



DATE: June 28, 2017

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission

FROM: Susanna Chan, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Foothill Expressway Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and provide input on proposed improvements on Foothill Expressway between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road

BACKGROUND

The Santa Clara County's Expressway Plan 2040 is a long-range comprehensive plan for improvement and maintenance of the County's expressway system. The plan considers the needs of all users and builds on the 2003 County Expressway Implementation Plan and the 2008 Update. The plan is currently under development and is anticipated to be circulated for review in Fall 2017.

The Foothill Expressway improvements between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road have been identified as one of the Tier 1 projects in the Expressway Plan 2040. In April 2015, the City Council allocated \$440,000 to fund the design of the project which allows this project to become "shovel-ready" to compete for outside construction funds.

In November 2016, the voters of Santa Clara County approved a 30-year ½ cent sales tax measure supporting transportation projects and services known as 2016 Measure B. The ½ cent sales tax collection began on April 1, 2017. The Measure B program is divided into nine distinct program categories, including \$750 million over a 30-year period for County Expressways improvements. Tier 1 projects in the Expressway Plan 2040 will be funded by Measure B funds.

DISCUSSION

The County is leading the project with assistance from the City. The project is currently in conceptual design phase and will become one of the first Measure B projects to be constructed. As part of the project, the County proposes to widen Foothill Expressway between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road to add auxiliary lanes in each direction. Intersection improvements will also be provided at El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road, including:

- Addition of a second through lane on westbound El Monte Avenue while keeping the dedicated right turn pocket
- Possible third left turn lane from eastbound El Monte Avenue to northbound Foothill Expressway
- Possible addition of a second right turn lane with bicycle accommodations from northbound Foothill Expressway to San Antonio Road
- Elimination of right turn islands and slip ramps on selected corners of the Foothill Expressway / El Monte Avenue intersection and squaring off the intersection to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety
- Road widening, geometric modification, modification of traffic signals, pavement resurfacing, pavement delineation, landscaping and other related improvements

County staff, in collaboration with the City, has conducted public outreach meetings in 2014 and 2015. The community was introduced to the project and had opportunities to express issues that are important to them. The County took these inputs and worked with their design consultants to come up with three design alternatives. County staff will make a presentation to share and explain the design alternatives at the meeting. Advantages and tradeoffs of each alternative will be discussed. The same presentation will be made at a community meeting scheduled for the evening of June 29 at 6:00 pm at the Hillview Community Center.

After hearing all the input from the commission and the community, the County will select one of the alternatives and move forward to produce a final design and environmental document for the project. The construction is planned for the summer of 2018. One additional community meeting will be held prior to the start of construction.

Plans for the alternative design are not available at the time this report is being written and will be made available on the city web site by June 26th.

Attachments:

None.