





Agenda Item #: 07/0717.14

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development
Erik Zandvliet, City Traffic Engineer  

DATE: July 17, 2007

SUBJECT: Consideration of Parking and Public Improvements Commission Recommendation to Approve a New Painted Crosswalk at Highland Avenue and 7th Street.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council pass a motion to approve the Parking and Public Improvements Commission recommendation to install a pedestrian crosswalk with high visibility markings and pedestrian warning signs on the north leg of Highland Avenue at 7th Street.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The recommended modifications can be accomplished through existing Public Works programs and budgets.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2007, the City received a petition from Mr. Jeff Tarango, a resident on 6th Place for a painted crosswalk at the intersection of Highland Avenue and 7th Street. The petition states that a marked crosswalk would provide safer access for residents and their children when walking to and from the beach.

DISCUSSION:

As described in the attached report, the Traffic Engineer supports the installation of a marked crosswalk across Highland Avenue at 7th Street. The traffic and pedestrian volumes, absence of collision history, and skewed points of pedestrian access justify the need to enhance pedestrian safety and provide positive guidance between the sidewalks on the east side and the walk street on the west side. There are similar marked crosswalks on Highland Avenue at the north legs of 8th Street, 9th Street, 10th Street and 11th Street. The Traffic Engineer recommended that the north leg of the intersection is the most appropriate location because this alignment has the best visibility and would be consistent with several other marked crosswalks to the north.

PPIC Review

On June 28, 2007, the Parking and Public Improvements Commission reviewed the Traffic Engineer's report and heard testimony from one resident in favor of the requested crosswalk. The Commission agreed with the Traffic Engineer's findings and voted unanimously with the staff recommendation.

Meeting notices were sent to a large number of property owners and residents along Highland Avenue and 7th Street.

- Attachments: A. Excerpt from PPIC minutes of 4/25/07
B. PPIC report dated 4/25/07, with attachments
D. Meeting notice, 7/17/07

G:\Traffic Engineering\City Council\CSR-peck highland 7th xwalk.doc

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
EXCERPT OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

June 28, 2007

DRAFT

1. Petition Request for Painted Crosswalk on Highland Avenue at 7th Street

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet presented staff's report and recommendation to approve the request for a marked crosswalk with crosswalk warning signs on Highland Avenue at 7th Street on the north leg.

Audience Participation

Marti Padilla, 600 Block of Highland Avenue, voiced her support for the crosswalk and expressed kudos to the neighbors who took the time to make this request. She talked of the fast pace of traffic on Highland Avenue and asked that the speed trailer and increased police enforcement be designated to the area.

Discussion

Commissioner Donahue stated his support of the crosswalk.

Commissioner Gross relayed his support, sharing that the greatest benefit is that it will provide a safer access for children.

Commissioner Stabile conveyed his support of the crosswalk, noting the sound reasons put forth in the petition along with absence of any opposition.

Chairperson Paralusz noted her agreement with staff's recommendations for the crosswalk, and applauded the petitioner for participating in the process and bringing this issue to the City's attention.


Action


A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Gross/Stabile) to approve the request for a marked crosswalk with crosswalk warning signs on Highland Avenue at 7th Street on the north leg, as recommended by staff.

AYES:	Donahue, Gross, Stabile, and Chairperson Paralusz
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Silverman
ABSTAIN:	None

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

TO: Parking and Public Improvements Commission

FROM: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development 

BY: Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer 

DATE: June 28, 2007

SUBJECT: Request for Painted Crosswalk - Highland Avenue at 7th Street

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission approve the request for a marked crosswalk with crosswalk warning signs on Highland Avenue at 7th Street on the north leg.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2007, Mr. Jeff Tarango, a resident on 6th Place, submitted a petition from 26 nearby residents to paint a crosswalk across Highland Avenue at 7th Street. The petition states that a marked crosswalk would provide safer access for residents and their children when walking to and from the beach.

DISCUSSION:

The California Vehicle Code Section 275 defines a crosswalk as:

1. That portion of a roadway included within the prolongation or connection of the boundary lines of sidewalks at (an) intersection where the intersecting roadways meet at approximately right angles, except the prolongation of such lines from an alley across a street.
2. Any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, there shall not be a crosswalk where local authorities have placed signs indicating no crossing.

The primary purpose of a painted crosswalk is to encourage pedestrians to cross at the optimum location by providing positive guidance and control and/or where a recommended crossing may not be obvious to the pedestrian.

It is typically advised that pedestrians cross at controlled crossings, especially in business districts. Uncontrolled crossing locations are generally better served by not marking crosswalks so that pedestrians are encouraged to use the signalized or walk street crosswalks or use more caution when crossing the street at an unmarked location.

Highland Avenue is a collector street that serves as the primary access for both residents and commercial businesses within the Strand and downtown neighborhoods. Highland Avenue carries approximately 7,500 vehicles per day near the subject area. The area has high pedestrian usage, particularly during the summer months. There are several painted crosswalks, both controlled and uncontrolled, across Highland Avenue in this area. The land use both north and south of the study area is mainly residential multi-family.

The intersection of Highland Avenue and 7th Street is a “tee” type intersection with a stop sign on the east approach of 7th Street only. 7th Street is a one-block long vehicular street between Highland Avenue and Crest Drive to the east. 7th Street is a walk street to the east of Crest Drive and west of Highland Drive. There are marked crosswalks on the north leg of 8th Street, 9th Street, 10th Street and 11th Street. There are no marked crosswalks on Highland Avenue to the south between 7th Street and 5th Street, which is a four-way stop intersection without marked crosswalks.

The traffic collision history between January 1, 2001 and September 30, 2004 was analyzed for Highland Avenue near 7th Street. There have been no pedestrian or vehicular collisions at or near the intersection in the 3-¾ year period.

Pedestrian counts were taken on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, during a typical weekday. The results are summarized in the following table:

**PEDESTRIAN COUNTS
HIGHLAND AVENUE AT 7TH STREET**

HOURLY	CROSSING LOCATION			HOURLY TOTAL
	N/O 7TH ST.	AT 7TH ST.	S/O 7TH ST.	
2-3 PM	4	1	9	14
3-4 PM	4	2	5	11
4-5 PM	6	7	9	22
5-6 PM	0	7	3	10
TOTALS	14	17	26	57

It is generally acknowledged that pedestrian crossing volumes at all crossing locations on Highland Avenue are significantly higher in the peak summer months. The pedestrian counts indicate that many pedestrians do not cross at the intersection, but rather cross at random locations on either side of the intersection. The volumes represent a moderate level of pedestrian activity that is similar to most walk street crossing locations along Highland Avenue in this area.

Pedestrians are generally encouraged to use the walk streets where possible since there is less conflict with vehicles, and walk streets connect directly to The Strand. Marked crosswalks provide both positive guidance between walk street segments and raise driver awareness to locations with higher pedestrian concentrations. While it is legal to cross at 7th Street pursuant to the Vehicle Code, it may not readily apparent to the pedestrian which path to take between the dual sidewalks on either side of 7th Street and the single walk street located in the center of the intersection. Since there are several possible routes, a marked crosswalk would identify a single path with the best and safest crossing conditions. There are already existing crosswalks on 7th Street at Manhattan Avenue and Ocean Drive that connect to the beach.

Based on the above conditions, the Traffic Engineer believes a marked crosswalk on Highland Avenue at 7th Street would enhance pedestrian safety and provide positive guidance between the

sidewalks and walk street. The north leg would be the most appropriate location for a marked crosswalk because this leg has the best visibility and it would be consistent with the marked crosswalks to the north.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the above analysis, a marked crosswalk with crosswalk warning signs on the north leg of Highland Avenue at 7th Street is recommended.

Attachments: Site Photos
Highland Avenue at 7th Street Aerial Photo
Resident Petition
Public Notice

G:\Traffic Engineering\PPIC\PPIC-highland 7th crosswalk.doc



HIGHLAND AVENUE AT 7TH STREET LOOKING SOUTH



HIGHLAND AVENUE AT 7TH STREET LOOKING SOUTHWEST



HIGHLAND AVENUE AT 7TH STREET LOOKING WEST



HIGHLAND AVENUE AT 7TH STREET LOOKING NORTH

Highland Ave. at 7th St.



A vertical number line with tick marks at 0, 90, 180, and 270 ft.

This map is a user-generated static output from the "MB GIS Info" Intranet mapping site and is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

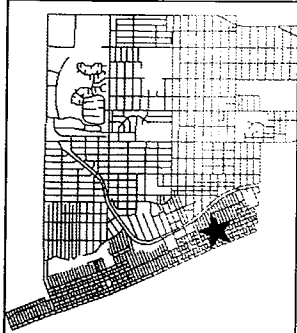
Notes: Petition request for marked crosswalk.



Scale: 1:933

Legend

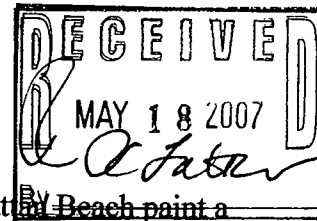
- ☐ Addresses
☐ Parcels
 2006 4in color
 Basemap
 BEACH
 BLOCK
 DEADEND
 PARK
 PIER
 PRIVATE STREET
 SCHOOL
 STREET
 WALK STREET



Dear Neighbor,

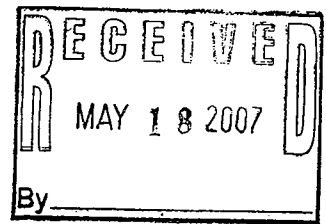
Please sign the below "Petition" to request that the City of Manhattan Beach paint a crosswalk at the Highland and 7th crossing area. As our children are growing up, and starting to "venture" to the beach on their own, I believe it would be safer there. Creating an "aware zone" where our children are most at risk on the walk to the beach would be a nice addition to our street.

Thank you for your support.



RT
H.F.
to
RL

X. Anthony Wall 310-489-7701	Printed: ANTHONY WALL 433 7 th St. MB, CA 90266
X. Steve Lazar (310) 372-3740	Printed: Steve Lazar 340 7 th St.
X. Todd Coordt 310-376-1928	Printed: Todd Coordt 437 7 th St
X. Dana Wall 310 991-3039	Printed: Dana Wall 433 7 th St MB, CA 90266
X. Nick Christensen 310 892-2024	Printed: Nick Christensen 329 7 th Street
X. Jacque Anderson 310 379-4087	Printed: Jacque Anderson 405 7 th St -
X. Audrey Judson 310 845-7006	Printed: Audrey Judson 416 7 th St.
X. Chris Vargas 310 376 3813	Printed: CHRIS VARGAS 512 7 th St
X. Jeannie Grand 310 372-1224	Printed: JEANNIE GRAND 317-SEVENTH ST.
X. Kathleen M. Clark 310-374-3323	Printed: KATHLEEN M. CLARK 417 7 th ST.
X. Ronald Yucht 310 374-3323	Printed: RONALD YUCHT 436 7 th St
X. Kathryn Rowland 310 374-3323	Printed: Kathryn Rowland 332 7 th St



Dear Neighbor,

Please sign the below "Petition" to request that the City of Manhattan Beach paint a crosswalk at the Highland and 7th crossing area. As our children are growing up, and starting to "venture" to the beach on their own, I believe it would be safer there. Creating an "aware zone" where our children are most at risk on the walk to the beach would be a nice addition to our street.

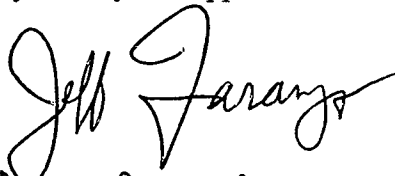
Thank you for your support.

X. <i>[Signature]</i>	Printed: <i>Debbie Strick</i> 705 N. Valley Dr
X. <i>D-S [Signature]</i>	Printed: <i>Duncan Rowland</i> 332 7th St
X. <i>[Signature]</i>	Printed: <i>[Signature]</i>
X. <i>Mary Boyd</i>	Printed: <i>[Signature]</i> <i>MARY Boyd</i> 320 7th St
X. <i>Andrea Huttlinger</i>	Printed:
X. <i>[Signature]</i>	Printed: <i>Andrea Huttlinger</i> 509-7th St. MB, CA
X. <i>Melanie Williams</i> <i>Melanie W</i>	Printed: <i>Melanie W. Williams</i> 400 7th St. MB CA 90266
X. <i>Mary Helen Annunzio - Yang</i> <i>[Signature]</i>	Printed: 420 7th St., MB, CA
X. <i>Michelle Woodward</i>	Printed: <i>Michelle Woodward</i> 441 7th St
X. <i>Michael Kiely 7th St</i>	Printed: <i>m. b</i> <i>Michael Kiely</i> 321 7th St MB
X.	Printed:
X.	Printed:

Dear Neighbor,

Please sign the below "Petition" to request that the City of Manhattan Beach paint a crosswalk at the Highland and 7th crossing area. As our children are growing up, and starting to "venture" to the beach on their own, I believe it would be safer there. Creating an "aware zone" where our children are most at risk on the walk to the beach would be a nice addition to our street.

Thank you for your support.

X. 


Printed: Jeff Tarango
501 Sixth Place
MB CA

X. 

Printed: JEFF GOODFRIEND
501 6th PLACE
MB, CA

X. 

Printed: Stacy Vargas / Chris Vargas
512 7th St. MB CA

X. 

Printed: Kelly Stroman
429 7th St.
MB, CA 90266

X. 

Printed: Amy Coordt
437 7th St.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

X.

Printed:

X.

Printed:

X.

Printed:

X.

Printed:

X.

Printed:

X.

Printed:

X.

Printed:



City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-4795

Telephone (310) 802-5000

FAX (310) 802-5001

Mailed

June 19, 2007

***** PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE *****

Re: Petition for Crosswalk at intersection of Highland Avenue and 7th Street

Dear Resident/Property Owner:

The City recently received a petition to install a crosswalk at the intersection of Highland Avenue and 7th Street. The petitioners feel that a crosswalk will create a "safe zone" and help pedestrians, especially children safely cross Highland Avenue.

The Parking and Public Improvements Commission will review this request at a public meeting on Thursday, June 28, 2007. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, 1400 Highland Avenue, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting and provide comments.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please call (310) 802-5515 or E-mail rlackow@citymb.info

Sincerely,

Rosemary Lackow
Senior Planner
Community Development Department