



## Press Release

**City of Artesia, California**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City Council Votes to Restore Four Lanes of Traffic on a Portion of Pioneer Boulevard**

In an effort to create a more livable, walkable community, the Artesia City Council voted to make a significant investment of redevelopment funds into the City's downtown corridor. The vision was to slow down traffic to improve safety along Pioneer Blvd. to create an open space where people would stop to shop, dine, and enjoy the community, along with wide sidewalks to create a safer environment.

With a goal to drive more foot traffic to Pioneer Blvd. between 183<sup>rd</sup> St. and 188<sup>th</sup> St., Phase One of the Project created a safer environment with wide, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, extensive streetscaping, and traffic calming single lanes. These widened sidewalks provide an opportunity for current and future Pioneer Blvd. restaurants to add outdoor seating for their patrons. In response to traffic concerns, the City utilized competitive grant funding to improve traffic signals at the intersection of Pioneer Blvd. and 183<sup>rd</sup> St. And, to ensure pedestrian safety while walking downtown, the City added a new traffic signal and mid-block crosswalk. Beautification features such as street furniture, bike racks, decorative lighting, trees, and landscaping planters were added in Phase Two.

Phase Three of the project was to be a pedestrian Promenade in the center of the Boulevard that would create new opportunities for residents to dine, shop, and relax. However, after careful consideration of concerns from downtown business owners, the City Council voted on September 11, 2017 to stop all forward progress on the current plan for the pedestrian Promenade, and convert traffic lanes back to four lanes on Pioneer Blvd., from 183<sup>rd</sup> St. to mid-block 186<sup>th</sup> St. Further, at the November 6, 2017 special meeting, the City Council approved signing and striping plans to remove the existing median and curb and restore two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes along Pioneer Blvd. from 183<sup>rd</sup> St. to mid-block 186<sup>th</sup> St. As envisioned, the change will also include a dedicated northbound lane as a left turn lane at 183<sup>rd</sup> St. The new painted median will once again allow drivers to turn left into shopping centers on the opposite side of Pioneer Blvd., as was the case prior to the installation of the pedestrian median.

The City Council is committed to the future progress of our City, and is dedicated to moving the City forward in a positive way.

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