

RESPONSE(S) TO COUNCIL QUESTION(S)

RE: 7/26/2016 AGENDA

Agenda Item #: 1G

Title: Modify an Existing Construction Contract for the Traffic Signal Project at Mathilda/Olive Avenues and Approval of Budget Modification No. 3 in the Amount of \$71,873 (PW16-05-1)

Question(s): 1G: Can you briefly explain how this new pedestrian video detection technology works? My specific concern, believe it or not, involves the Pokemon Go craze. Mathilda/Olive is a pokestop, meaning there is an increased occurrence of pedestrians standing around at that corner, not actually wanting to cross the street. If the system detects pedestrians standing at key intersections as a criteria for changing a light, then I could foresee things like Pokemon Go creating a lot of false positives and having an impact on traffic flow.

Staff Response(s): The new SafeWalk is state-of-the-art passive pedestrian detection traffic signal equipment. It can distinguish between users on foot, on bicycles, or using wheelchairs and assigns the walk times accordingly. This equipment is installed in conjunction with audible countdown, ADA accessible pedestrian signal equipment. When it detects a user that wants to cross the street, the new equipment places a call-for-walk signal in the system; the system makes this determination based on various factors, like presence of the pedestrians, and the duration of their presence in the influence area, and the direction of their movements etc. If the pedestrian walks away the call-for-walk signal is canceled and the traffic on the opposing street will not be stopped or delayed. This helps increase roadway capacity and reduces delays versus the push button type only equipment for which the call-for-walk signal cannot be canceled. The new system also has the capacity to extend the walk time for slow moving pedestrians or those using a wheelchair.

If someone is playing Pokemon Go at a signalized intersection, and stays long enough at that location, she or he could trigger the walk sign. We would expect that would happen minimally in comparison to the typical benefit the new system provides.

07-25-16: Additional questions have been submitted for Item #7, Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Sunnyvale and the Sunnyvale Managers Association (SMA) and Adopt 3 relevant Resolutions. Those questions will take additional time to answer; a revised version of this document will be posted in the afternoon on July 26, 2016.