

Final Report: Palm Drive Street Lighting and Safety Improvement Project

City of Desert Hot Springs
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Prepared for the Mobile Source Air Pollution Review Committee (MSRC) under the AB 2766 Discretionary Fund Work Program

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Acknowledgements

This project would not have its success if it wasn't for the hard work and dedication from all that were involved. Omnis Inc., for engineering and designing services. This project presented unique challenges that their expertise was a direct asset. All American Asphalt, for constructing such an intense project and ensuring completion of a quality product. Wildan Group, for inspection services and their commitment to meticulous detail. Land Mark Geo-Engineers and Geologist, for providing accurate material testing and detailed reports. All City of Desert Hot Springs Staff involved for their dedication to providing the best customer service to its Citizens.

This report was submitted in fulfillment of #ML18022 and Palm Drive Street Lighting and safety Improvement Project by The City of Desert Hot Springs under the partial sponsorship of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). Work was completed as of June 19, 2020.

Disclaimer

The statement and conclusions in this report are those of the contractor and not necessarily those of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) or the Southern Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The mention of commercial products, their sources or their uses in connection with material reported is not to be construed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products.

Project Description & Work performed

This project included the design and construction of safety improvements which include 2,095 square feet of sidewalk improvements, 6 ADA ramps and ADA driveways, 1,210 square feet of cross gutter, construct 6,000 square feet of 6" thick AC pavement, 6,000 square feet of type II slurry, 6,500 square yards of cold mill AC pavement, construction of new buffered bike lane striping, 28 new street lights, additional pedestrian and bicycle safety signage's markings throughout the project area, and installation of conduit for future signal synchronization. These improvements will provide a safer pedestrian and bicycle access route to various schools, parks, transit route stops, commercial areas, and residential neighborhoods.

Problems Encountered

Palm Drive is the most used street in Desert Hot Springs. It serves as the main street to enter and exit the City. High volume of travelers effected by construction would back up traffic during peak hours. Weather conditions, such as high winds also had an impact on this project. COVID-19 virus and its restrictions impacted this project.

During peak hours of traffic, the Contractor would not perform work that would impact traffic. During extreme weather conditions, the Contractor would only perform work that could be completed safely during those conditions. The contractor utilized social distancing and wearing of masks to overcome the restrictions of COVID-19.

Emission Benefits

Palm Drive is the main street to enter and exit the City. In this section of Palm Drive from Two Bunch Palms Trail to Pierson Blvd, there are five (5) traffic signals. This section of road is the downtown area of Desert Hot Springs that serves multiple curb side businesses, multiple restaurants, two (2) gas stations, park access, and two (2) major shopping centers.

We expect to see a dramatic drop in vehicle idle time, with the future synchronization of traffic signals. This expected drop should reduce pollutants caused by long idle times at signals. With synchronization of the traffic signals, vehicles accessing Palm Drive from residential communities, businesses, the park, the hotel, and the shopping centers will have more opportunities to access more openings in traffic flow. This will lower unnecessary turns and lower idle time waiting for openings in traffic.

Public Outreach

The project was approved by City Council via various public hearings describing and identifying the project was funded through City Funds, Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) Grant Funds, and Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 3 Grant Funds. The City Council Public Hearings were held on March 8, 2018, and May 21, 2019, in which the public and City Council members had discussions about the project with only positive remarks, and the project along with the funding and expenses was approved unanimously on all occasions. The City also posted project information on the City website and continuously informed the public about project via the City's Facebook page. Notices to all the surrounding business and residents within the project area were notified by the City's Inspector and City's contractor in person and via a notice which contained project information.

Photographs



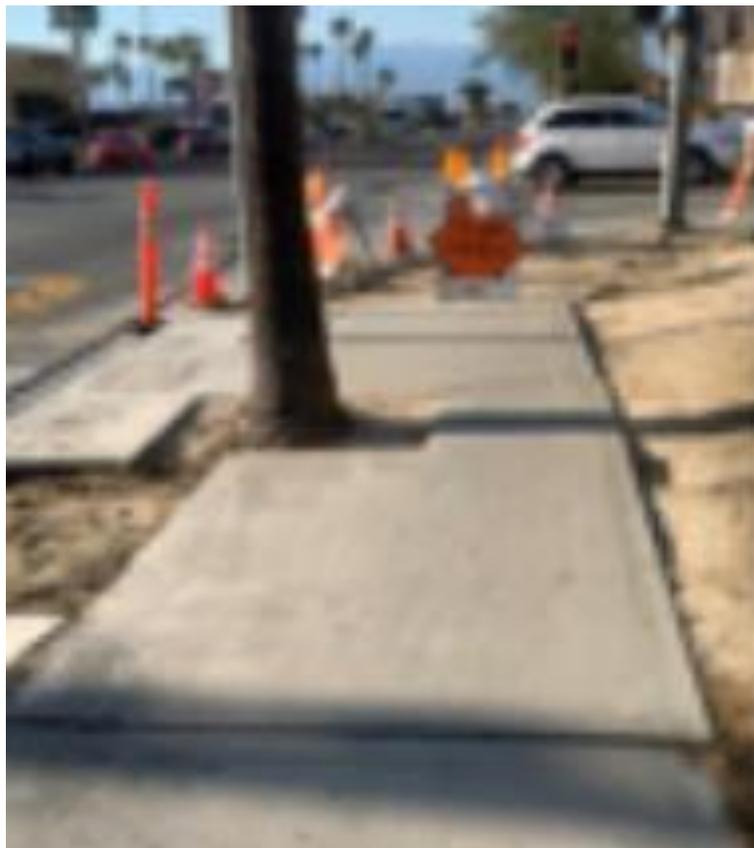
Removal of conflicting curb and gutter in front of a bus stop.



Removal and preparation for ADA ramps, curb and gutter.



Traffic control for manhole/valve can adjustment after installation of new asphalt installation and striping.



Removal and prep for ADA ramp and sidewalk.

Summary and Conclusions

This project included the design and construction of safety improvements which include, 2,095 square feet of sidewalk improvements, 6 ADA ramps and ADA driveways, 1,210 square feet of cross gutter, construct 6,000 square feet of 6" thick AC pavement, 6,000 square feet of type II slurry, 6,500 square yards of cold mill AC pavement, construction of new buffered bike lane striping, 28 new street lights and additional pedestrian and bicycle safety signage's markings throughout the project area, and installation of conduit for future signal synchronization. These improvements will provide a safer pedestrian and bicycle access route to various schools, parks, transit route stops, commercial areas, and residential neighborhoods.

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The installation of the conduit for future signal synchronization will have a major impact on lowering emissions. Less signal idle time and less idle time from cross traffic on Desert Hot Springs busiest street will have a major impact on lowering emission.