



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 17-4339

Agenda Item Number:

Agenda Date: 8/2/2017

In Control: Governance Committee

DEPARTMENT: Transportation and Capital Improvements

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Mike Frisbie, P.E

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 1

SUBJECT:

Creation of a Pride Crosswalk on Main Avenue

SUMMARY:

On June 16, 2017, Councilmember Roberto Trevino issued a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting the creation and installation of a Pride-themed rainbow crosswalk on Main Avenue at East Evergreen Avenue.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to the CCR, the Main Street “Strip” has been the center of the LGBT community in San Antonio for several years and has been the site of the annual Pride Parade. The CCR also stated that the request for a pride themed rainbow crosswalk is to promote a message of inclusion and tolerance while providing pedestrian safety.

ISSUE:

Crosswalk markings are a traffic control device that provides guidance for pedestrians who are crossing a roadway by defining and delineating paths, and alerts roadway users of designated pedestrian crossing points. All pavement markings installed on City of San Antonio roadways must follow the requirements set forth in the *Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. Over the past few years, TCI has received multiple inquiries for decorative or themed crosswalks. Each request has been denied due to safety concerns. TCI does not recommend or support any permanent art installation on crosswalks, or within traffic travel lanes, as visual

changes made to standard traffic control devices can create a distraction and safety hazard for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Nationally, some cities have implemented decorative or themed crosswalks; however, many of the crosswalks do not meet Federal Highway Association (FHWA) guidelines. Additionally, in many instances these crosswalks have served as locations for pedestrians to stand within the roadway for self-photographs which is not a safe practice.

The FHWA *Official Ruling 3(09)-24(I)-Application of Colored Pavement* (Ruling) states that subdued-colored aesthetic treatments between the legally marked transverse crosswalk lines are permissible provided that they do not have retroreflective properties and that they do not diminish the effectiveness of the legally required white pavement markings used to establish the crosswalk. Examples of acceptable treatments include the following:

- Brick lattice patterns
- Brick pavers
- Paving stones, cobbles, or other resources designed to simulate paving

The Ruling further states that acceptable colors for these materials would be red, rust, brown, burgundy, clay, tan or similar earth tone equivalents. All elements of pattern and color for these treatments are to be uniform, consistent, repetitive, and expected so as not to be a source of distraction. No element of the aesthetic interior treatment is to be random or unsystematic. No element of the aesthetic interior treatment can implement pictographs, symbols, multiple color arrangements, etc., or can otherwise attempt to communicate with any roadway user.

ALTERNATIVES:

TCI does not recommend or support any permanent art installation on crosswalks, or within traffic travel lanes. However, as an alternative, infrastructure located beyond the limits of traffic travel lanes could be themed, such as sidewalks, -traffic signal cabinets, banners, and murals.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this briefing.

RECOMMENDATION:

For safety reasons, TCI does not recommend or support any permanent art installation on crosswalks, or within traffic travel lanes as visual changes can create a distraction and safety hazard for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians; however, the Governance Committee could choose to proceed and forward this subject to the Transportation Committee for further discussion.