

## Pacific Coast Highway from Calle Mayor to Janet Lane Safety Improvements Project, I-133

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. Why was the project initiated?

The project was initiated to improve safety along this segment of PCH. The area was chosen because of historical data showing the occurrence of several accidents in the area.

2. When was the project initiated?

On December 18, 2012 Council approved a request to create a new capital project for the proposed improvements and allocate funding. An initial design was submitted to Caltrans in May 2013.

3. When was design finalized?

The City has to obtain an encroachment permit with Caltrans to construct along PCH, which is a state highway under the jurisdiction of Caltrans District 7. Project plans and reports were reviewed by Caltrans prior to permit issuance, and final construction plans were approved by Caltrans in March 2016.

4. Where will project funding come from?

A construction budget of \$852,000 is available for this project through a grant obtained through the Measure R Highway Program by the LA Country Metropolitan Authority.

5. What elements are included in the project?

The project will include a guard rail and metal fencing that will run along the raised island that separates mainline PCH from the frontage road on the south side. The guard rail will enhance safety, while the metal fence will provide a visual delineation between the PCH service road fronting the residences and the main roadway of PCH.

The physical barrier to be provided by the fence will also deter pedestrians from crossing at grade and encourage them to use the pedestrian overpass. The existing chain link fence along the center median of PCH will be removed as part of the project once the new fence along the raised island to the south is installed.

6. How will the metal fencing look?

The fence will be made of tubular steel railing with crossbars and square plastic caps on top. A powder coat will be added to provide corrosion protection and improve appearance. It will look similar to the rendering at the right.



7. Why will metal fencing be built instead of a block wall or sound wall?

Staff evaluated the two different types of walls proposed for construction and the following is a summary of those results:

- Metal fencing will incorporate breakaway bases, which will allow only a portion of the impacted fence to detach from the ground and provide flexibility in case of a crash. This will complement the safety cushion that will be provided by the guard rail. Such flexibility cannot be provided by a solid wall.
- There is an existing 12-inch water main underneath the center of the south median of PCH. The foundation required by a solid wall will prevent any construction on top of the water main.
- Building the wall to the north of the water main will require the removal of all trees at the south median.
- Building the wall to the south of the water main will eliminate any visible landscape from the residential side of the wall.
- The surface of a solid wall tends to be a target for graffiti/ vandalism.
- A solid wall will decrease the ability for visual observation by public safety personnel.
- A sound wall would only reduce sound by 3 to 5 dB (not a significant decrease).
- Construction of a block wall is not a safety improvement and therefore it is not a qualifying expenditure with the existing funding sources for the project.

8. Why do trees have to be removed?

In order to provide sufficient cushion, the area 2'-3" from the face of the guardrail has to be free of permanent, immovable objects. Thus, the trees that are within this area have to be removed for safety purposes.

9. How many trees will be removed?

Approximately 15 trees will be removed as part of this project.

10. Will the trees be replaced? Will landscaping be included in this project?

Due to water conservation efforts, replacement trees and landscaping will not be incorporated in this phase of the project. Staff is working to extend a recycled water service line to the area which will provide a dedicated irrigation source for future landscaping.

11. When will construction start?

Construction will start upon issuance of a Rider permit to the Contractor by Caltrans, which is anticipated to occur in August 2016.