

Case Study

Redondo Beach Bikeway

Background

Visit the beautiful North Redondo Beach Bikeway any given morning and you will find joggers, cyclists and beachgoers cruising along, enjoying some of Southern California's most scenic terrain. Most of the trail remains sheltered from California's notorious traffic, but the path occasionally intersects busy roadways as it parallels the coastline a few blocks from the Pacific Ocean.

The official name of the pathway is the Bay Cities Regional Bikeway, which travels through five neighboring cities, giving commuters the option of cycling to work. The Redondo Beach segment covers a 2.8 mile stretch.

Problem

As city planners designed the bikeway, ten residential street mid-block crosswalks were unavoidable. These intersections put motor traffic and pedestrian traffic into conflict, creating a danger to path users crossing the street.

Cyclists and joggers posed an extra crosswalk safety challenge. While walkers generally use a traditional pushbutton to activate a crosswalk warning system, joggers and cyclists are less likely to do so. The city needed a crosswalk safety system that would automatically activate itself in response to those unlikely to push a button.



Solution

The positive experience the city had working with Spot Devices in the past on a downtown lighted crosswalk project and a calendar beacons project made the Nevada based company an obvious choice for help with the new bikeway.

Spot Devices implemented lighted crosswalks with microwave detector activation at the ten problem intersections. The in-road warning lights (IRWLs) embedded in the crosswalk flash a bright warning to oncoming motorists when pedestrians and cyclists are approaching or using the crosswalk.

"The use of lighted crosswalks was out of the necessity to create as safe of an environment as possible for the user and approaching driver," says John Mate, Transportation Engineer for the City of Redondo Beach.

Results

According to Mate, the city has received nothing but positive responses from the users of the bikeway crosswalks, with regard to both utility and aesthetics. "The lights are small and unobtrusive, until activated – then the bright flashing amber lights grab motorists' attention." The popular Redondo Beach bikeway is now widely used, with pedestrians and cyclists safely crossing mid-block with the aid of the Spot Devices self-activating, lighted crosswalks.



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