



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

24-0288

Agenda Date: 2/15/2024

2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 24-10

TITLE Evaluate a Red Curb Painting Request Process and Utilization of Volunteers to Paint Curbs

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Department of Public Works

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney
Human Resources Department

Sponsor(s): Councilmembers: Klein, Mehlinger, Cisneros, Sell,
Srinivasan, Melton, and Din

History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

In October 2023, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 413, which amends Section 22500 of the Vehicle Code to restrict vehicle parking within 20 feet of the vehicle approach side of any unmarked or marked crosswalk, or within 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present. The Bill does not require any markings or signs to indicate that parking is prohibited, except only warnings can be issued prior to January 1, 2025, if it is not marked or signed.

What are the key elements of the study?

The study would evaluate a program to receive requests from residents for painting red curbs, and the feasibility of establishing a volunteer program to paint the curbs. The study would involve hiring a consultant to develop a process for receiving red curb painting requests, make recommendations on how to prioritize requests, develop an inventory to track completed and pending requests, and research how other local agencies are processing requests.

Additionally, the consultant would evaluate how volunteers could potentially be utilized to implement red curb painting requests. This would include defining the responsibilities for volunteers and their involvement with City staff and establishing procedures and training content to qualify volunteers to perform the work to meet legal requirements and quality standards (how to measure distances, establishing a work zone, setting up traffic control, ensuring safety, proper handling of paint, care of equipment/materials, clean-up in case of over-painting or spills, etc.).

The study would also identify any risks or legal exposures for the City with the use of volunteers (injuries, painting curb not designated for painting, insurance, liability, etc.).

Finally, the study would identify additional staffing resources and funding necessary to implement this

new process and program of receiving red curb painting requests, responding, evaluating requests, prioritizing requests, utilizing volunteers, and provide a list of advantages and disadvantages of using volunteers.

Estimated years to complete study: 2 years

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$ 75,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement - General Fund

The cost associated with this Study would be for consultant services to perform the study as listed under the Key Elements of the Study. City staff would work with the consultant throughout the project process including the analysis and the development of recommendations.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue/savings.

EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: No

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at a Study Issues Workshop.

There is a Budget Proposal 24-06 Curb Painting Program that is being considered by City Council also to reestablish a crew to paint curbs throughout the city. If approved, this study issue would likely not be needed as resources to address AB 413 would have been allocated.

Staff currently has existing processes and procedures that are used for curb painting requests. Residents are currently able to request new and refresh curb painting through Access Sunnyvale, email, phone call, or in person at City Hall. Staff processes the request and logs it into an ongoing resident request database. The request is assigned to City staff to conduct field visit, collect measurements, analyze the location for potential curb painting. A work order is sent to the City's Street Operations crew for implementing the curb painting if approved within the available budget. After the curb painting work order is completed for new installations, staff updates the existing City's Traffic Control Regulations Handbook to keep track of the inventory.

In anticipation of a high volume of requests from the public for curb painting, the study issue proposes to analyze the potential of creating a database of existing red curbs in the City and establish a program to receive requests from residents to paint the curb red, in regard to the new AB 413 law that was signed by Governor Newsom. The program would include evaluating the necessary training and recruitment of volunteers to assist in implementing curb paint throughout the City. If there

is a reliance on volunteers and/or organized groups of volunteers to perform curb painting, then any difficulty in obtaining volunteers would delay implementation of curb painting.

With a volunteer program, the City would be responsible for the volunteers' safety while working in the field. The volunteers would also need to have a full understanding of how to use the equipment and safety precautions when implementing red curbs. Staff would potentially need to supervise volunteers and work closely with them to identify the curb painting location, measure the distance that needs to be painted, establish a work area, set up traffic control, and exercise proper methods to paint the curb. This type of program would likely not include the higher volume collector and arterial roadways due to the additional safety requirements, equipment and training necessary.

Prepared by: Thinh Le, Transportation Engineer

Reviewed by: Chip Taylor, Director, Department of Public Works

Reviewed by: Sarah Johnson-Rios, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager