



COUNCIL AGENDA: 05-22-12
ITEM: 2.20

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Dennis Hawkins, CMC
City Clerk

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 5-9-12

SUBJECT: NAMING OF A NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

RECOMMENDATION

As recommended by the Transportation and Environment Committee on May 7, 2012 and outlined in the attached memo previously submitted to the Transportation and Environment Committee, name the pedestrian bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks near Blossom Hill Road in memory of Alexander Arriaga.



Memorandum

TO: TRANSPORTATION AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Hans F. Larsen

**SUBJECT: NAMING OF NEW PEDESTRIAN
BRIDGE OVER UPRR NEAR
BLOSSOM HILL ROAD**

DATE: 04-18-12

Approved

Date

4/26/12

RECOMMENDATION

1. Conduct a public hearing in accordance with City Council Policy 7-5 (Naming of City-Owned Land and Facilities) for the naming of the pedestrian bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks near Blossom Hill Road in memory of Alexander Arriaga.
2. Recommend to the City Council the naming of the pedestrian bridge "Xander's Crossing".

BACKGROUND

In February 2012, Councilmember Kalra submitted a nomination form to the City Clerk, nominating "Xander's Crossing" as the name for the pedestrian overcrossing near Blossom Hill Road. Upon the recommendation of the City Clerk and in accordance with Council Policy 7-5, "Naming of City-Owned Land and Facilities", the Rules and Open Government Committee subsequently referred the naming of the pedestrian overcrossing to the Department of Transportation and the Transportation and Environment Committee.

ANALYSIS

This area of San José is surrounded by residential, commercial retail developments, and a neighborhood school on either side of Monterey Road and the UPRR corridor. Growth in this area has resulted in an increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic over the years. There are currently at-grade crossings at other locations that facilitate pedestrian and bicyclist crossing over the UPRR corridor, and signalized intersections to facilitate crossing Monterey Road. However, the nearest legal at-grade crossing is approximately 0.5 miles north of this location at Chynoweth Avenue. There have been a number of pedestrian fatality incidents over the years as a result of illegal crossings of the railroad tracks.

The pedestrian overcrossing is being built where two-year old Alexander Arriaga was struck and killed by an Amtrak train in 2005. Alexander's tragic death was the catalyst for the community and various governmental agencies to come together to fund construction of the bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks and Monterey Road.

Staff has evaluated the nomination of "Xander's Crossing" as the name of the overcrossing and finds it consistent with Section I(3)(a) of City Policy 7-5. Section I(3)(a) states that consideration shall be given to the naming of an individual if "the individual has been deceased for at least 5 years, and made significant contributions to the City through a long-term commitment to providing benefit to the residents and visitors to San José." The tragic accident involving Alexander Arriaga is more than 5 years ago. The direct benefit to the community associated with this project is in providing a safe route for pedestrians and bicyclists in an area and the avoidance of future incidents. Further, naming the pedestrian overcrossing in honor of Alexander serves as a reminder as to how his life contributed to the development of wide-spread community support to increase pedestrian safety and the well-being of the community.

The construction of the Blossom Hill Pedestrian Overcrossing is scheduled to be completed by mid-2012 and will be owned and operated by the City of San José. This 315-foot long prefabricated steel bridge will create safe access for both pedestrians and bicyclists over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks and Monterey Road just south of the Blossom Hill Road overpass.

Staff requests the Transportation and Environmental Committee to conduct a public hearing on the naming of the pedestrian overcrossing and to recommend the City Council approval of the naming of the pedestrian overcrossing as "Xander's Crossing." Subject to the approval of this recommendation, staff will explore options for the placement of "Xander's Crossing" signage and/or markers adjacent to the pedestrian overcrossing.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

The recommendation does not meet the criterion above. However, this memorandum will be posted on the City's website as part of the Transportation and Environment Committee agenda process. In addition, the notice for the public hearing is available on the District 2 website and was discussed at the District 2 Quarterly Community Meeting on March 29, 2012.

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

04-18-12

Subject: Naming of new pedestrian bridge over UPRR near Blossom Hill Road

Page 3 of 3

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Clerk's Office, the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Budget Office, the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, and the Office of Councilmember Kalra.

CEQA

Exempt, File No. PP10-054.

/s/

HANS F. LARSEN
Director of Transportation

For questions please contact Ray Salvano, Division Manager for Regional Transportation Projects, at (408) 975-3706.