

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JUNE 14, 2006

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: KEN BERKMAN, CITY ENGINEER

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ON KANAN ROAD AT THE NORTHBOUND 101 FREEWAY ON RAMP AND CANWOOD STREET

It has been recently brought to staff's attention that there is a potentially hazardous situation in the vicinity of the Kanan Road/101 Freeway/Canwood Street area. Specifically, there appear to be drivers traveling southbound on Kanan Road who will "cut-in" to the designated right-turn lanes from just north of Canwood Street to the northbound 101 Freeway on-ramp to get on the northbound 101 Freeway, thus crossing the solid white lane stripe or changing lanes in the intersection to do so.

While these actions are State Vehicle Code violations and staff has no knowledge of accidents in the area due to cut-in traffic, it appears additional measures are justified. Given the ongoing Kanan Road Interchange Project work, staff believes temporarily installing physical barriers in this area to prevent accidents or possible "road rage" incidents is warranted. The barriers would consist of 42-inch-high delineators installed at 20-foot intervals, which would be in place until the interchange work provides for the expected traffic flow improvements (see attached aerial photo).

The City Traffic Engineer has reviewed and approved this plan of action. However, staff must emphasize that this area is currently under construction as part of the Kanan Interchange Project. For the next month or two, there will be ongoing demolition, electrical and signal work, along with construction of concrete infrastructure. This work will require several different traffic control plans to be deployed, with different lanes being taken within this time period. As such, staff believes the current prudent course of action is to notify the Sheriff's Department of the issue and re-evaluate the situation after this phase of construction is completed, so as not to negatively affect construction or cause other traffic related problems.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council:

1. Direct staff to notify the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department of the cut-in traffic problems on southbound Kanan Road in the 101 Freeway/Canwood Street area; and
2. Re-evaluate the possibility of installing the temporary traffic control devices described in this report in the area once construction in the area is complete.