

MINUTES
HUNTINGTON BEACH OFFICE OF THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
Civic Center, Lower Level, Room B-8
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach California

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 - 3:30 P.M.

STAFF LIAISON: Carolyn Camarena, Madalyn Welch

STAFF MEMBER: Michelle Lopez, Jennifer Ash, Marco Cuevas

PUBLIC COMMENTS: **NONE**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

ITEM 1: DESIGN REVIEW BOARD NO. 25-011 (STREETLIGHT ENHANCEMENT ON PCH):

APPLICANT: Kriss Casanova, Community Development Department, City of Huntington Beach, 2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648
PROPERTY OWNER: City of Huntington Beach, on behalf of Caltrans, 2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648
REQUEST: To review the design, colors, and materials for the replacement of seven streetlights along Pacific Coast Highway between Main St. and First St.
LOCATION: Public right-of-way on the north side of Pacific Coast Highway between Main St. and First St., 92648
CITY CONTACT: Carolyn Camarena

Carolyn Camarena, Associate Planner, provided an overview of the proposed project as presented in the Staff Report and outlined staff's recommendation of approval to the Design Review Board.

Board Member Fertal questioned why Visit Huntington Beach was not proposing the project instead of the city and why the proposed location didn't start at Goldenwest toward Beach.

Kriss Casanova, Economic Development Manager stated that as part of a recent approval, in the cities' assessment, funds were set aside to go toward enhancement projects and segmented to several places like wayfinding, signage, and pier improvements. The proposed location was selected because the pathway along PCH is not well lit and the hotels have a strong interest in connecting with downtown. She cited that it's a joint effort to activate the PCH corridor with some street pedestrian lighting. She added that Visit Huntington Beach is providing funding and it's a requirement of the city that they spend a certain amount of money annually on projects that will enhance the visitor's experience.

Board Member Thienes questioned whether this project would come out of the hotel tax.

Ms. Casanova confirmed that it's not the city's bed tax, it's the assessment money that they collect which is 6% and the city gets 10%.

Board Member Thienes stated it's great that a physical improvement comes from that tax.

Board Member Fertal reiterated his question, that if the intent was to connect the hotels to Main St. or downtown, why is the applicant proposing to start the proposed project at Main St. toward First St.

Ms. Casanova noted that since Pacific City is a new development, they have some lighting that is a wandering path. The darkest area is where these lights are proposed, by TK.

Board Member Dahl questioned whether the poles themselves were being replaced and if the same style is being used.

Bob Stachelski, Traffic and Transportation Manager, stated that the proposed streetlights are a different style, they go back to traditional and straight arm.

Board Member Fertal and Dahl both noted that they liked the blue color.

Ms. Camarena noted that she would update suggested condition 1 to reflect that the blue sapphire color was selected from the board.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER FERTAL, SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER DAHL TO RECOMMEND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD NO. 25-011 FOR APPROVAL TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

AYES: Fertal, Dahl, Thienes
NOES: None
ABSENT: Santiago
ABSTAIN: None

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:39 P.M. TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026, AT 3:30 P. M.

Madalyn Welch
Staff Liaison

MW:mr