



# City of Sunnyvale

## Agenda Item

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**24-0274**

**Agenda Date: 2/15/2024**

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### Budget Proposal Summary Form

#### **NUMBER**

2024-06

**TITLE** Curb Painting Program

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Department of Public Works

#### **Sponsor:**

Councilmembers: Mehlinger, Klein, Srinivasan, Melton, Cisneros

#### **SCOPE OF ISSUE**

##### **What are the key elements of the proposal? What precipitated it?**

Curb paint helps define where vehicle parking is prohibited or limited. Over time, curb paint will fade or become worn out, making it difficult for drivers to determine if they are allowed to park in the area or what the restrictions are. Additionally, many drivers appear to be unaware that it is illegal to block a fire hydrant when the curb is not painted.

In October 2023, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 413, which amends Section 22500 of the Vehicle Code to also restrict vehicle parking within 20 feet of the vehicle approach side of any unmarked or marked crosswalk or 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present. Although AB 413 aims to improve visibility for pedestrians by restricting parking near crossings, the public may not be aware of the new law and unintentionally park in unmarked areas.

This budget proposal would allocate an initial capital expenditure of \$80,000 to purchase a work truck and miscellaneous equipment to outfit the truck and support curb painting, and \$192,565 per year for one staff person (Maintenance Worker I/II) and materials necessary to install and maintain a curb painting program throughout the City. Transportation staff would work with the Streets and Operations crew to prioritize curbs for painting initially until necessary curbs at intersections are painted throughout the City. Once painting is complete, the newly painted curbs would require ongoing maintenance. Residents are currently able to request curb painting through Access Sunnyvale, by emailing Transportation staff, or in person at City Hall. Such requests would be investigated and prioritized based on staff's metrics. Investigation includes a field visit to the site and conducting measurements before the curb can be painted.

##### **How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?**

General Plan, Chapter 3, *Land Use and Transportation Element Policies*:

- **LT-3 - An Effective Multimodal Transportation System:** Offer the community a variety of transportation modes for local travel that are also integrated with the regional transportation

system and land use pattern. Favor accommodation of alternative modes to the automobile as a means to enhance efficient transit use, bicycling, and walking and corresponding benefits to the environment, person-throughput, and qualitative improvements to the transportation system environment.

- **LT-3.8** - Prioritize safe accommodation for all transportation users over non-transportation uses. As city streets are public spaces dedicated to the movement of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians, facilities that meet minimum appropriate safety standards for transport uses shall be considered before non-transport uses are considered.
- **LT-3.24** - Ensure effective and safe traffic flows for all modes of transport through physical and operational transportation improvements.

The City's Active Transportation Plan and the Roadway Safety Plan recommend red curbing 15-20 feet from the corner of an intersection to improve visibility by removing parked vehicles from the sightline.

**Is the budget proposal a:** Operating

**If the proposal is operating, specify the change in service level(s) that would result (from what, to what). If the proposal is a project, write N/A.**

Fund an additional staff person (Maintenance Worker I/II) to manage and implement painting curbs.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

##### **Projected cost (list rough annual cost of budget proposal):**

Operating Issue (Annual Operating Costs, ongoing) . . . . .	\$ 192,565
Capital/Project (Project Cost, one-time) . . . . .	\$ 80,000
Total (Association Annual Operating Costs) . . . . .	\$ 272,565

Operating costs are estimated at \$4,814,125 over twenty years.

##### **Recommended funding source:**

Primarily General Fund

##### **Please describe recommended funding source:**

General Fund offset by other applicable funding sources, such as Fund 2401 - Parking District.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Position:** Refer budget proposal for consideration in Recommended Budget.

##### **Explanation:**

Red curbs indicate where parking is prohibited and serve an important purpose for traffic management and public safety. At intersections and mid-block crossings, a clear sightline between drivers and pedestrians improves visibility and transportation safety at marked and unmarked pedestrian crossings. Red curbs also highlight the presence of fire hydrants. This ensures that emergency services have unobstructed access to hydrants in the event of a fire. Furthermore, red curbs help drivers understand and comply with parking restrictions, reducing the likelihood of traffic violations. Deterring drivers from parking in prohibited areas with red curbs further supplements the enforcement efforts of Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers. Whether the curb is marked or

unmarked, DPS officers will cite vehicles parked in restricted areas in compliance to existing laws, but having curb painted will allow the public to clearly understand where parking is prohibited.

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Reviewed by: Tim Kirby, Director, Finance Department

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager