

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
January 31, 2012

Security Reports

ITEM F.6

Alternate Vehicle Sensor for Exit Gates

The community exit gates have been struck by vehicles four times since they were originally installed. On one occasion, the driver was clearly intoxicated so he would have struck the gates no matter how they open but the other three incidents indicate impatience on the part of some drivers when leaving the community. The biggest complaint is, “the gates don’t open soon enough and I have to stop and wait.”

In exploring solutions with the contractor who installed the gates and operator equipment, the District learned that an alternate vehicle sensor loop-detector could be installed in the exit driveway at a point further back that would activate the gates BEFORE a vehicle gets too close.

Rather than digging up the driveway, a simple loop-detector could be placed on the surface of the driveway back about 50 feet from the gates. This location is where the concrete crosswalk is situated, adjacent to the white fire hydrant. Luckily, this concrete has grooves that have been sawcut into the surface to prevent cracking (standard practice referred to as “crack control”).

The gate contractor, Fenceworks, pointed out that a loop-detector wire could be placed within these crack-control joints and would be no more visible than the existing crack control joints. The loop wire could then be run over into the dirt planter in a shallow-buried conduit and extended up and wired into to the exit gate control equipment.

This proposal would result in the exit gates opening a few seconds sooner and would eliminate the need for vehicles to come to a complete stop at the gates. The thinking is that if the driver can see that the gates are already responding and that it is not necessary to come to a complete halt, this should diminish the aggravation of the current 5.7 second wait.

The least expensive gate repair so far from contact by vehicles is \$850.

Preliminary cost estimate by Fenceworks prior to site-walk: **\$650.00**

**there will be a revision to this by Tuesday night due to the site inspection we had on Thursday as we worked out the exact details. I anticipate it will still be under \$1000. This is much less than the typical gate repair cost and should serve to eliminate further damage.*