



ASSOCIATED TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

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SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: PUESTA DEL SOL ROAD PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City of Santa Barbara conditioned the approved master plan for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (SBMNH) to construct a pedestrian walkway and parkway along the south side of Puesta Del Sol Road adjacent to the site as part of its first phase of work. The following letter reviews the proposed improvement plan that has been developed to satisfy this condition.

The Plan

The attached plan shows the segment of Puesta Del Sol Road adjacent to the SBMNH with the proposed pedestrian improvements. As shown, the improvements to the south side of the road include a 17.6-foot parkway with a 6-foot pedestrian asphalt walkway that meanders within the parkway. The parkway includes boulders and natural vegetation to increase the attractiveness of the SBMNH frontage.

Vehicular Traffic Flows

The Puesta Del Sol Road improvement plan shows that two eastbound travel lanes (10-foot) can be adequately accommodated along the segment, the same number of travel lanes that exist today. Thus, the improvements would not affect traffic circulation in the vicinity of the site.

On-street Parking

The improvements would necessitate removing approximately 10 on-street parallel parking spaces along the south side of Puesta Del Sol Road adjacent to the SBMNH. The on-street parallel parking along the north side of the road would be retained. The parking surveys completed for the master plan show that adequate parking is available within the SBMNH parking lot located just west of Puesta Del Sol Road. Since the SBMNH parking lot is the closest alternative, the removal of the on-street spaces would not impact the neighborhood.

Bus/Truck Loading

Bus loading/unloading is a condition of approval and the plan adequately accomplishes this condition without affecting traffic flows in the vicinity of the SBMNH. A bus/truck loading parking space would be provided on the south side of Puesta Del Sol Road near the west end of the segment, which is in the same location as the existing bus loading area. The loading area has also been designed to accommodate the larger trucks that are required to transport major exhibits to the site.

Street Lighting

The street lighting changes proposed as part of the improvement plan are also a condition of approval and include installation of two low-level small dome style pedestrian lights within the parkway to light the pedestrian path. The existing cobra head street light that is located on the north side of the road approximately mid-block would be removed. Thus, potential light spillage into the neighboring properties would be reduced.

Pedestrian Facilities and Flows

Pedestrians crossing Mission Canyon Road would use the existing crosswalk that is present on the north side of the Mission Canyon Road/Puesta Del Sol Road intersection and then cross Puesta Del Sol Road on the west side of the Mission Canyon Road/Puesta Del Sol Road intersection to access the new walkway adjacent to the SBMNH. This is the preferred pedestrian route given the location of the Mission Canyon Road crosswalk on the north side of the intersection. It is recommended that a crosswalk be painted on the west leg of the intersection for crossing Puesta Del Sol Road in order for pedestrians to reach the new walkway in front of the SBMNH.

Provision of the parkway and sidewalk on the north side of Puesta Del Sol is not recommended as the majority of pedestrians travelling in the area will be oriented to the Museum or the hiking trails that are located west of the museum's parking lot. The northern sidewalk alternative would therefore generate midblock pedestrian crossings and would

introduce pedestrian traffic at the intersection of Puesta Del Sol Road and the museum parking lot driveways, which is less than ideal. Providing the new walkway along the south side of the road would also retain the semi-rural residential look and feel along the north side of the street adjacent to the existing neighborhood.

This concludes ATE's review of the pedestrian improvements proposed for Puesta Del Sol Road.

Associated Transportation Engineers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott A. Schell', written in a cursive style.

Scott A. Schell, AICP, PTP
Principal Transportation Planner

SAS/DLD

Attachment

