



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** May 7, 2013  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation  
**Subject:** CROSSWALK ON WILSHIRE BOULEVARD BETWEEN CLARK  
AND SWALL DRIVES  
**Attachments:** 1. Location Map

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The FY2012/13 Adopted Capital Improvement Budget includes construction of a mid-block signalized pedestrian activated crossing on Wilshire Boulevard between Clark and Swall Drives to facilitate pedestrian crossings primarily related to the Audi dealership that has showrooms on both sides of Wilshire Boulevard. This report provides staff's plans for this crosswalk in advance of staff's recommendation to award a contract for construction planned for June 2013.

### **DISCUSSION**

Audi Beverly Hills opened in January 2012 at the former BMW dealership site. The main showroom is at 8850 Wilshire Boulevard (south side) with an additional showroom and service center across the street on the north side. Audi Beverly Hills approached City staff about placing a crosswalk to facilitate pedestrian access between their two buildings. With signalized intersections located over a block away at La Peer Drive and Robertson Boulevard, customers frequently cross Wilshire midblock between Clark and Swall Drives without any crosswalk protection. The California Vehicle Code allows this type of crossing but unlike a crosswalk, the pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles on the roadway (CVC 21950a).

Staff advised Audi Beverly Hills that a safer option would be to install a mid-block signalized pedestrian activated crosswalk similar to the mid-block crosswalks on North Beverly and Canon Drives in the Business Triangle. Staff does not support uncontrolled mid-block crosswalks due to concerns that pedestrians develop a false sense of security assuming that all drivers can see the crosswalk and would stop and give the right of way. Placing a signal at the Swall Drive intersection (instead of a mid-block) could increase traffic on the residential street and would likely meet resident opposition. Audi

Beverly Hills agreed to contribute 50% of the total cost of the signalized crosswalk design and construction. Staff conducted pedestrian counts on the afternoons of Thursday, April 4, 2013 and Saturday, April 6, 2013. Between 5 and 20 pedestrians crossed Wilshire at this location per hour. Almost all of the pedestrian crossings appeared to be related to the Audi Dealership.

The proposed 2013-14 Capital Improvement Program Budget includes funding to place a similar controlled mid-block crosswalk near the intersection of Palm Drive and Wilshire Boulevard to replace the existing uncontrolled crosswalk.

Staff retained Iteris, Inc. to design the crosswalk (taking into account existing geometry, sight distance, location of on-street parking, power source and lighting conditions, vehicle turn movements, interconnection with adjacent signal and construction of new required ADA ramps); and prepare construction documents (including signal interconnects, signing and striping).

The crosswalk design is complete and staff is proceeding with obtaining bids from qualified contractors and anticipates preparing a contract award for City Council consideration in May or June. Staff estimates that construction will be completed within 150 calendar days of contract award, depending on the availability of signal poles and equipment.

Staff will also send notices to residents of the 100 blocks of North Clark Drive, North Swall Drive, South Clark Drive and South Swall Drive providing information about the mid-block crosswalk in advance of City Council consideration of the contract award.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Staff estimates the total cost of the crosswalk will be \$150,000 with the costs to be split between the City and Audi Beverly Hills. Funding is included in the FY 2012-13 Capital Improvement Project Budget (CIP #367). The agreement with Iteris, Inc. is in an amount not to exceed \$11,100.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends proceeding with obtaining bids from qualified contractors for this project.

Mahdi Aluzri  
Approved By



# **Attachment 1**

