



DATE: April 25, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Complete Streets Commission

FROM: Aruna Bodduna, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School Crosswalk and Intersection Improvement Projects

RECOMMENDATION:

Received Update on Safe Routes to School projects TS-01042, TS-01044, TS-01045, TS-01046, TS-01047 and TS-01054

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Altos adopted the Pedestrian Master Plan (Plan) in 2015, that focuses on improving the pedestrian environment by creating a more walkable, livable, and healthy city. School Route Projects TS-01042, TS-01044, TS-01045, TS-01046, TS-01047, TS-01054 were identified in the Pedestrian Master Plan and funding for these projects was approved in Fiscal Year 2016/17 Capital Improvement Plan. City entered into contract with CSG Consultants (Consultant) to prepare design for the proposed improvements. The preliminary design for all locations was presented to the public and commission at its Special meeting on February 12, 2018. Public meeting was held from 6:30pm-7pm, followed by Commission meeting at 7pm. Staff gathered comments at the public meeting, commission meeting and during the comment period that ended on February 28, 2018.

DISCUSSION

Based on the feedback received from the previous meetings and during the public comment period, staff worked with the design consultant to address the concerns where feasible and revise the design accordingly. The following revisions were incorporated into the design:

- 1) Los Altos Avenue/West Portola Avenue Crosswalk Improvements (TS-01042) – Under existing conditions, this intersection is an all-way stop controlled intersection with crosswalks on all four approaches. Curb ramps exist at all the corners except northeast corner. The existing curb ramps are not ADA compliant. The proposed design for this intersection shows ADA compliant curb ramps at the existing three corners. The proposed design for northeast corner includes a striped refuge area and surface-mounted delineators. A full curb ramp is not provided at this corner because there is no existing or proposed raised sidewalk along Portola or Los Altos Avenue to connect to the curb ramp.

- 2) El Monte Avenue Walkway Improvement between Giffin and Cuesta (TS-01044) – Following the February 12, 2018 Commission meeting, further outreach was done to reach out to all the ten property owners abutting El Monte between Giffin and Cuesta. Although there was an initial positive reaction for installation of sidewalk along this stretch, property owners expressed concerns regarding this project. Below is a summary list of the concerns:
 - a. Removal of landscaping and trees: Currently trees and vegetation fronting the properties provide screening between the street and residences. Most of this trees/vegetation are located within the public right-of-way and based on City arborists assessments, the landscape within public right-of-way will need to be removed to install the sidewalk for a safe pedestrian travel path. Project proposes to work with the individual property owners, assess the impacts and provide appropriate mitigation measure such as replacing the landscaping on the property side behind the sidewalk, or installing fence in accordance with the zoning code, where requested by the property owners.
 - b. Utility and other conflicts: Currently drainage inlets, cleanouts, water meters exist in the proposed sidewalk area. Additionally, mailboxes are located behind the existing curb. All these conflicts will be relocated outside the sidewalk area, where the residents can continue to have clear and safe access.

Given the impacts of sidewalk installation, there was lack of support for the project from the abutting residents who would have direct benefit with the sidewalk. Because of this reason, staff is recommending taking out this project from the current list of safe routes to school improvement projects for further evaluation, to avoid any delays to other projects. All other projects are currently scheduled for Summer 2018 construction.

Other comments from the residents along this project include:

- consideration for installing sidewalk from the existing face of curb towards street side
- installing a new crosswalk across El Monte at Shirlyn Court
- pavement striping improvements to provide narrow shoulder/bike lane

Staff will further evaluate these requests separately from the current project.

- 3) Covington Road at Riverside Avenue Pedestrian Improvements (TS-01045) – The revised design for this intersection includes installation of a raised island, asphalt curb, surface mounted delineators and striping to channelize vehicles, while preserving access for two residential driveways near the intersection.
- 4) Springer Road/Fremont Avenue Pedestrian Improvements (TS-01046) – The revised design for this location includes a new island passageway to channelize pedestrians and direct them to the new crosswalk location over Fremont Avenue. An area between the edge of travel lane and the median island curb is provided to accommodate queuing area for less comfortable bicyclists.
- 5) Grant Road/Morton Avenue Pedestrian Improvements (TS-01047) – The design for this location includes a striped refuge area with delineators on the northeast corner,

high-visibility crosswalks, and ADA compliant curb ramps at the other three corners. Like Los Altos Ave/W Portola Ave intersection, a full curb ramp is not provided at this corner because there is no existing or proposed raised sidewalk along Grant Road or Morton Avenue to connect to the curb ramp. Resident comments included line of sight issues with the overgrown vegetation at this corner. Per City's requirements, trimming notice was sent to the property owner and since then the vegetation has been trimmed.

- 6) Crosswalk Improvements at St. Joseph Avenue and Deodara Drive (TS-01054) – The design for this intersection includes installation of ADA compliant curb ramps and high visibility crosswalks. To provide added safety for vehicles making left turns from Deodara Drive, “Keep Clear” markings have been added to the westbound lanes of St. Joseph Avenue. To provide added visibility of the new curb ramp location, yield markings are proposed.

Design features not included in the current project scope:

The comments received included improvements that are not currently included within the current project areas or the scope of work. These comments will be considered at a future time when there are upcoming project(s) in the vicinity or as a separate project by itself:

- Traffic calming features along Covington: The current scope of project is to provide pedestrian improvements on suggested school routes. Implementation of traffic calming features along Covington, a collector street, will be considered separately in accordance with the priorities identified in the Collector Traffic Calming Plan.
- Improvements at Deodara/Arboretum: Current CIP project Arboretum Drive Speed Feedback Sign TS-01039 will install speed feedback sign on Arboretum Drive just west of Deodara intersection. However, public comments included additional improvements that are not within the current project area. Staff will further evaluate the requests and coordinate with the residents.
- Consideration for bicycle lanes along St. Joseph: Staff will coordinate with the neighborhood and schools in the vicinity to evaluate the feasibility of providing a multi-use path (per Pedestrian Master Plan) or bicycle lanes along St. Joseph.
- Raised crosswalk at St. Joseph/Deodara: Some resident comments included speeding concerns along St. Joseph and requested consideration of raised crosswalk at Deodara. Staff will further evaluate this request, conduct speed studies and coordinate with the neighborhood on the appropriate traffic calming device. The proposed design for this location would not preclude implementation of a raised crosswalk.

Attachment(s):

- A. Design exhibits will be available on the Monday, April 23, 2018