



DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 1

TO: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission
FROM: Cedric Novenario, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Covington Road – Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss the Commission recommended infrastructure improvements on Covington Road

BACKGROUND

CIP project 14-01 was originally intended to design and construct a Class I Pathway on the southside of Covington Road between Blach Intermediate School and the intersection of Miramonte Avenue and Covington Road. Due to several concerns raised by residents and Blach PTA regarding the operation of a Class I Pathway, a special meeting was held on July 15, 2015 to discuss the Class I Pathway and alternatives to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists accessing Blach Intermediate school.

At the special meeting, the BPAC recommended staff investigate the feasibility of improving the existing sidewalk along the southside of Covington Road and to install bike lanes in both directions between Blach Intermediate School and the intersection of Miramonte Avenue and Covington Road. The BPAC also recommended examining if on-street can be maintained with the bike lane proposal.

DISCUSSION

Upon the recommendation of the BPAC, staff and the consultant reviewed the feasibility of maintain on-street parking with bike lanes. The average minimum available paved width in this section of Covington Road is 26.5'. The suggested minimum width to accommodate bike lanes and on-street parking in one direction, as recommended by the State of California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and confirmed by the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) is 12' (5' bike lane, 7' parking area). Thus, the available width can't accommodate the required bike lane and parking lane dimensions with vehicle travel lanes.

One creative measure to accommodate bike lanes while maintain parking is to establish Restricted Hours Bike Lanes. The City of Palo Alto has installed such restrictions on their bike lanes on Channing Avenue, Newell Road, North California Avenue, Loma Verde

Avenue, and Fabian Way. Essentially, this measure restricts parking in the bike lane during designated hours. In the case of Covington Road (for illustrative purposes), parking can be restricted from 7:00AM to 9:00AM and from 3:00PM to 4:00PM to allow bicyclists unimpeded use of the bike lane when traveling to both Blach Intermediate School and Mountain View High School. There will be no parking restrictions outside of the designated hours. An additional description of this measure and an example of this signage is attached in the appendix.

Should the BPAC continue to support their original recommendation of improving the existing sidewalk and establishing a bike lane and maintaining parking, the Restricted Hours Bike Lane is recommended.

ALTERNATIVES

In lieu of bike lanes, use Shared Lane Markings (Sharrows) and improve the existing sidewalk on Covington Road within the project limits.

- a. Pros
 - i. Pedestrian and Bicycle modes are accommodated
 - ii. Less disruption to Covington resident's frontage
 - iii. Bicycle travel is consistent with vehicle travel (riding on the same side of road)
 - iv. Parking remains on both sides
- b. Cons
 - i. No physical protection for bikes
 - ii. Cyclists must share the road with vehicles

NEXT STEPS

Staff will update the Council regarding the change in scope, then full design will commence.

Attachment:

Restricted Hours Bike Lane