

CC 48  
Pg 335  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 17, 1982

Agenda item k-1 "Request for mid-block crosswalk between the Fairmont Rehabilitation Hospital and Lodi Memorial Hospital" was introduced by Public Works Director Ronsko. Mr. Ronsko reported that for various reasons, the City of Lodi has strongly discouraged such installations in the past. Among these reasons were:

REQUEST FOR MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK BETWEEN THE FAIRMONT REHABILITATION HOSPITAL AND LODI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

1. They may cause pedestrians to have a false sense of security with respect to vehicular traffic.
2. They may cause a greater number of rear end collisions due to pedestrians not waiting for gaps in traffic.
3. They may cause an increase in fatal and serious injury accidents, because crosswalks are usually considered to be safety devices. However, accident studies show a disproportionate accident rate in terms of marked versus unmarked crosswalks, probably due to a less cautious pedestrian attitude at unmarked walks.
4. Additionally, motorists expect crosswalks and pedestrians at interesections and when there are intersections fairly close together, motorists would not expect to have a crosswalk in the middle of the block.

A number of cities were contacted in past studies, and it was found that most not only discourage mid-block crosswalks, they don't consider them in blocks less than 600-1000 ft. long. Further, the amount of use of this crosswalk would be minimal in the sense that very few people would use it compared to a mid-block crosswalk in the downtown area.

Ms. Beverly McFarland, Administrator, Fairmont Rehabilitation Hospital was in the audience and spoke on behalf of her request.

Following discussion, with questions being directed to Staff and to Ms. McFarland, Council, on motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Murphy, Reid second, denied Ms. McFarland's request for a mid-block crosswalk between that facility and Lodi Memorial Hospital. Further, Staff was directed to check into expediting the construction of wheelchair ramps at the Fairmont Avenue-Windsor Avenue Crossing.

RECEIVED

1982 NOV -3 PM 12:44

ALICE M. REIMONE  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF LODI

July 28, 1982

Walter E. Reiss, M.D.  
Medical Director  
Fairmont Rehabilitation Hospital, Inc.  
950 South Fairmont Avenue  
Lodi, CA 95240

Gentlemen:

Public Works Department has reviewed your request for a mid-block crosswalk between the Fairmont Rehabilitation Hospital and Lodi Memorial Hospital. We understand that this request is for reasons of safety of both your personnel and your clients in the interchange of patients between the two facilities. Confirming the discussion I had last week with Mrs. McCaffrey, the Public Works Department does not feel that they can make a positive recommendation to the City Council for the installation of the mid-block crosswalk as proposed.

For various reasons, the City of Lodi has strongly discouraged such installations in the past. Among these reasons are:

1. They may cause pedestrians to have a false sense of security with respect to vehicular traffic.
2. They may cause a greater number of rear end collisions due to pedestrians not waiting for gaps in traffic.
3. They may cause an increase in fatal and serious injury accidents, because crosswalks are usually considered to be safety devices. However, accident studies show a disproportionate accident rate in terms of marked versus unmarked crosswalks, probably due to a less cautious pedestrian attitude at unmarked walks.
4. Additionally, motorists expect crosswalks and pedestrians at intersections and when there are intersections fairly close together, motorists would not expect to have a crosswalk in the middle of a block.

A number of cities were contacted in past studies, and it was found that most not only discourage mid-block crosswalks, they don't consider them in blocks less than 600-1000 ft. long. Further, the amount of use of this crosswalk would be minimal in the sense that very few people would use it compared to a mid-block crosswalk in the downtown area.

Should you desire further clarification, feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely yours,

G. E. Robison  
Assistant City Engineer

cc: City Clerk

GER/mcq