

Community Focus Statement C: Become a model gateway community to Joshua Tree National Park.

Action Statement C.6: Construct a lighted crosswalk at the intersection of Twentynine Palms highway and Sunset Road.

6

Benchmark: Obtain community and Caltrans approval and funding for installing a lighted crosswalk.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Lighted crosswalk: \$50,000–\$100,000; Crosswalk (small signal): \$200,000



Pedestrian crossing with a Pedestrian-actuated Hybrid Beacon (PHB). This device is extremely effective in stopping vehicles for pedestrian crossings where regular traffic signals are not warranted. Photo source: Michael Baker International

As the westernmost intersection in downtown Joshua Tree, the Sunset Road crossing of Twentynine Palms Highway is an important crossing for pedestrians venturing from commercial establishments and residential neighborhoods on one side of the highway to the other. Because the intersection currently lacks any traffic control measures and demarcated crosswalks, it is dangerous for pedestrians to cross the four-lane highway. The intersection is especially dangerous at night and during other periods of low visibility.

To provide a safer pedestrian environment

at the intersection, a lighted crosswalk can be installed across the highway.

A lighted crosswalk, also referred to as an embedded flashing-light system or in-pavement flashing-light system, includes a demarcated crosswalk, painted on the roadway surface and/or composed of pavers installed within the roadway, and a series of flashing lights installed in the pavement along both sides of the crossing. The number and configuration of lights depends on the width of the roadway. For wider roadways, such as Twentynine Palms Highway, lights are often arranged in rows that extend away from the crosswalk, providing motorists with advance warning of a pedestrian’s presence on the crosswalk. The lights may be triggered in passive fashion by a pedestrian being detected upon entering a crosswalk by motion-detecting device or in an active manner by a pedestrian pushing a button placed along the sidewalk adjacent to the crossing. To maximize pedestrian safety, a lighted crosswalk may be installed in combination with signage, pedestrian refuge areas, traffic calming measures, and/or Complete Streets approaches.

The community should encourage Caltrans to include one or more lighted crosswalks at the intersection of Twentynine Palms Highway and Sunset Road in the community’s capital improvement plan. The crosswalks may also be planned and constructed in coordination with traffic calming measures along Highway 62 (Action Statement

C.5), pedestrian refuge areas (Action Statement C.7), and/or Complete Streets improvements (Action Statement E.4).

Action Statements C5, C6, and C7 could be considered together.

*Morongo Basin Active Transportation Plan was accepted by the Board of Supervisors in 2019. The Plan identifies opportunities for active transportation for the Morongo Basin Region. The plan can be used as a resource for transportation grants for walkways and bike paths.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a committee to coordinate lighted crosswalk construction	Champion	Month 1	Community Service Area Guidelines
2. Committee meets with the Joshua Tree County Service Area (CSA) County Special Districts Department to discuss crosswalk and available funding opportunities.	Committee	Months 1 – 12	http://www.sbcounty.gov/lafco/items/201004/item_9c.pdf
3. Get Caltrans approval of crosswalk.	Committee	Months 1 – 12	Joshua Tree CSA 20 http://www.joshuatreecanpark.org/
4. Develop a request for proposal for installing a lighted crosswalk at the intersection of Twentynine Palms Highway and Sunset Road and present to Caltrans	Committee	Months 13 – 14	Joshua Tree Community Plan http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/lus/communityplans/joshuatreecp.pdf
5. Expand Joshua Tree County Service Area to include a special district for streets	Committee, Special Districts, CSA property owners	Year 2 - 3	CalTrans Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices
6. Secure funding	Committee, Joshua Tree County Service Area, Special Districts Department	Year 2 - 3	http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/camutcd/ FHWA Pedsafe http://www.pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/
7. Work to identify a consultant to be awarded the project to install the lighted crosswalk.	Committee with Caltrans	Year 2 - 3	Joshua Tree National Park Shuttle Information
8. Award the contract to a consultant for the development of plans to construct the lighted crosswalk with the oversight of the Special Districts and the Joshua Tree County Service Area.	Caltrans	Years 2 - 3	https://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm
9. Approve plans. Seek construction funding through available grants and measures.	Caltrans and Committee	Years 2 - 6	