

October 21, 2013

Oakland's Public Works staff met with residents of the Glenview District in May of 2013 to hear their concerns about traffic safety, in particular along Park Boulevard. From that meeting, we decided to explore a comprehensive traffic calming measure sometimes referred to as "road diet". A road diet reduces the number of existing auto lanes to control auto speeds and create more room for pedestrians and bicyclists. Because a road diet has the potential to affect traffic safety and flow in a very significant way, we must follow legal requirements and conduct a course of technical analyses before we can make it happen.

The first step is to secure the necessary funding to pay for the study. The Transportation Planning & Funding Division has included Park Boulevard (from Excelsior Avenue to Leimert Boulevard) in a multi-street scope of work to study the conversion of auto lanes to bike lanes. Specific to Park Boulevard in the Glenview, the study will evaluate the technical feasibility of reconfiguring the roadway from two lanes in each direction to one lane plus a bike lane in each direction. The multi-street scope of work was packaged as a grant application and submitted to the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) in September. We anticipate a decision from ACTC in early 2014. If the application is successful, the project schedule will be determined based on the details of the grant award. Upon completion of work products for the study, the results would be shared with community stakeholders. If the project is feasible and supported by community stakeholders, we would initiate the formal review and approval process by City Council which includes environmental review.

In the mean time, we are looking at two particular locations on Park Boulevard which have been the subject of community inquiries in the past—the marked crosswalks at 13th Avenue and Everett/El Centro Avenues. We are in the process of gathering more recent information about auto speeds and accident history. This information in conjunction with our field observations will help us decide what, or whether, crossing improvements are needed at these locations. We hope to provide a summary of our findings within the next two weeks. Please stay tuned.

For more information about our traffic calming efforts on Park Boulevard, please contact Darian Avelino, Transportation Engineer, at (510)238-6602 or ddavelino@oaklandnet.com.