



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NEW FIRST OF A KIND, TOUCHLESS PEDESTRIAN PUSH BUTTON TECHNOLOGY INSTALLED ON NORTH FREMONT STREET**

Monterey, CA. – The City of Monterey will be installing Touchless Pedestrian Push Buttons at the four signalized intersections on North Fremont Street. This new touchless pedestrian button technology will be the first of its kind installed in the City as well as in Monterey County. The installation of this technology was funded by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)'s Regional Surface Transportation (RSTP) Grant Funds.

The touchless, hand wave activated pedestrian push buttons are new technology which allows pedestrians to wave their hand in front of the pedestrian push button to activate it instead of pushing the buttons. The technology detects movement from one to four inches in front of the button.

Benefits of this new technology are improvements for people with disabilities and reduction in pedestrian exposure to high touch surfaces (a benefit during the COVID-19 pandemic). The touchless push buttons can connect to the new PEDAPP, a phone application, which pedestrians can use to wirelessly activate a pedestrian walk request. There are additional features in the phone app for visually impaired individuals, including the identification and location of a crossing. With the anticipated success of this pilot program, the City is eager to implement in other high-pedestrian signalized crosswalk locations throughout the City.

City Traffic Engineer Andrea Renny said, "The new touchless pedestrian push buttons are one of many improvements the City has invested in to enhance mobility in the North Fremont Business District corridor, and it comes on the heels of the City winning the 2020 Caltrans Excellence in Transportation award in the Transportation-Related Facilities category for the North Fremont Bicycle and Pedestrian Access and Safety Improvement Project."

The installation will take place over the course of a few days, starting on Tuesday, December 22. During the installation of the new buttons, the signals will be placed on

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pedestrian recall. This means that the signal will serve a pedestrian phase whether there is a pedestrian there or not, this is for the safety of pedestrians using the crosswalks and may cause minor delay to vehicles during the process of installation only.

The touchless buttons will be installed at the intersections of North Fremont Street with Casa Verde Way, Dela Vina Avenue/ Airport Avenue, Ramona Avenue, and Casanova Avenue. To indicate the pedestrian buttons that have this new touchless technology, the City is placing a small sign on the post with the newly installed buttons. These touchless pedestrian push buttons can be activated by waving or still pressing the button.

To learn more about the new technology, please view the brochure [https://polara.com/\\_assets/polara-ins-idetect-pedapp-brochure-200811.pdf](https://polara.com/_assets/polara-ins-idetect-pedapp-brochure-200811.pdf) and watch the short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIGWH41MyPQ&feature=youtu.be>

(see sample image below)



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