

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

123 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-3000  
[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)



**CHRIS SNEDDON**  
Director

April 1, 2025

**DECORATIVE ELEMENTS ON  
COUNTY MAINTAINED TRANSPORTATION RIGHTS-OF-WAY POLICY**

**Purpose**

This Policy provides the approval conditions and procedures, as well as the construction and removal requirements, for the implementation of temporary decorative elements in County maintained transportation rights-of-way. All submitted and approved designs shall be in conformance with Public Works standard procedures, and express and/or represent a recent Board of Supervisors-approved Resolution.

**Background**

The Public Works Department (the “Department”) maintains public transportation infrastructure within the County right-of-way adjacent to County maintained roads in unincorporated communities, including sidewalks and crosswalks. The primary function of maintained sidewalks and crosswalks is to provide safe access for pedestrians. The Department’s role is to design, maintain, and improve sidewalks and crosswalks to ensure pedestrian safety following the State of California standards known as the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD).

The government can create designated and limited public forums for free speech on public property that is not a traditional public forum by opening the property for expressive activity to part or all of the public; however, such designated or limited public forums are not created by inaction, or by permitting limited discourse, but only by intentionally opening a nontraditional forum for public discourse. When the government engages in speech itself, it may choose which subject-matter and viewpoints to promote, and which to exclude. Through adoption of this Decorative Elements on County Maintained Transportation Rights-of-Way Policy, the Department does not intend to open its transportation rights-of-way as a traditional public forum for free speech, or as a forum for public discourse. Instead, the Department intends to limit temporary decorative designs within County rights-of-way, such as crosswalks and sidewalks, to those which express and/or represent recent Board of Supervisors-approved honorary Resolutions of proclamation, recognition, support, and commemoration.

The County, acting through the Director of Public Works or Board of Supervisors, retains full discretion to direct removal of any approved temporary decorative design within a County maintained transportation rights-of-way.

AA/EEO Employer

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

123 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-3000  
[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)



**CHRIS SNEDDON**  
Director

## **Procedure**

### ***Application***

An individual or entity wishing to implement a temporary decorative design within a County-maintained transportation right-of-way must submit an application for an encroachment permit with necessary details including, but not limited to:

- The date, file number, and minute order of the Board-approved Resolution for which the proposed decorative design is intended to express and/or represent;
- Location of the proposed decorative art;
- Detailed plans for the proposed design;
- Material type;
- Start and finish dates of the art installation; and
- The contractor(s) performing the work.

Submission of an application for an encroachment permit for installation of a decorative design within a County-maintained right-of-way shall constitute permission by the applicant for the County of Santa Barbara to reproduce and use images of the decorative design for the County's own purposes, and applicant shall be deemed to have waived any right to prevent such reproduction or use of the image by the County.

### ***Application Review***

The Department will review the applicant's proposed decorative design for aesthetics, community interest, encroachment permit requirements, and traffic and safety impacts. The Department will also review whether the proposed decorative design meets the requirement of being in conformance with a recent Board-approved resolution. The Department will communicate with the appropriate District Office(s) as applications are received.

The Department will review safety and traffic impacts of the proposed work within the scope of the encroachment permit:

1. Location of work, if on the roadway, must be in an existing marked crosswalk with stop controls or traffic signals for approaching traffic. Intersections without a crosswalk, existing crosswalks with no traffic control on approaches, or existing special pavement/pavers in the crosswalk are not candidates for decorative crosswalk applications.
2. Designs should not distract drivers, indicate a different traffic pattern, and replicate official traffic control devices. There should be no alterations to existing crosswalk markings.
3. The design of the decorative art shall not include any copyright images or other legally-protected images.
4. Use of letters or numbers is prohibited.

AA/EEO Employer

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

123 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-3000  
[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)



**CHRIS SNEDDON**  
Director

***Payment***

The applicant shall be responsible for all costs associated with the installation, removal, and permitting of the decorative design. A deposit payment of \$1000 will be made to the County to ensure crosswalk and/or pavement are restored to prior condition upon expiration of the permit or upon order of the County.

***Construction and Removal***

The existing white or yellow traverse lines of a crosswalk must remain and be contrasted with any design. Paint must be traffic grade and non-slip.

Issuance of the encroachment permit does not guarantee that the decorative crosswalk will remain for the requested duration. The County may order the removal of the decorative work and restoration of the area to pre-installation conditions at any time. Once so ordered, the applicant has 24 hours to take all necessary actions to remove the decorative design and restore the County-maintained right-of-way to pre-installation conditions. If the applicant does not complete removal within 24 hours, the County may remove or cover part or all of the decorative design and use the collected deposit to pay for removal efforts.

*Encroachment permits issued for installation of decorative crosswalk designs shall be subject to all applicable provisions of Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 28, Article I.*

DocuSigned by:

*Chris Sneddon*

67CE64FE68B840C...

Chris Sneddon  
Public Works Director

AA/EEO Employer

Mostafa Estaji, Transportation

Julie Hagen, Finance and Administration

Walter Rubalcava, Water Resources

Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Martin Wilder, Laguna County Sanitation District

Aleksandar Jevremovic, County Surveyor