

May 21, 2020

Community Update

by John A. Corella, P.E. – Director of Engineering/Public Works



Cathedral City has just completed over \$2.0 million in paving work in four areas of the city. They include the West Whitewater Neighborhood Street Improvements that repaved Shifting Sands, Whispering Palms Trail and Sky Blue Water Trail from Ramon Road to Mission Indian Trail. The South Panorama Neighborhood Street Improvements repaved Avenida La Paloma, Avenida La Gaviota and Whispering Palms Trail from Ramon Road north to Baristo Road and Baristo Road from Landau to Whispering Palms Trail. The Avenida Ximino Neighborhood Street Improvements repaved and fix drainage on portions of Vega Road, Avenida Ximino, Susan Drive, Paulina Avenue, Walker Street, Joaquine Way and Perlita Road. Lastly, the Avenida Maravilla (La Pasada) Street Improvements repaved Avenida Maravilla from Vista Chino to the northerly limits of Avenida Maravilla in the La Pasada Community. All these Projects collectively represent a significant investment in the City's infrastructure.

Most of us at the City have been waiting for the Ofelia Bringas Memorial Bridge Project (formerly known as the Cathedral Canyon Bridge) to start and that day is now scheduled for June 15th. The Contractor (Ames Construction) was issued the Notice to Proceed and is required to complete the \$20 million Project in 480 working days. This translates to a completion day of April 26, 2022, or before (almost two years). This endeavor will require that all users of that portion of Cathedral Canyon Drive in the next two years to be very aware of the construction activities, road alterations, special construction warning signage and, above all, the construction workers on the Project. Even though a bypass road will be built by Ames as a fair-weather crossing at that location, it may not be the fastest route to your destination, and we encourage drivers to find alternate routes, such as Date Palm Drive, when possible.

Long awaited and overcoming many challenges, The Cathedral City Community Amphitheater stage has risen out of the Amphitheater Park and lights up the night just waiting for its first entertainment event. Sadly, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, performances on the stage will have to wait. If you have not seen this Project, I encourage you to take a detour when you are downtown, to drive by the Amphitheater. The Project is going through its last commissioning phases and final accessories are being placed. Just this past week, Staff conducted a "light burn"

at 9:00 p.m. which entails turning on all the Amphitheater and Park lights at the same time to inspect for potential lighting defects. I must say, that with the unique music box design of the stage, the expanse of the tiered grass levels and the multicolored lights glowing out of the stage, it was a sight to behold. Let showtime begin!

We have another Project that will be out to bid shortly in which motorists will see results by the end of the summer. Back in November of 2016, the City was awarded a Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant for the installation of advance dilemma zone detection systems for 20 of our current City signalized intersections. The Grant will include the installation of the pedestrian signal heads to be upgraded to the newer countdown style. The grant provides 100% of the \$1.674 million cost. The plans are completed, and the specifications are being made ready for the bidding process in the next few weeks.

What is an “advance dilemma zone detection system?” This is a series of components at the signalized intersection that will enhance safety by modifying the traffic signal control timing to reduce the number of drivers that may have difficulty deciding whether to stop or proceed during the yellow phase of the signal light. Statistically, this equipment should reduce the number of rear end crashes associated with unsafe stopping and angle crashes due to illegally continuing into an intersection during the red phase of the signal light.

The components being upgraded/replaced at our intersections will be the controllers (computerized brains of the intersection), the pedestrian heads (what you see when you are walking), new radar/video detections and other related accessories. The radar to be installed will detect vehicles 300 ft. (one football field) before the intersection, all very high tech to improve our intersections. I have attached one of the better schematics I’ve seen on how the system works.

If you have any questions regarding this Community Update and the Projects discussed, please call me, John A. Corella, P.E. at 760-770-0327 or email me at JCorella@cathedralcity.gov .

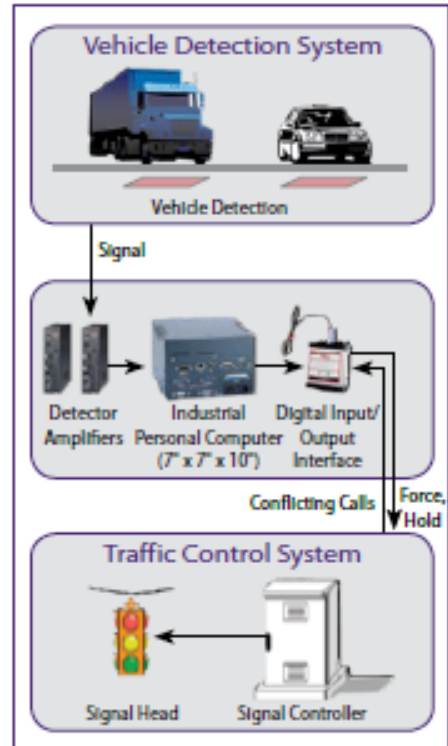


Figure 1: Advanced Dilemma-Zone Detection system components as applied in TxDOT Detection-Control System study referenced in this fact sheet

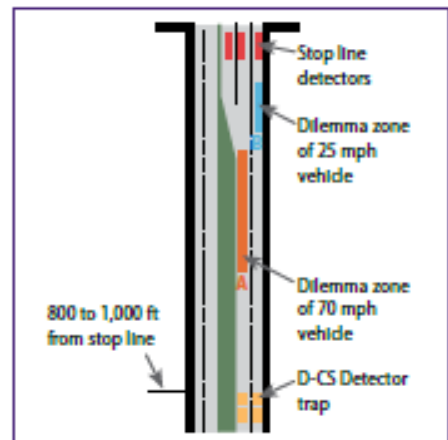


Figure 2: Advanced Dilemma-Zone Detection design as applied in TxDOT Detection-Control System study referenced in this fact sheet



Business Support

Cathedral City Economic Development

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Dedicate \$50 Million for Small Business Assistance

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a plan for distributing \$431 million in funding from the federal government, allocating \$50 million of that amount for a countywide small business assistance program. Riverside County Board Chair V. Manuel Perez envisions the program as providing grants of up to \$10,000 to local businesses that would not need to ...[Read more.](#)



Wide Variety of Programs Available for SCE Customers to Lower Cost

If you are enduring hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please know SCE will not disconnect your power for failure to make proper payments. SCE has temporarily suspended service disconnections for nonpayment and waiving late fees. If you are having trouble paying your bill, SCE encourages you to contact the SCE Customer Contact Center to talk about a payment extension ...[Read more.](#)



Riverside County Public Health Director Kim Saruwatari Explains Its COVID Data

Have you ever wondered why one day there will be no coronavirus cases reported in Cathedral City and then next day there are five cases? Riverside County Public Health Director Kim Saruwatari explains the data collected by the county and how they analyze that data to spot trends when dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about this process ...[Read more.](#)



Mayor Aguilar Discusses Cathedral City's COVID Response In This Week's CVWeekly

The Coachella Valley Weekly has an in depth article entitled, "Surviving COVID-19: The Health and Wealth of the Coachella Valley." The article interviews all of the Valley mayors, Supervisor Perez, and leaders of Valley organizations to get their thoughts on how we move forward with the pandemic. Mayor John Aguilar provides his perspective on how Cathedral City has been and ...[Read more.](#)



EVENTS



Cathedral City Postpones Special Events Until Further Notice

The Governor has issued a Stay at Home Order and the Riverside County Public Health Officer has issued social distancing orders through June 10, 2020. The City of Cathedral City will suspend all special events until further notice. [Read more.](#)



For Questions or Comments, Contact Chris Parman, Communications and Events Manager
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