



DATE: January 22, 2014

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission

FROM: Cedric Novenario, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: 2040 County Expressway Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Review projects from the Project Inventory Database to be considered for the 2040 County Expressway Plan

BACKGROUND

In 2001, Santa Clara County identified a need to develop a comprehensive plan to manage traffic growth to accommodate all modes of transportation on its expressways. Over the course of two years, the County, with assistance from local agencies, developed the County Expressway Implementation Plan in 2003. The document evolved into a long-term plan for the improvements and maintenance of the County Expressway System. The plan focused on:

- Capital Improvement Program
- Maintenance and Operation
- Funding Strategy

The County Expressway plan was last updated in 2008.

Part of this update will be to review each expressway's vision statement and determine whether it is still applicable. The following is Foothill Expressway's Vision Statement:

“Attractive express arterial, not freeway-like, that also plays an important role as a regional bicycle facility.”

In 2003, three projects were recommended for Foothill Expressway:

1. Signal operations improvements between Edith and El Monte, including Grant/St. Joseph—Completed
2. Extend existing WB deceleration lane at San Antonio by 250 feet—removed
3. Replace Loyola Bridge—In design

In 2008, the recommended projects list was revised to include:

1. Widen Foothill Expressway shoulder under Loyola Bridge—Completed
2. Loyola Bridge widening, including bicycle, pedestrian and channelization improvements—In Design

For any recommendations, it is intended that the mobility needs of all users of the expressways and cross streets are met (i.e. implement complete streets where appropriate).

Bicycles

In 2003, the plan identified two principles regarding bicycle travel along the expressways and the county still holds these principles true today:

1. Bicycle travel will be accommodated on all expressways.
2. The expressways should only be used by advanced-skilled bicyclists and should not be used by children or novice bicyclist.

Pedestrians

For pedestrians, the plan focuses on two different needs:

1. Traveling along the expressways
2. Crossing the expressways

Depending on the characteristic and land use adjacent to the expressway, pedestrian facilities may or may not be present along the expressway itself. If possible, it is preferred a pedestrian route be placed along parallel streets or roads of an expressway. In Los Altos, those adjacent pedestrian facilities are located on portions of 1st Street and Grant Road.

Crossing the expressway is also an important need to address. Enhancements can include bulb-outs, adjusting signal timing to allow ample crossing time for pedestrians, eliminating free-right turns, etc. Attachment 3 shows the proposed crossing improvements on Foothill from 2003.

DISCUSSION

County staff and consultants, as part of their outreach efforts, will attend and present at each jurisdiction's BPAC between April 2014 and June 2014. Their objective is to understand each jurisdiction's bicycle and pedestrian issues and ways to improve those experiences along the expressway. Since the BPAC maintains a project inventory database, several projects listed may be appropriate recommendations for the County and consultant staff to consider.

Staff recommends beginning reviewing the project database for possible projects on Foothill Expressway. The review of the database can continue in the subsequent months as needed until the County notifies the Staff Liaison regarding their visit to the Los Altos BPAC.

Attachment
Project Inventory Database