



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Keis and Members of the City Council

FROM: Bill Direks, Public Works Director
Bryce Shearen, CPRP, Parks & Recreation/Community Services Manager

DATE: November 17, 2021

RE: Flashing Crosswalk System Installation – Labore Road Trail Crossing

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

Motion to approve the installation of a flashing crosswalk system at the Labore Road trail crossing.

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year, city staff removed the flashing crosswalk system from the Eli/Desoto intersection near Little Canada Elementary School and changed the intersection to a three-way stop. The flashing crosswalk system that was previously installed at this intersection is currently in storage and is available for installation at another pedestrian location in Little Canada.

One of the possible pedestrian crossing locations that has been considered is the existing crosswalk where the Thunder Bay-Westwind Trail crosses Labore Road. Staff has heard from several residents and a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission that additional safety measures are needed at this crosswalk needs to be more conspicuous to oncoming vehicles. After evaluating locations for the flashing crosswalk system, staff has determined that the Labore Road crossing for the Thunder Bay-Westwind trail would be the most effective use of it.

The trail crossing is mid-block with no controlled intersections within 650 feet and the speed limit on Labore Road is 30 MPH. The Thunder Bay-Westwind Trail sees a lot of foot and bike traffic and it is also a connection to the Maplewood trail system. Vehicles are required to yield to pedestrians entering or in a crosswalk, and a [flashing crosswalk system](#) at this location would make the crosswalk more visible to drivers when pedestrians are present.

There is no cost involved in installing the system at the Labore Road crosswalk as it has already been paid for. There would only be a couple of hours of staff time required to get it up and running.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approving the installation of a flashing crosswalk system at the Thunder Bay-Westwind Trail crossing of Labore Road.

