

July 8, 2021

Mr. Brian Helmich
Chair, Talmadge Community Council
Chair, Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District
tccchair@talmadge.org
858-213-5655

Subject: Adams Avenue/49th Street/Lorraine Drive Pedestrian
Safety Study Recommendations

Dear Mr. Helmich,

The Talmadge roundabout was constructed in the early 1980s at the intersection of Adams Avenue/49th Street/Lorraine Drive. In early 2017, the community began lobbying for the City of San Diego (City) to install transportation enhancements to increase motorist awareness at the intersection. To aid in the community's request, the City initiated the Adams Ave at 49th Street Splitter Island CIP project (project) to provide additional features to the roundabout to make it a safer facility for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

During the design phase of the Adams Ave & 49th Street Splitter Island project, City staff and members of the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group, Talmadge Community Council (TCC), and the Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District (TMAD) worked closely together to complete a design that would create both safe and aesthetic transportation improvements for the Talmadge community. Though these discussions were extremely productive, after many meetings the two parties were unable to agree on whether or not to install pedestrian warning signs at the marked crosswalks within the roundabout. As a compromise to moving forward with construction of the project, the TCC members agreed with the City's proposal to complete a Pedestrian Safety Study (Study) conducted by an independent, third-party Traffic Engineer.

The purpose of the Study is to determine whether the pedestrian warning signs (W11-2 and W16-7P) are necessary at the pedestrian crossings located at the Adams Avenue/49th Street/Lorraine Drive roundabout. The Study lasted for roughly one-month, beginning in November 2020, and examines the behavior and interaction of pedestrians and motorists to determine if the pedestrian warning signs are needed. Furthermore, it investigates the current application of these signs in similar applications across the county.

The results of the Study indicate a high level of pedestrian activity at the roundabout. Vehicles were regularly observed ignoring pedestrians waiting in the crossing areas.

The Pedestrian Safety Study's final recommendation is to install the pedestrian warning signs (W11-2 and W16-7P) at all crosswalks within the intersection to encourage driver awareness and increase safety. The Study emphasizes that including these signs will encourage yielding to pedestrians and will prepare drivers that will encounter pedestrians within the intersection.

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Please see Enclosure 1 for the entirety of the Pedestrian Safety Study.

To ensure the community is afforded the increased safety provided by the pedestrian warning signs, in the coming weeks, the City intends to apply the Study's recommendation and install the signs at all marked crosswalks within the roundabout.

Please feel free to contact me at (619) 533-3616 or via email at apalaseyed@sandiego.gov any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Abi Palaseyed
Abi Palaseyed
Assistant Deputy Director

AP/dn

Enclosures: 1. Pedestrian Safety Study, May 2021

cc: Tom Barb, Co-Chair, TCC Action Team
Kelly Waggonner, Co-Chair, TCC Action Team
Fred Lindahl, Former Chair, TMAD
Brittany Bailey, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Mayor Todd Gloria
Julio Garcia, Council Representative, Office of Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera
James Nagelvoort, Director, Engineering & Capital Projects Department
Myrna Dayton, Assistant Director, Engineering & Capital Projects Department
Alex Garcia, Deputy Director, Engineering & Capital Projects Department
Duncan Hughes, Deputy Director, Transportation & Storm Water Department
Daniel Nutter, Senior Civil Engineer, Engineering & Capital Projects Department
Heidi Leon, Project Manager, Engineering & Capital Projects Department
Matt Kiehler, Project Engineer, Engineering & Capital Projects Department