



DATE: February 26, 2014

AGENDA ITEM # 5

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.

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.

At the January BPAC meeting staff highlighted potential Foothill Expressway related projects from the database that could be suggested to the County for consideration.

DISCUSSION

Attached is a filtered list of potential projects for consideration. Additional projects that were raised by the BPAC were:

- Drain grate maintenance, visibility of drain grates (day and evening)
- Sight distance limited due to fence and landscaping at the southeast corner of El Monte and Foothill Expressways

The identified projects/issues can be categorized as issues with “Crossing Foothill Expressway” and “Traveling along Foothill Expressway.”

From a pedestrian stand point, crossing Foothill Expressway may be a larger concern due to sight visibility at the right turn only lanes and crossing distance. From a cyclist stand point, traveling along Foothill Expressway is a larger concern because of either lack of adequate parallel routes or vehicle/bicycle conflict areas and or merge areas.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the BPAC discuss which issues is a pressing need. The issue can be a specific project or more of a global (Foothill specific) issue for a particular travel mode.

County staff and consultants, as part of their outreach efforts, will attend your Commission’s April meeting. This information will be transmitted to them at this meeting, as well as, the Los Altos Policy Advisory Board member

Attachment

Project Inventory Database—Foothill related projects

Item	ID	Summary of Issue	Location[1]	Source of item [2]	Notes[3]	Date Last Edited	Input By [4]	Suggested route to school? (Which)	Related CIP(s)	Est Cost (\$)	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding	Grant Submittal Date	Target Completion Date	Bike	Ped	Both	Region[5]	Potential Foothill Expressway Project
Sidewalk west side of St. Joseph Avenue, Foothill Expressway to Montclair School - improvements to the NW corner of El Monte @ Giffin - Covington School	P-1	ADA compliance	http://g.co/maps/	BPAC	• Council addressed xx/xx/xxxx • LATC story http://latc.com/xxx						X	5/26/2010			X		South Los Altos	Foothill
		Federal SRTS application		School PTA								July 2011					Central Los Altos	Foothill
Grant Road Bike Lane		Class II bike lane on Grant Road - frontage to Foothill	Unsure -- Grant Road - frontage to Foothill. BTP has precise location	2012 - 2013 CIP budget -- page 86	Ensure bike lane meets Class II criteria for width; ensure no "center seam" where roadway edge and gutter meet. Provide BPAC recommendation on the three alternative design modifications required to the frontage road.		SA			\$65,000								Foothill
Foothill Expressway Landscaping		First phase of fill-in landscaping project for Foothill Expressway	Adobe Creek south to El Monte Intersection	2013 - 2014 CIP	ensure landscaping does not degrade line of sight for cyclists		SA			\$590,000								Foothill
Loyola Corners Streetscape		Various improvements		Unscheduled CIP			SA			\$1,265,52								Foothill
Foothill Expressway merge lanes		Green paint recommended	Merge lane from Fremont in Loyola Corners	BPAC	County jurisdiction. County Expressway 2040 study underway (2014)	12/6/2013	WAB											Foothill
Foothill Expressway merge lanes		Green paint recommended	Merge area from El Monte to San Antonio	BPAC	County jurisdiction. County Expressway 2040 study underway (2014)	12/6/2013	WAB											Foothill
Pedestrian visibility, right turn lane on Foothill at Main		Visibility obstructed by light pole, signal boxes, shrubs and tree; county unresponsive		Public comment: Jim Wing, 4/15/2009	Needs reverification to determine if current issue. POSSIBLE EXPRESSWAY PROJECT? (1/10/14 note)	1/10/2014	JF - WAB											Foothill
Pedestrian visibility, right turn lane on southbound Foothill at El Monte		Visibility obstructed by light poles, shrubs, and soundwall; county unresponsive		Public comment: Jim Wing, 4/15/2009	POSSIBLE EXPRESSWAY PROJECT? (1/10/14 note)	1/10/2014	JF - WAB											foothill
Bike crossing of Foothill Expressway at St. Joseph Avenue.		Bike lane from St. Joseph Avenue to northbound Grant Road not marked at intersection; no "target" to guide bicyclists across intersection. Crossing guard is challenged trying to assist children crossing Grant "frontage" road while also helping those at Foothill Expressway.	Foothill Expressway at St. Joseph Avenue	Bicycle/Pedestrian Issues for Montclair School District, August 4, 2003 Memo	See "St. Joseph Avenue" notes. Proposed solutions include: "add wheelchair width...bike lane sign to traffic signal island on NE corner of intersection; add triangular refuge island(s) at Grant Road frontage road; add pedestrian push button and crosswalk to south side of intersection." NOTE ALSO - the memo says "discuss with County traffic engineers ASAP". Did this happen?	11/14/2013												Foothill
Bike/ped crossing of Foothill at Vineyard		Heavy traffic, confusing intersection, no bike push-button to trigger signal	Foothill at Vineyard	Bicycle/Pedestrian Issues for Montclair School District, August 4, 2003 Memo	See "St. Joseph Avenue" notes. Proposed solutions include: NONE OFFERED	11/14/2013												foothill
Bike/ped access from north of Albertson's and Woodland Library		Bikes/peds must access shopping center via Grant Road through parking lot. Access to library requires travel along Grant Road "frontage"	Albertson's grocery store; Woodland Library	Bicycle/Pedestrian Issues for Montclair School District, August 4, 2003 Memo	See "St. Joseph Avenue" notes. Proposed solutions include: NONE OFFERED	11/14/2013												Foothill
Extend pathway for route to school, Cypress Drive to Foothill	LAH-input-2	Los Altos Hills has completed a pathway from Cypress Drive to Gardner Bullis School (and beyond). Can Los Altos extend the pathway from Cypress to Foothill (and beyond)?	W. Edith Drive, b	Breene Kerr, Los Altos Hills	LAH pathway completed using "Safe Routes to School" grant.	3/22/2013	WAB									x	North	foothill