

**Agenda Item
No.**

C-1

DATE SUBMITTED 06/26/2024
 SUBMITTED BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
 DATE ACTION REQUIRED 07/03/2024

COUNCIL ACTION (X)
 PUBLIC HEARING ()
 REQUIRED RESOLUTION ()
 ORDINANCE 1ST READING ()
 ORDINANCE 2ND READING ()
 CITY CLERK'S INITIALS ()

**IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/ACTION: CROSSWALK ON SOUTH IMPERIAL AVENUE BETWEEN 4 TH STREET AND 5 TH STREET. 1. REMOVAL OF CROSSWALK ON SOUTH IMPERIAL AVENUE, BETWEEN 4 TH STREET AND 5 TH STREET.	
DEPARTMENT INVOLVED: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT	
BACKGROUND/SUMMARY: See attached Staff Report.	
FISCAL IMPACT: \$ 850 from Streets Funds.	ADMIN SERVICES SIGN INITIALS <u>JMS</u>
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends City Council the removal of the crosswalk in front of City Hall on South Imperial Avenue, between 4 th Street and 5 th Street.	DEPT. INITIALS <u>GM</u>
MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: <u>approve removal</u>	CITY MANAGER'S INITIALS <u>OTM</u>
MOTION: SECONDED: APPROVED () REJECTED () AYES: DISAPPROVED () DEFERRED () NAYES: ABSENT: REFERRED TO:	



Staff Report

Agenda Item No. **X-X**

To: City Council

From: Othon Mora, Community Development Director

Date: June 26, 2024

Subject: Removal of Crosswalk on South Imperial Avenue, Between 4th Street and 5th Street, in Front of City Hall

Background

The Community Development Department is currently engaged in a comprehensive effort to enhance and modernize our intermodal transportation infrastructure. This initiative aims to improve the overall connectivity and safety of various transportation modes within our community. As part of this initiative, we are assessing the potential removal of the crosswalk located on South Imperial Avenue, between West 4th Street and West 5th Street, directly in front of City Hall.

Importance of Safe Access

Ensuring that citizens have safe and convenient access to City Hall is a top priority. The crosswalk in question serves as a vital access point to the building, facilitating pedestrian movement across South Imperial Avenue. Additionally, sight visibility at this location is compromised due to the angle of the parking, making it difficult to see incoming traffic. As such, any decision regarding its removal must be approached with careful and thorough consideration to maintain or enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility.

Impact on Surrounding Areas

The removal of the crosswalk will not only affect pedestrians who currently use it to access City Hall, but also drivers and residents in the surrounding area. Key considerations include:

1. Parking:

- **Potential Increase in Parking:** Removing the crosswalk could potentially free up space, allowing for the addition of parking spots along South Imperial Avenue. This would be beneficial for both visitors to City Hall and local businesses, addressing a common concern about limited parking availability in the area.

- **Legislative Impact:** Recent legislative changes, such as Assembly Bill 413, which bans parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk, will be a factor in determining the net impact on available parking spaces if the crosswalk is removed.

2. Infrastructure Modifications:

- **Crosswalk removal:** Removing the crosswalk will necessitate removal of the existing ramp and installation of curb and gutter. The total estimated cost is \$850.00
- **Keep Crosswalk:** Currently, the crosswalk is non-compliant and requires a handicap ramp on the west side to meet ADA standards. The cost of constructing this ramp has been estimated at \$4,995.00.
- **Alternative Access Points:** There are existing accessible crossing points at the intersection of West 4th Street. This intersection is equipped with a handicap ramp and provides a viable alternative for pedestrians needing to cross South Imperial Avenue.

Community Feedback

As part of our assessment, we have collected feedback from the surrounding neighbors, summarized in Exhibit B. The majority of the neighbors are in favor of removing the crosswalk, citing benefits such as increased parking availability along South Imperial Avenue. Specific feedback includes:

- Emma Ruiz at 403 S Imperial Ave supports the removal for increased parking benefits.
- Guadalupe Bañuelos at 407 S Imperial Ave also supports the removal for the same reasons.
- Jose Lozoya at 413 S Imperial Ave does not oppose the removal but acknowledges the safety benefits of keeping it.
- Eduardo Payan at 419 S Imperial Ave favors removal but disagrees with adding more angled parking spaces.
- Paulina Bazan at 423 S Imperial Ave supports removal for increased parking benefits.

However, residents at 411 S Imperial Ave did not respond to our inquiries. Despite multiple attempts, we were unable to obtain their feedback.

This feedback reflects a general consensus among the neighbors that the removal of the crosswalk would positively impact parking availability and overall convenience for the community.

Additional Considerations

Another important factor to consider is parking. Through Assembly Bill 413, effective January 1, 2024, parking within 20 feet from a crosswalk is banned. This would mean eliminating three parking spaces on the east side of S Imperial Ave and also affect possible parking availability for the residents on the west side of S Imperial Ave.

Please refer to Exhibit A, attached herewith, which illustrates the location of the crosswalk to be removed, the intersections, and the affected parking spaces.

Environmental Compliance

The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15301 (Class I)-Existing Facilities. Minor alteration to the existing street to enhance pedestrian safety.

Traffic Commission

On June 12, 2024, Traffic Commission recommended the removal of pedestrian crosswalk located at 400 South Imperial Avenue, between 4th Street and 5th Street, per Agenda Item D-1.

Staff Recommendation

Based on these findings, staff recommends the removal of the crosswalk in front of City Hall on South Imperial Avenue between West 4th Street and West 5th Street.