



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** November 13, 2012

**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council

**From:** Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation

**Subject:** Sunset Boulevard Intersections at Roxbury, Bedford and Camden Drives Improvements - Six months status report

**Attachments:**

1. Approved Alternative
2. Pictures of test striping and delineators
3. Traffic counts charts

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides the status of a test of placing median islands using delineators, striping and signage at the Sunset Boulevard intersections of Roxbury, Bedford and Camden Drives. The City Council directed staff to implement this test to determine if median islands would effectively reduce the number of broadside accidents that have occurred at these intersections before considering construction of permanent median Islands.

### **DISCUSSION**

In 2000, the City commissioned a traffic study from Parsons Transportation Group to review the three intersections. Parsons Transportation Group recommended that traffic signals be installed at all three intersections to address the incidences of traffic accidents while maintaining the existing balance of traffic flow in the area. The City did not pursue the project or conduct public outreach but identified it as a priority in the City's Capital Improvement Program.

In 2010, the City Council/Traffic & Parking Commission (TPC) Liaison Committee agreed public outreach should be conducted and directed staff to explore improvement alternatives for the intersections, including alternatives that did not require traffic signals. Staff retained Iteris, Inc. to prepare a traffic study and facilitate public outreach. The TPC held four meetings specifically dedicated to this project and evaluated nine potential improvement alternatives.

The City Council reviewed alternatives to improve the Sunset Boulevard intersections at the December 6, 2011 City Council meeting. The City Council concurred with the majority of the Traffic & Parking Commission that the alternative with median improvements at each of the intersections was the best option to improve these intersections. As an interim step, the City Council asked staff to develop a striping and signage plan, and consider use of delineators, to preclude through movements across Sunset Boulevard and left-turns from the north/south streets and return with an evaluation in Fall 2012.

Staff completed installation of the interim plan in March 2012. A six-month review (April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012) follows:

- Three accidents occurred during the six-month period near the Bedford intersection but none of the accidents were similar to the broadside type accidents that previously occurred by vehicles going through the intersection. No accidents occurred at or near the Roxbury or Camden Cañon Drive intersections. Six months is generally considered a short period to evaluate accident data. However, between 2005 and 2010, the number of accidents that occurred during a comparable period ranged between 1 and 8. Typically, one year history of collisions would be needed to be able to make an accurate evaluation of safety improvements by comparing before and after collisions.
- As anticipated, the traffic volume of Whittier Drive and Benedict Cañon/Cañon Drive has increased throughout the day. As shown on attached diagrams, a comparison of traffic counts before and after the plan indicates a 13% increase on Whittier and 23% increase on Benedict Cañon Drive. In addition, the traffic volume of Rodeo Drive south of Sunset has increased by about 10% and the Level of Service at the 4-way stop intersection of Rodeo/Elevado has deteriorated. Some of this increase may be attributed to other factors, such as traffic diversion related to construction on I-405.
- Staff has received minimal comments regarding the test project. Two or three complaints were received immediately after installation. A lead proponent of the improvements whose residence is near one of the intersections has noted the improvements have greatly improved the situation.

The existing operations will be continued. Staff will forward a recommendation to the City Council in early 2013 to engage a firm to:

- conduct a safety study of existing measures, study the impacts to adjacent intersections and recommend mitigation measures,
- design permanent median islands which would involve modifications to the curb and gutter and improve the operation and aesthetics of intersections, and any mitigation measures for adjacent intersections, and
- prepare plans and specifications to install permanent median islands any other approved mitigation measures at adjacent intersections.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

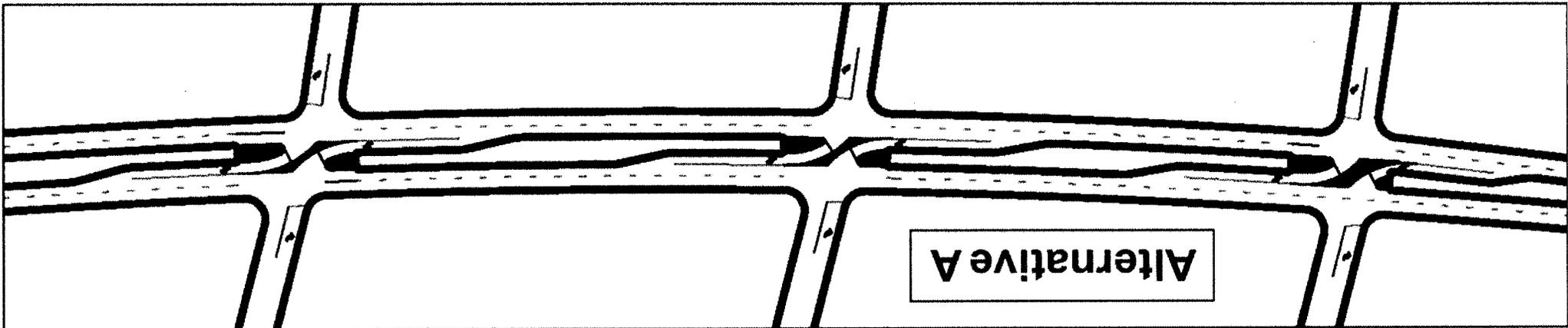
A preliminary cost estimate to install median islands, developed during the initial study for the Sunset Boulevard Intersection Improvements, is \$750,000.

**RECOMMENDATION**

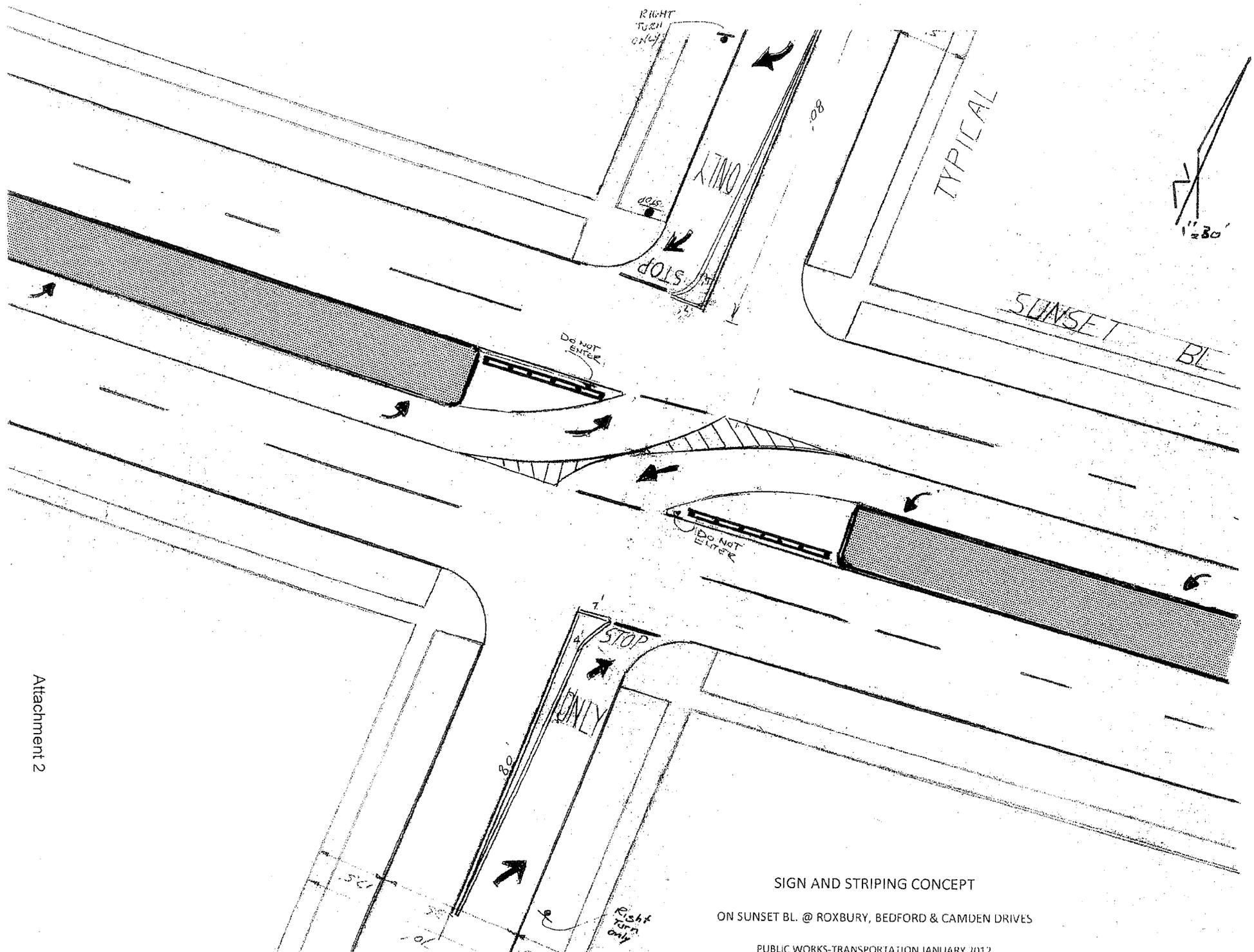
This item is for the City Council's information.

 David Gustavson  
Approved By

# **Attachment 1**



Alternative A



SIGN AND STRIPING CONCEPT

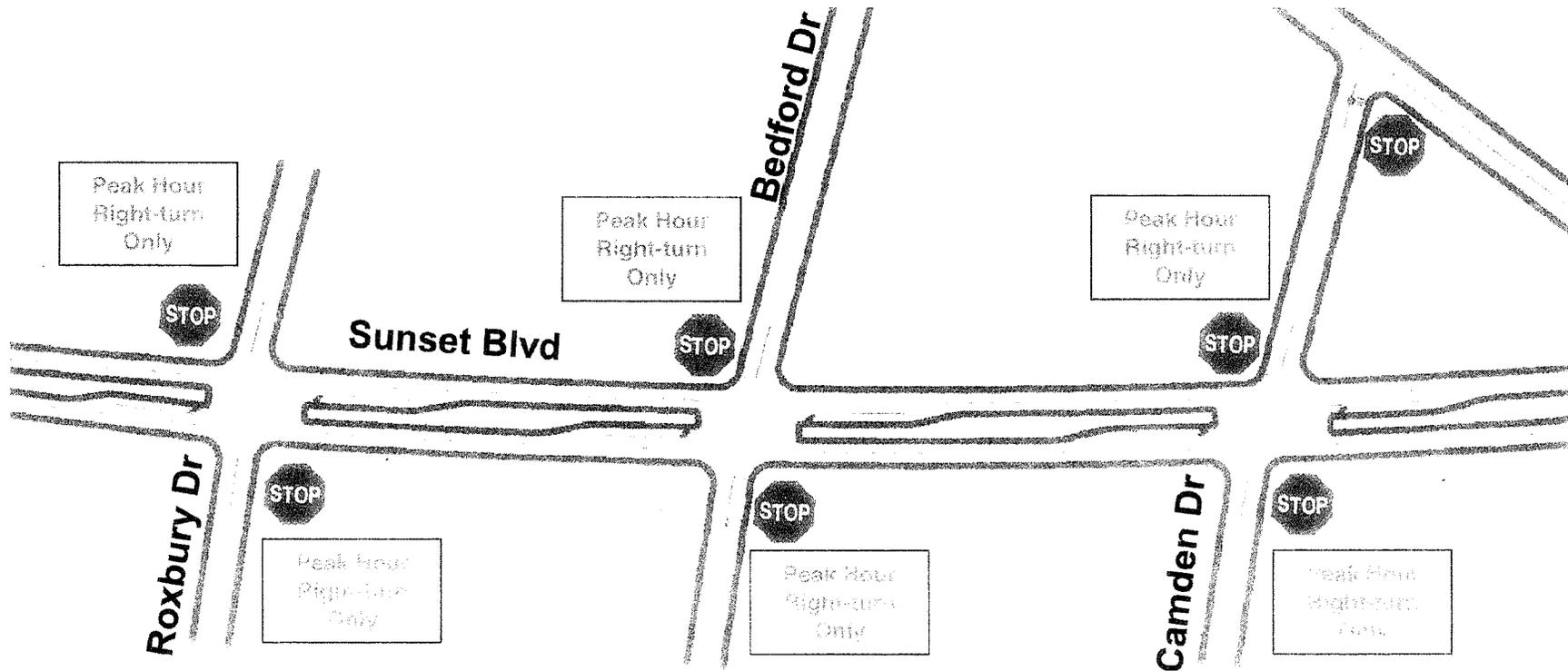
ON SUNSET BL. @ ROXBURY, BEDFORD & CAMDEN DRIVES

PUBLIC WORKS-TRANSPORTATION JANUARY 2012



# Alternative A

## Peak Period Turn Restrictions



Attachment 1



# **Attachment 2**

# Westbound Sunset at Bedford

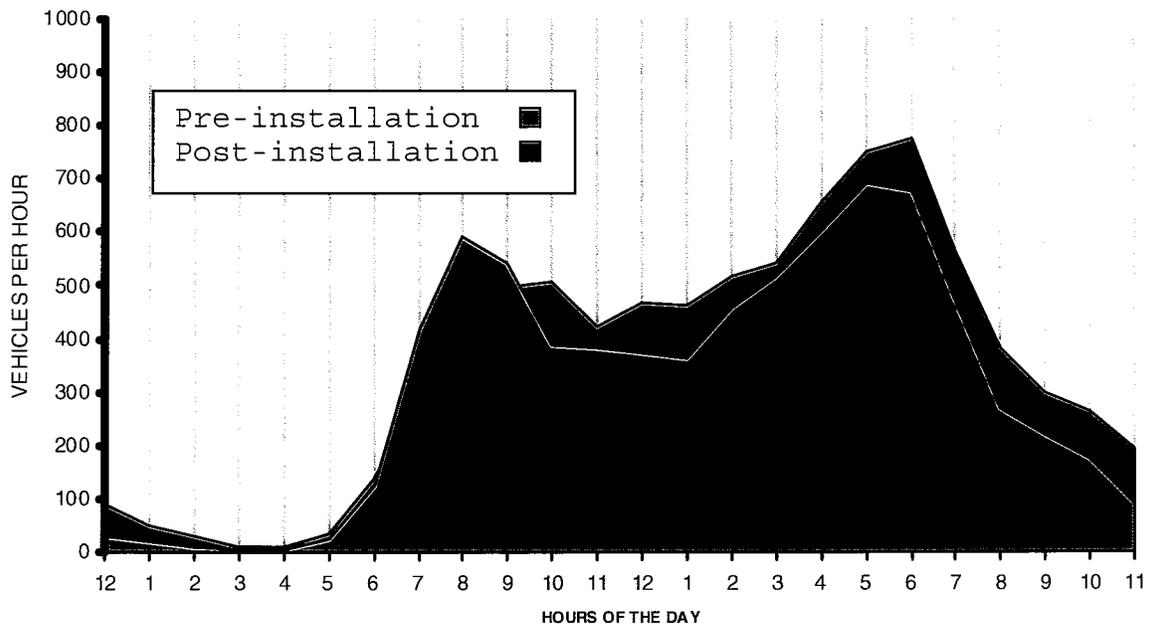


# Northwest at Bedford



# **Attachment 3**

WHITTIER AT SUNSET 2012  
 24-HOUR TRAFFIC  
 WEEKDAY AVERAGE  
 NORTH AND SOUTH APPROACHES



BENEDICT CAÑON AT SUNSET 2012  
 24-HOUR TRAFFIC  
 WEEKDAY AVERAGE  
 NORTH AND SOUTH APPROACHES

