



CITY OF
LA MESA
JEWEL of the HILLS

INTEROFFICE MEMO

DATE: July 27, 2021
TO: La Mesa City Council
FROM: Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Baber
SUBJECT: AUTOMATED PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL CROSSINGS

Background

During the initial months of the pandemic, the City Council took certain emergency actions to protect the health of the public by preventing the spread of COVID-19. An idea suggested by the City Council was to reduce the need for pedestrians to depress the crosswalk button at certain high-volume intersections, thereby reducing the number of touch-points that could transmit the virus. On April 14, 2020, the City Council directed staff to reprogram certain pedestrian signal crossings at high-traffic intersections.

Proposal

While the revised signal timing achieved the goals of facilitating pedestrian crossings at high-volume intersections and reducing the spread of the virus, this change may cause vehicle to idle for additional time when pedestrian are not present. As the economy continues to open and residents return to regular commuting schedules, the City can expect increased traffic on its local roads. Now that vaccination rates in San Diego County are increasing and the State of California relaxed measures related to the pandemic, I would ask that the City Council direct staff to return the signal timing at these intersections to their pre-pandemic status.

Thank you for your consideration.