



TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Karl R. Amylon, City Manager

DATE: August 24, 2019

RE: **Stedman Street/Deermount Street Intersection Pedestrian Crossing**

At the City Council meeting of July 18, 2019, Councilmembers discussed the effectiveness of the push button activated LED crosswalk signs at the intersection of Stedman and Deermount Streets. Attached for City Council review is a memorandum from Public Works Director Mark Hilson that addresses the concerns that were raised. If the City Council concurs with the option of petitioning the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities for the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB), staff can prepare the request accordingly.

PUBLIC WORKS / ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Mark Hilson, P.E., Public Works Director
Kara Jurczak, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Karl Amylon, City Manager
CC: Lacey Simpson, Assistant City Manager
FROM: Mark Hilson, P.E., Public Works Director
DATE: July 26, 2019
SUBJECT: **Lighted Crosswalk Signs**

At the July 18, 2019 regular City Council meeting, a Councilmember commented that the push button actuated LED crosswalk signs are not bright enough during the day. It is worth noting that the intention behind the sign is to draw attention to pedestrians attempting to cross the street in the dark when visibility is low. While we believe the installed signs are quite effective for this purpose, we could apply for a permit to change the installation to a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) as shown on the attached exhibit, should City Council desire. If such direction is given, and if we are successful in acquiring a permit for the installation, it would be our intention to install one as a test case to see if it is more effective during the day. According to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, they would not approve the addition of a RRFB while leaving the existing LED sign in place.

EXHIBIT: RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACON



July 18, 2019

Councilmember Kiffer said he is more concerned with the harmful effects of E-cigarettes and JUUL products. He felt anything the Council can do to put a stop gap in, is a good idea.

Motion Passed with Kiffer, Coose, Gage, Zenge, Flora and Bergeron voting yea; Williams voting nay.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Moved by Flora, seconded by Bergeron for approval of vouchers to Ketchikan Daily News in the amount of \$1,049.78.

Motion passed with Flora, Kiffer, Coose, Gage, Bergeron and Zenge voting yea; Williams abstaining.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant Manager Simpson asked for additional input from the Council in regards to a letter of support for crosswalk improvements the Alaska State Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT & PF) will be implementing at the Stedman and Deermount intersection.

Councilmember Coose questioned the value of the Bulbouts, but that is a DOT & PF problem. He indicated he was driving through that intersection, and noticed a pedestrian hit the switch to cross so he slowed down. He noted the flashing lights were hard to see and need to be brighter.

Public Works Director Hilson clarified Councilmember Coose's comments as to the existing push button pedestrian crossing. He said he appreciated his feedback, and would look in to it. He informed the City cannot add to the existing light, but could possibly switch it out to a permitted type of sign.

Councilmember Kiffer said the City lost the option for a stop light at that corner with the State. He said we still have an issue with the drivers turning up Deermount Street without looking. He noted he has watched people in the crosswalk dive out of the way of traffic. He questioned if there was a way to slow the traffic down in that area. He noted the new boat business there has also impacted the traffic flow with their boats and trailers.

Public Works Director Hilson said he would have to refer this issue to the Department of Transportation's Safety Engineer.

Councilmember Williams questioned when SECON would start working downtown again.

Public Works Director Hilson informed the paving crew was delayed on another job out of town. He said he had a call out to them with some concerns that were raised regarding the condition of the potholes near the tunnel and down by the light. He informed in regards to the Stedman / Deermount Street intersection there are very specific standards to determine whether a traffic signal is warranted or not. He indicated we can ask the DOT&PF to study this area, but he would not be surprised if they came back and said, you install and maintain it. He noted the City currently does not maintain any of the traffic signals in Ketchikan.

July 18, 2019

Vice-Mayor Zenge noted the City needs to do a better job regarding crosswalks. She said she has received quite a few calls about the Madison and Tongass intersection crosswalk. She felt the City needs to evaluation all City crosswalks, and try to figure out what we can do better in those areas.

Assistant Manager Simpson reminded the Council City Manager Amylon would be returning for the August 1, 2019 meeting.

Schedule of General Government and KPU Appropriated Reserves Through the City Council Meeting of July 8, 2019

In her report, Assistant Manager Simpson provided the Council a schedule of the current balance of Appropriated Reserves of the General Government and KPU through July 8, 2019.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Beach Monitoring Results

Assistant Manager Simpson provided for Council review a memorandum from Assistant Public Works Director Jurczak information regarding summer beach monitoring program and test results from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

2019 Cruise Ship Passenger Traffic Report No. 1

Assistant Manager Simpson copied the Council with a memorandum from Finance Director Newell which detailed the 2019 cruise ship passenger counts so far in 2019, as well as statistical information for passenger counts over the last ten years.

2019 Sales Tax Report No. 4

Assistant Manager Simpson transmitted for Council review a memorandum from Finance Director Newell regarding the 2019 sales tax collections.

Tongass Highway Cross Walk Improvements – Deermount/Stedman Street

Assistant Manager Simpson provided for Council review a memorandum from Assistant Public Works Director Jurczak regarding the status of the Deermount/Stedman Street pedestrian improvements for which ADOT& PF has received Federal Highway Safety grant funding.

Preparation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Reconfiguration of Port of Ketchikan Cruise Ship Berth Facilities

Assistant Manager Simpson informed the Council of staff's preparation of a RFP for reconfiguration of Port of Ketchikan cruise ship berth facilities as directed from the special City Council meeting of July 10, 2019. She asked Council for clarification and direction in regards to the discussion of various work sessions and meetings moving forward. She informed the concept from Survey Point Holdings was received yesterday, and would be forth coming to the Council, Port & Harbors Advisory Board and Bermello Ajamil and Partners, Inc. for review. She