

May 3, 2005

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
May 10, 2005

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY DURING CONSTRUCTION

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file a report of standard practices for the protection of pedestrian safety during construction.

Summary:

Per Council direction, this report is presented in response to concerns expressed by the general public regarding pedestrian safety in construction areas. Staff considers safety to be of primary importance and appreciates the constructive input from the public in this regard. The standards presented below apply to public Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and private sector improvements.

CIP PROJECTS

Public Works projects utilize the "Work Area Traffic Control Handbook" (WATCH Manual), as adopted by the American Public Works Association, for control of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the work area. Section 11 of this manual applies to Pedestrian Traffic and is summarized as follows:

When the work area encroaches upon a sidewalk, walkway or crosswalk area, special consideration must be given to pedestrian safety. Efforts must be made to separate the pedestrian from the work area. Protective barricades, fencing, handrails, bridges, together with warning and guidance devices and signs, must be utilized to provide safe and well defined walkway. Where walkways are closed by construction, an alternate walkway shall be provided. At locations where adjacent alternate walkways cannot be provided, appropriate signs, closely spaced barricades, and warning tape must be installed at the limits of construction and in advance of the closure at the nearest crosswalk or intersection to divert pedestrian traffic across the street.

Public Works personnel routinely attend training workshops that cover traffic and pedestrian safety. It is an on-going task to stay on top of contractors in order to maintain good safety controls. Staff appreciates any input regarding these types of issues.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Section 3303, California Building Code - Protection of Pedestrians During Construction or Demolition establishes the standards for protecting pedestrians on adjacent streets and sidewalks with construction canopies, fences and railing. Table 33A (Attachment 1) sets out the distance from construction and the height of construction relative to

providing each form of protection. Construction eight feet or less in height and six feet or more from the property line requires no protection; construction eight feet or more requires a fence and canopy for all work six feet or less to the property line or not more than ¼ the height of construction; or construction six feet or less to the property line and between ¼ to ½ the height of construction. All building plans approved by the Community Development Department Building Division are stamped with a note indicating the pedestrian protection requirements and Building Inspectors are instructed to ensure that each construction project complies.

Staff surveyed all current building sites in the City and found eight that were currently within the prescribed distances to require pedestrian protection and advised the owners to comply immediately or stop work in that portion of the building adjacent the street or sidewalk until it is installed.

Attachment: Table 33A

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Morgan, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Sol Blumenfeld, Director
Community Development

Concur:

Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager