

Angeles Vista, walk sign is on to cross, Angeles Vista

Taking his cue from new Accessible Pedestrian Signals at the intersection of Angeles Vista and Valley Ridge, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District) led a group of blind and visually impaired students after the signals' recent official unveiling.

The "talking" traffic signals now enable pedestrians who are blind or visually impaired to cross at the intersection without relying solely on listening to traffic flow sounds.

An audio voice advises the pedestrian when it is safe to cross and when they should wait until the traffic signal has changed for them to proceed. A special locator tone also helps pedestrians who are visually impaired locate the crosswalk button.

The Accessible Pedestrian Signal project is a collaboration between County Public Works, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and Junior Blind of America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children and adults who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled achieve independence.

They are currently installed at four intersections that form part of the walking and bus routes used by students of all ages attending the comprehensive programs Junior Blind offers at its campus, located in the Windsor Hills/View Park area. The locations of the new signals are; Slauson Avenue at Alviso Avenue, Slauson Avenue at Angeles Vista Boulevard, Angeles Vista Boulevard at Verdun Avenue, and Angeles Vista Boulevard at Valley Ridge Avenue.

County Road Funds earmarked for the Second Supervisorial District were used to upgrade the intersections.

County Public Works Director, Gail Farber, said similar accessible signals would be installed at other intersections in the future.

"The audible signals really aid mobility and we are happy to be able to make such a positive difference in the community," Ms. Farber said.

Echoing Farber's enthusiasm, Junior Blind's Chief Operating Officer, Jay Allen, says, "We are thrilled with the installation of these four signals, which will enable our students to travel independently and ultimately, safely, in our community. Junior Blind and our students are truly grateful for the steps Mark-Ridley Thomas' office; County Public Works and the Department of Transportation have taken to make this happen."

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Media Contacts:

**Gary Bozé, PIO (626) 458-4094, ghb@dpw.lacounty.gov.
Camille Wheatley (323) 290-6289, CWheatley@juniorblind.org.**