



COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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February 3, 2021

Councilmember Buscaino

councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

Dear Councilmember Buscaino:

At a recent public meeting of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, the following resolution was passed by the Board of Directors:

REQUESTED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF THE 110/47 OFF RAMP AND 47 TERMINUS ON GAFFEY

Be It Resolved that the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the opportunities detailed in the attached letter requesting further improvements in the area of the 110/47 off ramp and 47 terminus on Gaffey.

Please contact Robin Rudisill, Chair of the CSPNC Planning Committee; at 310-721-2343 should you have any questions related to this letter and resolution.

Sincerely,

Doug Epperhart, President

On behalf of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board

CC:

Councilmember Buscaino

councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

Alison Becker

Senior Advisor Councilmember Buscaino

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Aksel Palacios

Planning Deputy Councilmember Buscaino

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December 15, 2020

Councilman Joe Buscaino VIA EMAIL

RE: BEAUTIFICATION AT THE TERMINUS OF 110/47 AT GAFFEY ST

The ongoing major landscaping on the public land between the terminus of the 47 highway and 110 freeway at Gaffey Street has brought to our attention other opportunities to visually and functionally enhance the surrounding area. This location is effectively the gateway to San Pedro and the starting point for the earlier Great Streets project on Gaffey Street. South of the Gaffey Street Pedestrian Bridge are landscaped parks which exist in sharp contrast to the unkempt area just to the north.

1. Bridges

The condition of the Works Progress Administration-era Gaffey Street and Elberon bridges are in a state of deferred maintenance and disrepair. Physical damage to the Gaffey Street Bridge from vehicular collisions in at least two locations has not been addressed aside from temporary fencing (figure 1), three of the eight art deco streetlights are nonfunctional.



Figure 1.

The Elberon Bridge is in less structural distress but has been defaced in years past with graffiti, the repair of which has been limited to mismatched paint which leaves this beautiful bridge with a rundown appearance (figure 2).



Figure 2.

Proposed remediation and improvements:

- Repair the damaged and missing concrete railing structure of the Gaffey Street Bridge along the west side as illustrated above.
- Repair the three nonfunctional historic streetlights on the Gaffey Street Bridge. Consider upgrading the bulbs in all the lights to LED as possible.
- Remove the multi-color paint from the Elberon Bridge and clean the underlying graffiti

2. Pedestrian access and safety

The use of the sidewalk along the Gaffey Street bridge is hazardous due to the amount and nature of traffic along this intersection of three major vehicular arteries which is illustrated by the structural damage above. Also due to the volume of traffic it remains hazardous for pedestrians to use the crosswalks at Gaffey and Summerland. The nearest alternative crosswalk is several blocks away. Additional crosswalks were proposed on the east side of Gaffey at the terminus and onramp for the 110 in the Great Streets program but none on the east side of Gaffey at the 47 (see figure 3). The frequently-used bus stops northbound on Gaffey Street and both east- and westbound on Summerland are uncovered and exposed (figure 4).

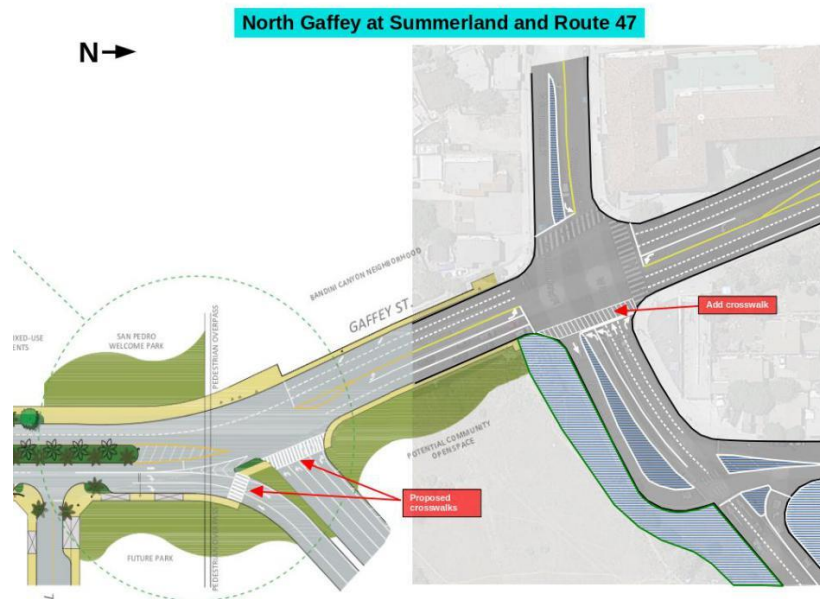


Figure 3.



Figure 4.

Proposed remediation and improvements:

- Install a crosswalk on the east side of Gaffey Street at the 47 terminus (see figure 3).
- Install period-appropriate decorative bollards along the sidewalk to provide a barrier between traffic and pedestrian traffic. See example (figure 5).
- Install yellow-flashing crosswalk in-use indicator lights in the pavement
- Install a canopy above the bus stops



Figure 5.

3. Lane improvements

The dense traffic at these intersections is made worse due to a lack of right-turn lanes at the 110 and 47 termini and a lack of a left-turn signal at Summerland Ave. When these intersections were created the desire to turn northbound on Gaffey or west on Summerland was much lower, but additional housing which has been added along Gaffey and continues to be built at Ponte Vista and retail stores such as Target have created more demand for these traffic directions.

Proposed remediation and improvements:

- Add a left-turn signal at Summerland Avenue from northbound Gaffey Street (see figure 6)
- Add a right-turn lane at the terminus of the 47 offramp (see figure 6).

- Add a right-turn lane at the terminus of the 110 (see figure 6).

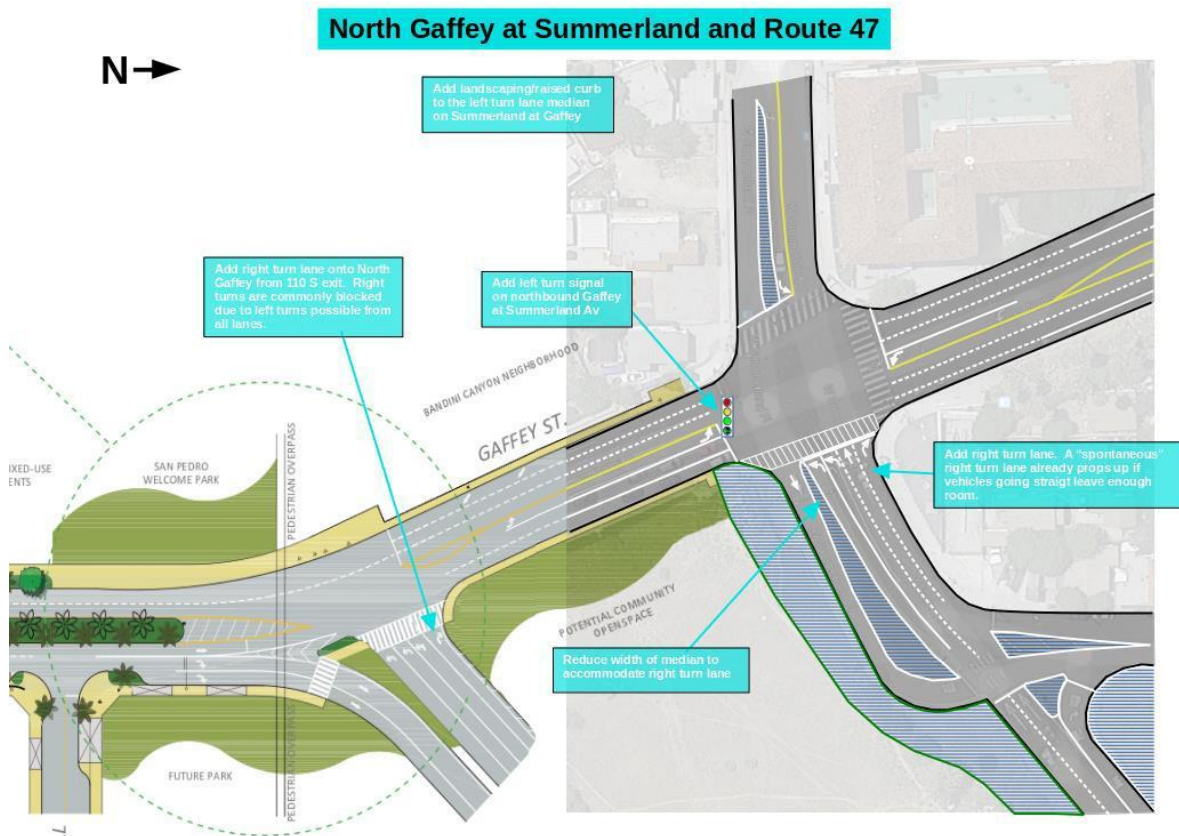


Figure 6.

4. Landscaping

The adjacent public land north of the 47 terminus, the medians surrounding the terminus of the 47, and the sidewalk areas in general are unkempt and unimproved if not overgrown with weeds. See figure 7-10.

Figure 7. Gaffey Street Bridge, east sidewalk.





Figure 8. Gaffey Street Bridge, west sidewalk



Figure 9.
Median between 110 on ramp and terminus.

Figure 10. Medians and public land surrounding the 47 terminus.



Proposed remediation and improvements:

- Weeding and repair of sidewalks along Gaffey Street.
- Add landscaping to medians and public easements in the area surrounding the 47 and 110 termini. See figure 11.
- Add a raised median with landscaping on Summerland eastbound to the west of Gaffey Street. Raised medians have an additional traffic calming effect and inhibit oncoming lane intrusion to a much greater extent than painted medians. Installation of this median should be done with appropriate decorative landscaping.

5. Enhanced beautification of the Gaffey Street Pedestrian bridge

The pedestrian bridge at Gaffey Street is a landmark in San Pedro and in recent years has seen restoration and lighting/lettering improvements which have been well-received by the community and is visually striking at night. However, during the day it has a somewhat drab and grey appearance (see figures 11, 12) which could benefit from enhanced beautification. In the past it was proposed by Hahn's office to install flowers along the bridge but this was not implemented.



Figure 11.



Figure 12.

Proposed remediation and improvements:

- Flowers on bridges are quite common in Europe (example, figure 13) and would greatly enhance the appearance of the Gaffey Street pedestrian bridge as it sits astride the two welcome mini-parks south of it's location. See example (figure 14).



Figure 13. Flower-covered bridge in France.



Figure 14.

We appreciate your review of this letter. We look forward to hearing how the Council Office can assist us with these improvements.

Please contact Diana Nave at 310-831-1975 or diananave@gmail.com for more information

Very Truly Yours,

Ray Regalado, President
On behalf of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board

CC: Ryan Ferguson; Aksel Palacios