



DATE: February 28, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 2

**TO:** Complete Streets Commission

**FROM:** Aruna Bodduna, Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Foothill Expressway Improvement Project (TS-01018)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

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**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 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 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

- 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 during planning phase. 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 that were presented at then Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) meeting on June 28, 2017 and public meeting on June 29, 2017. County staff explained the design alternatives and discussed the advantages and tradeoffs of each alternative.

County staff also presented the same design alternatives to the City Council at its August 22, 2017 meeting and discussed how they would address the comments received from BPAC and the public meeting. The City Council supported the key project elements including addition of auxiliary lanes on Foothill Expressway, addition of through lane on westbound El Monte Avenue between Covington/Giffin and Foothill Expressway and intersection improvements.

Based on further technical analysis and the input from the council, commission and community, the County selected the proposed design alternative and will present it at the commission meeting. The construction is planned for the summer of 2018, depending on availability of Measure B funding.

Attachments:

None.