State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

California State Transportation Agency

Memorandum

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To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Maintenance and Operations

Date: September 18, 2014

File:

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Subject: **INSTALLATION OF ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS**

Due to an increase in accessibility requests for the installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS), District staff has posed a significant number of questions recently regarding Traffic Operations Policy Direction (TOPD) 12-01, "Pedestrian Clearance Time", specifically about the activation of APS. After some analysis and discussion we have determined that revisions to specific areas of TOPD 12-01 are necessary to clarify the Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') direction regarding APS. In the interim, this memorandum supersedes direction provided in TOPD 12-01 until the TOPD is revised or changes are made to the current California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD).

If an intersection or crossing is signalized and there is pedestrian use allowed then the signalized pedestrian crossings must be made equally accessible to persons with disabilities with the use of APS. Therefore, the following sections of TOPD 12-01 shall be modified as noted.

1) TOPD 12-01, 3rd paragraph under "Implementation of the APS" states "Upon completion of the APS installation, if there is no immediate need for the APS function, then the system will be disabled until such need is determined."

   Interim Direction: All APS installations shall be turned on immediately upon completion.

2) TOPD12-01, 7th paragraph under "Implementation of the APS" states "Installation of APS system is not required at any signalized intersection or pedestrian crossing that is determined to be not feasible due to the complexity of the intersection geometry, uncontrolled vehicular movements and traffic signal phasing".

   Interim Direction: Installation of an APS system is required at all signalized pedestrian crossings. Timing of installation shall be as noted below.

   <u>New Signalized Pedestrian Crossings</u>

   1. APS shall be installed and activated at all new signalized pedestrian crossings.

   <u>Existing Signalized Pedestrian Crossings</u>

   1. In response to an ADA access request or
   2. In conjunction with other electrical work being performed at an intersection either as part of a new project or a current project (but mandatory if 50% or more of the existing pedestrian signals or pedestrian pushbuttons are being modified) or

3. As funding becomes available for ADA Transition Plan barrier removal projects.

APS units shall be installed and programmed in conformance with CAMUTCD Section 4E.09-13.

Installation of APS will not require upgrading of other ADA components (such as curb ramps or sidewalk) unless those components are disturbed.

Un-signalized pedestrian crossings at signalized intersections may remain un-signalized.

This guidance applies also for In-Road Warning Lights installations.

3) TOPD 12-01, 8th paragraph under "Implementation of the APS" recommends the use of an NCHRP Intersection Worksheet to develop ratings (priorities) for installation of APS at existing intersections and outlines a timeframe for completing these ratings.

Interim Direction: As part of the Caltrans' ADA Transition Plan, all existing signalized pedestrian crossing will receive a rating based on various attributes such as proximity to public buildings, schools, commercial districts and other high pedestrian use areas. No additional rating by the district is necessary. These ratings can assist the district in developing district-wide priorities for APS system installations as noted in item number three of the Existing Signalized Pedestrian Crossings above.

If you have any questions please contact Darold Heikens at (916) 654-3507 or by e-mail at <darold.heikens@dot.ca.gov>.

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