



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6.a

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2025

To: Traffic Safety and Parking Commission

Date: May 8, 2025

From: Andrew Wong, Senior Engineer

**Subject: Proposal to Implement Pedestrian Improvements along Hillside Drive
(Alvarado Avenue to Vancouver Avenue)**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Traffic Safety and Parking Commission (TSPC) review staff's presentation of the Hillside Drive Pedestrian Improvements. Staff worked with TSPC's Hillside Subcommittee to develop these improvements. After reviewing the improvements and determining community support, staff is seeking a motion of support for the proposed improvements.

BACKGROUND

At the October 8, 2015, Traffic Safety and Parking Commission (TSPC) meeting, the TSPC identified, added, and prioritized a number of potential improvements for vehicular and pedestrian access to Hoover School as part of their reopening. Staff coordinated with the Burlingame School District (BSD) on these improvements which included but were not limited to: neighborhood turn-restrictions, parking restrictions, several high visibility crosswalks, and stop controlled intersections. The TSPC subcommittee at that time envisioned that students and parents would walk along Hillside Drive until reaching all-way stop-controls at Alvarado Avenue and then use Hillside Circle to access Hoover Elementary. All these improvements were in place for Hoover's 2016 re-opening.

Future pedestrian access to Hoover was further improved when the City obtained a grant to install sidewalks along Summit Drive and then utilized funds from that year's annual resurfacing program to repave the asphalt pathway along Easton Drive.

Last year the TSPC formed a subcommittee to review potential pedestrian improvements as well as traffic calming improvements. This subcommittee provided a series of recommendations which were presented at the October 2024 meeting. Based on community feedback, staff and the subcommittee revised those recommendations to what is being presented tonight.

DISCUSSION

To develop the improvements being presented, staff collected traffic data for the section of Hillside Drive between Alvarado Avenue to Vancouver Avenue, which are summarized below:

Traffic Collision History: Four reported collisions over an 11-year period (2013-2024).

Speed Data: Hillside Drive is posted for 30 MPH, with the 85% percentile speed in the westbound direction at 34 MPH and eastbound at 36 MPH.

Traffic Volumes: Average Daily Traffic (ADT) in the westbound direction is 2230 vehicles per day and 2288 vehicles per day in the eastbound direction.

Pedestrian Gap Analysis: A gap analysis was completed at both Hillside/Columbus and Hillside/Cabrillo to determine the need for marked crosswalks. Some of the criteria used for considering a marked crosswalk included the following:

- 1) At least 20 pedestrians during the hour of highest activity,
- 2) During the hour of highest activity, there is on average less than one gap per minute in traffic,
- 3) The crossing is on a direct route to/from a significant pedestrian generator or within 1000 feet.

The above criteria was not satisfied during the periods analyzed. There was not twenty pedestrians during the hour of highest activity, furthermore there were adequate gaps for pedestrians to cross. In addition to the staff's data collection efforts, the TSPC subcommittee completed site visits and made observations since the TSPC meeting in October 2024. One of their observations was the route of pedestrians using Easton Drive due to the vertical grades along Hillside Circle and Upper Hillside Drive (near Alvarado Avenue). They witnessed parents with strollers and students using scooters/bicycles that were not comfortable on the vertical grades and opted to use Easton Drive to access Hoover Elementary. This action made crossing Hillside Drive closer to Vancouver Avenue a priority for these users.

Based on the above data and feedback from both the community and subcommittee, the current proposal is as follows:

- 1) Enhance the westernmost unmarked crosswalk on Hillside Drive at Castillo Avenue with a high-visibility crosswalk and quick-build bulbouts. Castillo Avenue is roughly the mid-point between Alvarado Avenue and Vancouver Avenue. This work would include striping, signage, and delineator posts. Enhancing the pedestrian crossing at this location would have other benefits to side-street traffic by creating additional gaps for vehicles to enter Hillside Drive. A future and to be programmed improvement to further enhance this crossing would be the installation of a "rectangular rapid flashing beacon" (RRFB).
- 2) To assist on reducing vehicular speeds along this section of Hillside Drive, Traffic

Enforcement's radar trailer would continue to be rotated along Hillside Drive. During the radar trailer's recent deployment along Hillside, staff obtained "before and after" speed data. The results showed a significant speed reduction, between 8-10 MPH, for the time the trailer was deployed. Similarly, funding for permanent driver feedback signs would be sought as part of a future improvement.

- 3) Also based on the above data and feedback, staff does not recommend stop signs or speed cushions at this time. After coordinating with CCFD, speed cushions are NOT being recommended along Hillside Drive as it is a running route for Fire Station No. 35 (Hillside) as well as an arterial roadway.

Based on the above, staff is seeking a TSPC motion of support to move forward with the minor design work and implementation of the signing and striping improvements and the additional enhancements (feedback signs and RRFB) when funding has been procured.

EXHIBIT:

- Presentation