



# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**TO:** PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

**FROM:** BRAD UNDERWOOD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**PREPARED BY:** DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**MEETING DATE:** March 9, 2016 – Regular meeting starts at 7:30 pm

**SUBJECT:** NORTH SAN MATEO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE STREET – PROJECT UPDATE

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Public Works Commission receive a project update presentation and provide feedback on the North San Mateo Drive Sustainable Street Project.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The San Mateo Drive Sustainable Street Project (Project) extends along North San Mateo Drive, from Baldwin Avenue to Peninsula Avenue. The Project consists of approximately 1.0 miles of road diet which include bicycle improvements through the installation of Class II bicycle lanes and Class III shared lanes. Pedestrian improvements will include curb extensions, pedestrian countdown signal heads, and new pedestrian scaled lighting at major intersections. Green Streets features will also be installed at identified effective locations to improve stormwater quality.

### *Project Policy Consistency*

The Project incorporates multiple pedestrian and bicyclist safety “Complete Streets” improvements with green infrastructure “Sustainable Streets” improvements. Proposed design elements are consistent with the City’s Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Sustainable Streets Master Plans, including Vision Zero principles as shown below:

- **Vision Zero** – Safety elements are incorporated through signage, lighting, and other various complete streets improvements that provide additional noticeability of pedestrians and cyclists to drivers.
- **Complete Streets Improvements** – Multimodal usage elements are incorporated through bicycle lane delineation or shared use striping for cyclists and curb extensions, high visibility crosswalk, and pedestrian count down signals for pedestrians.
- **Sustainable Streets Improvement** – Green infrastructure elements are incorporated through stormwater curb extensions and flow through planters.

### Status Update

In January 2015, Staff introduced the Project to the Commission as part of the Sustainable Streets Plan final draft review. Also in January 2015, a grant application for TDA Article 3 funding was submitted for this Project. During this process, Staff solicited letters of support from the Project's interest groups and the surrounding community. In May 2015, C/CAG selected the Project to receive the grant funds. Project design began in August 2015.

During design efforts, it was determined that additional funding was required. In December 2015, a grant application for Measure A Bicycle and Pedestrian Program funding was submitted for this project. A list of draft funding recommendations was developed following the grant application evaluation was presented to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) Citizen's Advisory Committee in February 2016. This Project is included as one of the projects recommended to receive the grant funds.

### Design Alternatives

The proposed road diet will reduce one travel lane in each direction by converting the existing two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes to one northbound lane and one southbound lane with center turn lane and Class II bike lanes on both directions. Parallel parking will be minimally affected due to implementation of Green Streets infrastructure (approximately 10 curbside parking may be eliminated); The Project will also address a long-standing community concern regarding parked car sideswipes caused by a narrow travel lane adjacent to the parking lane.

Due to the excess traffic volumes experienced from the recent economic upturn, the City hired a traffic consultant to conduct a traffic analysis to evaluate potential traffic impacts based on the road diet configuration. The traffic analysis determined that with the road diet, additional traffic operations improvements will be needed at the San Mateo Drive and Bellevue Avenue intersection.

Based on the results of the traffic analysis, Staff and the traffic consultant have identified the following three (3) options to mitigate traffic impacts at the Bellevue Avenue intersection in conjunction with the Project.

- **Option 1:** Provides left turn pockets with existing 4-way stop
- **Option 2:** Provides left turn pockets with new traffic signals
- **Option 3:** Reinstates the existing four lanes at the approach of the intersection as a partial road diet implementation

Traffic simulations were performed based on the options shown above with the following results:

- **Option 1:** Declines the level of service at this intersection and should not be considered.
- **Option 2:** Improves the level of service at this intersection and results in more efficient traffic operations.

- **Option 3:** Provides approximately the same level of service as the existing condition, but is not consistent with the project's Complete Streets approach.

Staff recommends Option 2 as the most effective option to mitigate potential traffic impacts due to the road diet implementation.

Next Steps

Staff will review Commissioner comments and feedback provided. The Project will continue the final design phase and develop plans, specifications, and engineer's estimates (PS&E). Design is anticipated to be completed by December 2016 with construction beginning in Spring 2017.

Additional outreach to the adjacent community regarding the project status will be provided as additional details and information become available through continued design efforts.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

The N. San Mateo Drive Sustainable Streets Project is Categorically Exempt per CEQA Guideline Section 15304(h), Existing Facilities, because the creation of bicycle lanes for this Project is within existing right-of-way and the installation of pedestrian safety improvements consist of minor public alterations in the condition which does not involve removal of trees. The corresponding Notice of Exemption was filed with the County Clerk's office on December 22, 2014.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Project #467007, "N. San Mateo Drive Sustainable Streets," currently has an unencumbered balance consisting of \$1.2 million of City funds, and \$400,000 of TDA Article 3 grant funds. An additional \$200,000 of SMCTA Measure A grant funds are anticipated to be awarded in 2016 to fund the signal improvements at San Mateo Drive and Bellevue Avenue (Option 2 improvements). Total funds available for this Project are \$1.8 million for design and construction activities. Both the TDA funds and proposed SMCTA Measure A funds were obtained through a competitive grant process.

**NOTICE PROVIDED:**

Email notifications were provided to the Project's interest groups and mailers were sent to properties along the project limit, in advance of the Public Works Commission meeting.

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