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OFFICIALS DEDICATE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS TO FALLEN CROSSING GUARD

Los Angeles, CA (October 1, 2019)

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Los Angeles Department of Transportation General Manager Seleta Reynolds, and LADOT Chief of Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control Devon Farfan unveiled the latest pedestrian safety improvement at the site where LADOT Crossing Guard Delia Huerta Arrearan was tragically killed Sept. 16.

The city's second High-intensity Activated Crosswalk, also known as a HAWK Beacon or a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, is a type of traffic device that has been shown to reduce pedestrian crashes by 69 percent and total crashes by 30 percent according to the Federal Highway Administration. A HAWK Beacon utilizes a three-light yellow and red signal that forces vehicles to come to a complete stop before giving pedestrians a countdown timer, making it useful for streets with higher speeds and longer crossing distances.

"I applaud the Department of Transportation for acting swiftly to install only the second hybrid activated walk signal in the city," said Councilmember Paul Krekorian, who represents the intersection of Sunnyslope and Vanowen. "With International Walk to School Day occurring tomorrow, the timing could not be better."

City officials have decided to also help memorialize the late crossing guard by dedicating local Walk to School Day efforts that take place Wednesday, Oct. 2 to the local hero who gave her life to help countless children and families get to and from school every day during her 13 years with LADOT's crossing guard program.

"Two weeks ago, LADOT Crossing Guard Delia Huerta sacrificed her life protecting a student," said LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds. "We honor her memory and do everything we can to make sure no other family suffers the same loss. This HAWK beacon is the second of its kind in Los Angeles. It represents our continued commitment to eliminate preventable traffic deaths within our city and our respect to every crossing guard in Los Angeles."



More than 370 crossing guards assist over 180,000 students and their families safely cross on their journey to school. Crossing guards provide important traffic management to enhance the safety of crossing at complex locations with risk of vehicular and pedestrian conflict, high vehicle speeds, or turns.

October 2's Walk to School Day is an annual citywide Safe Routes to School event that celebrates the fun of walking, and most importantly, serves to reinforce that people need to drive with respect and lower speeds in school zones to save lives.

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