

Stoplight kicks in soon

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A pedestrian-controlled stoplight on El Camino Real at Almen-dral Avenue in Atherton — where a man was killed after he was struck by a car — will be operational Monday, a city official said yesterday.

Pedestrians will be able to push a button when they need to cross El Camino Real, which will cause lights to turn yellow and then red to stop oncoming cars. No lights will be visible until a pedestrian pushes the button. The stoplight cost about \$350,000, an expense the town is splitting with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, City Manager George Rodericks said.

The crossing at Almen-dral Av-

A man died at the intersection

enue includes what are called “pre-emption capabilities” that allow emergency vehicles to have the right of way when needed. The fire district has a fire station at 32 Almen-dral Ave.

The fine

The fine for drivers who run the light at Almen-dral is up to \$470 — just like running a normal red light, Rodericks said.

There are five so-called “un-protected pedestrian crossings” — crosswalks that have no light or stop sign — in town along El Camino Real. Atherton is work-

ing with Caltrans to move forward with additional such stoplight projects, called “lighted crossings,” at Isabella and Alejandra avenues. These two should be up sometime in 2017. Once these three crossings are complete, Rodericks said, the town will look at the other two crossings at Selby Lane and Stock-bridge Avenue.

Fatalities

The stoplight at Almen-dral was installed because of safety concerns after the July 2014 death of 32-year-old Shahriar Rahimzadeh, who was struck and killed by an oncoming car. In June 2015, Emiko Chen, 86, died after being hit by a car while crossing El Camino Real at Alejandra.