited parking availability poses challenges for residents and visitors, especially during peak times. At the study session, three alternatives were presented to the City Council to address parking concerns. Those alternatives are outlined in the table below.

<b>University Dog Park: Parking Alternatives</b>				
<b>Location</b>	<b>Alternatives</b>	<b>New Spaces</b>	<b>Cost Per Space</b>	<b>Total</b>
Alternative 1: Parking Pocket	Build new parking pocket to accommodate additional parking spaces	8	\$88,800	\$710,000
Alternative 2: Parking Area	Build new parking area above park to accommodate parking spaces	34	\$62,900	\$2,140,000
Alternative 3A: Street Parking (Raised Crosswalk)	Remove existing median & bike lane, construct crosswalk with RRFB, & divert bike lane into sidewalk to accommodate parking spaces on both sides of street	42	\$16,500	\$694,000
<b>Alternative 3B: Street Parking (Striped Crosswalk)</b>	<b>Remove existing median &amp; bike lane, construct crosswalk with RRFB, &amp; divert bike lane into sidewalk to accommodate parking spaces on both sides of street</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$10,500</b>	<b>\$440,000</b>

City of Palm Desert  
 (University Dog Park and El Paseo Mid-block Crosswalks)

---

Staff recommends Alternative 3B: Street Parking (Striped Crosswalk), given a raised crosswalk is not recommended at this location due to the speed limit of 35 MPH on University Park Drive.

El Paseo Mid-block Crosswalks – Existing Locations

There are currently three raised mid-block crosswalks locations, with two situated along El Paseo and one on Larkspur Lane. At the study session, the City Council discussed the replacement of three RRFB systems to rectify equipment issues. In addition, to address ADA issues, the City Council discussed constructing a raised sidewalk bulb-out along the mid-block crosswalk at Larkspur Lane. The estimated costs are detailed in the table provided below.

Existing Mid-block Crosswalks		
Location	Scope	Cost
El Paseo (San Pablo Avenue to Larkspur Lane)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain existing raised crosswalk</li> <li>Replace RRFB system</li> <li>Asphalt with decorative finish</li> </ul>	\$164,000
El Paseo (Larkspur Lane to San Luis Rey Avenue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain existing raised crosswalk</li> <li>Replace RRFB system</li> <li>Asphalt with decorative finish</li> </ul>	\$164,000
Larkspur Lane (El Paseo & Shadow Mountain Drive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct a raised sidewalk bulb-out on east side &amp; west sides</li> <li>Replace RRFB system</li> <li>Asphalt with decorative finish</li> </ul>	\$274,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$602,000</b>

Staff recommends replacing the RRFB systems at the three locations above, along with constructing the raised sidewalk bulb-outs along Larkspur Lane.

El Paseo Mid-block Crosswalks – New Locations

Staff was previously directed to study the potential for new raised mid-block crosswalks along El Paseo. The proposed locations along El Paseo include 1) between Ocotillo Drive and Sage Lane, 2) between Sage Lane and Lupine Lane, and 3) between Lupine Lane and San Pablo Avenue. The estimated costs are detailed in the table below.

New Mid-block Crosswalks		
Location	Scope	Cost
El Paseo (Ocotillo Drive to Sage Lane)	Construct raised crosswalk w/RRFBs	\$504,000
El Paseo (Sage Lane to Lupine Lane)	Construct raised crosswalk w/RRFBs	\$504,000
El Paseo (Lupine Lane to San Pablo Avenue) *	Construct raised crosswalk w/RRFBs	N/A
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$1,008,000</b>

\* *Not recommended*

Staff recommends adding the raised crosswalks with the RRFB systems at the two new locations above, along with constructing the raised sidewalk bulb-outs along Larkspur Lane. The crosswalk between Lupine Lane and San Pablo is not recommended due to the short distance between street blocks and drive approaches.

Mid-block Crosswalk Finishes – Asphalt with Decorative Art

Following the study session, staff further consulted engineering staff to discuss the finished materials for the raised mid-block crosswalks. Upon further examination, staff adjusted its recommendation to feature an asphalt finish with decorative art at each location. This revised recommendation was influenced by maintenance considerations, particularly regarding concerns arising where concrete meets asphalt. Staff communicated these concerns and the revised recommendation with the ATP Subcommittee, who concurred with the approach.

The cost for asphalt with decorative art is approximately \$34,000 per location and included in the costs above. Note the decorative design options have not yet to be determined and will be presented at a later date. Finally, staff anticipates the mid-block crosswalks improvements will be completed in summer 2024, corresponding with the re-paving of El Paseo.

**Legal Review:**

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney’s Office.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The total cost of the recommended action items is estimated at \$3,000,000. Staff will request approval for construction of both projects at a future meeting(s). Funding for the El Paseo Mid-Block Crossings Project was included in the approved Capital Improvement Project (CIP) List for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 and FY 2024-25. The University Dog Park Parking Project has been included in the proposed CIP List for FY 2024-25.

Project	Funding Source	Fiscal Year	Description	Project Budget
El Paseo Mid-Block Crossings	4514679-5000102	2023-24	Construction	\$500,000
	2134311-4332000		Construction	\$750,000
	2134311-4332000	2024-25	Construction	\$1,000,000
University Dog Park On-Site Parking Improvements	4004618-4400100	2024-25	Construction	\$750,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$3,000,000</b>

The remaining funds for both projects will be available for future project enhancements including, but not limited to, replacement equipment, maintenance, and other measures aimed at improving safety and accessibility.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Presentation