



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2020
TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager
FROM: Mary Grace Houlihan, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: **Update On Doyle Street Temporary Traffic Modifications Made To Accommodate Safe Social Distancing Along The Emeryville Greenway During The COVID-19 Pandemic Event**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council receive this update regarding the Doyle Street temporary traffic modifications made to address social distancing space for pedestrian and bicycle activity, and provide input on the effectiveness of the modifications.

BACKGROUND

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 16, 2020, the Health Officer of the County of Alameda issued an Order requiring residents to shelter in place. That Order was superseded on March 31, 2020 by Order No. 20-04, which further defined limitations and exemptions to the original Order. Section 13(k) of Order 20-04 provided a definition of safe social distancing protocols as follows:

For purposes of this Order, "Social Distancing Requirements" means:

- i. Maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from individuals who are not part of the same household or living unit;
- ii. Frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer that is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as effective in combatting COVID-19; Order of the Alameda County Health Officer to Shelter in Place No. 20-04 Page 12 of 13
- iii. Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or fabric or, if not possible, into the sleeve or elbow (but not into hands); and
- iv. Avoiding all social interaction outside the household when sick with a fever or cough.

All individuals must strictly comply with Social Distancing Requirements, except to the limited extent necessary to provide care (including childcare, adult or senior care, care to individuals with special needs, and patient care); as necessary to carry out the work of Essential Businesses, Essential Governmental Functions, or provide for Minimum Basic Operations; or as otherwise expressly provided in this Order.

Persons sheltering in place are encouraged by the Order and Public Health Officials to exercise in the outdoors but to practice safe social distancing while doing so.

DISCUSSION

The Emeryville Greenway runs through the City in a north-south direction with a portion of the Greenway running along the Doyle Street corridor between 59th and Ocean Streets. The multi-use travel path is limited to the sidewalk along the portion of the Greenway. In an effort to increase space along this portion of the Greenway in order to allow for outdoor recreational activity while also allowing for socially distancing requirements, staff assessed alternatives to closing portions of Doyle Street and restricting traffic to one direction. This alternative was deemed feasible due to the reduced traffic experienced as a result of the Pandemic.

The plan was laid out and reviewed by staff to address safety, emergency access, to permit continued access to businesses and residents through at least one driveway entrance, and to separate bicycle and pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic along Doyle Street. To safely allow for these modifications, temporary water barriers and traffic signage were included in compliance with traffic safety design standards. Police and Fire Department staff were also consulted.

To implement the plan, staff processed the following:

- Temporary Event Permit to address Social Distancing due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Event
- All business along the Doyle Street frontage between 59th and Ocean Streets were noticed via email
- Flyers were hand-delivered to all residents fronting Doyle Street from 59th to Ocean Streets
- A notice was published on the City's website
- "No Parking" signage was placed on portions of Doyle Street on Friday April 17, 2020 to allow for 72-hour noticing.
- The City Council was notified by the City Manager

The installation of barriers and signage was performed on Monday April 20, 2020.

Staff has received public response to the temporary modifications and made some minor modifications to address functionality. Two residents expressed concern regarding the removal of parking. Staff has inspected the corridor during early hours, mid-day, evening and on weekends and parking spaces have shown to be available during each inspection.

FISCAL IMPACT

Costs associated with the water barrier rental and temporary signage have been incurred and are being paid through the Public Works Operating budget.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

City Staff provided email notification to businesses, hand delivered notices to residents along Doyle Street and provided a posting on the City website.

CONCLUSION

Providing increased space for pedestrians and bicycles to practice safe social distancing along the constrained portion of the Emeryville Greenway on Doyle Street is necessary during this time of shelter in place due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

PREPARED BY: Mary Grace Houlihan, Public Works Director

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Christine Daniel, City Manager