



DATE: January 22, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #5

TO: Complete Streets Commission
FROM: Jaime O. Rodriguez, Interim Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: CIP – Transportation Project Updates

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report on status of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) - Transportation Projects

INTRODUCTION

The Transportation Program portion of the CIP includes several priority areas:

- Pavement Management
- Traffic Calming
- Safety Improvements
- Complete Streets

Staff presented its first quarterly update on the CIP – Transportation Projects in September 2019 and committed to providing quarterly updates on projects. This report serves as the 2020 Q1 update to the Complete Streets Commission.

BACKGROUND

Several CIP – Transportation Program projects were delayed in 2018 due to staff turnover at the City. As the City rebuilt the Transportation Division in 2019 projects are beginning to move forward. Increased activity in the construction market is impacting the ability of the City deliver projects as projects initially budgeted prior to 2018 now reflect low estimates in the current market.

To help keep project budgets in line with original estimates the City is using a combination of in-house engineering design and in-house consultant support. In addition, the City is proactively conducting design and community engagement on street improvements prior to construction; this change allows the City to take advantage of the Annual Street Resurfacing program to implement Complete Streets Elements in the Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Plans.

DISCUSSION

This update focused on the CIP – Transportation Projects. Engineering staff recently received the DRAFT 2018 Pavement Management System Report, which provides a detailed assessment of the Pavement Condition Indices for each street in the City and the overall Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score for the City as a whole. Since the report is still being reviewed by staff, the Engineering Services Director will present a snapshot of the draft findings at the January 22, 2020 Complete Streets Commission meeting and present finalized findings at a future CSC meeting.

Highlights on select projects from the report are provided below.

- Foothill Expressway Improvement (TS-01018), \$0

The City funded the design phase of this project in 2015 in the amount of \$512,000 in efforts to help the project complete for 2016 Measure B Half Cent Sales Tax funding for construction. The project is the No. 1 priority project in the 2016 Measure B program and is scheduled for award at the County of Santa Clara – Board of Directors on January 28, 2020. The City and County are scheduled to hold a community outreach meeting on February 4, 2020 in efforts to reintroduce the project to the Los Altos Community prior to the start of construction in the Spring.

The City funded the design phase and has no further financial obligations through the construction phase. However, at the January 28, 2020 City Council Meeting, staff will propose that the City waive approximately \$13,000 in fees for the County's encroachment permit.

- Collector Street Traffic Calming (TS-01022), \$200,000

This program CIP is funding the construction phase of the Cuesta Drive-Arboleda Drive Traffic Calming project. The design phase is currently at 95% with design completion planned for February 2020. The City plans to put the project out to bid in March.

- El Monte Avenue & Springer Road Intersection Improvements (TS-01030), \$311,000

This project is deferred until Fiscal Year 2020-21.

- San Antonio Road & W Portola Avenue Improvements (TS-01037), \$837,125

This project includes traffic signal modifications to help introduce dynamic NO RIGHT TURN signs, improve traffic signal visibility by providing new signal mast-arm poles at the intersection, and sidewalk widening improvements along the frontage of Egan Junior High School/Bullis Charter School North Campus.

The project is in the process of finalizing a consultant services agreement with Kimley-Horn & Associates so that design can begin in the Spring 2020.

- El Monte Avenue Sidewalk Gap Closure (TS-01038), \$841,933

The design phase of this project is currently on hold while the design consultant team addresses drainage issues at select areas of the project. This may impact the available construction budget so that the final alignment of the Almond Avenue (San Antonio Road to El Monte Avenue) is finalized as Almond Avenue will be resurfaced as part of the current Annual Street Resurfacing program.

- Fremont Avenue & Truman Avenue Intersection Improvements (TS-01040), \$50,000

This project will provide pedestrian-activated flashing beacons at the existing crosswalk that crosses Fremont Avenue at the intersection. The City has completed an in-house design of the improvements. Final design is anticipated in the Spring 2020 for construction by Fall 2020.

- Los Altos Avenue & Santa Rita School Crossing Improvements (TS-01041), \$50,000

This project is being rescoped from its original concept that included pedestrian-activated flashing beacons to just sign improvements, in response to prior community input regarding the use of flashing sign elements at the intersection of Los Altos Avenue & W. Portola Avenue. The City has completed an in-house design of the focused improvements and will implement the project in the Spring 2020 using City forces.

- Downtown Traffic Signal Control Upgrades (TS-01050), \$306,237

The City rescoped this project last Spring due to budget constraints. The original project envisioned a fiber optic cable network along El Monte Avenue from Summerhill Road to Foothill Expressway to allow the City and County of Santa Clara to deploy an adaptive traffic signal control system between San Antonio Road & Cuesta Drive-1st Street to El Monte Avenue & Summerhill Road including the Foothill Expressway corridor. The fiber optic cable construction exceeded the available grant funding for the project.

The City worked with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to rescope the project to include:

- Wireless Communications Equipment along El Monte Avenue
Purchased by the City of Los Altos for installation by the County of Santa Clara. Installation is scheduled for the current quarter.
- Synchrogreen Adaptive Control Equipment and Software

The City purchased traffic adaptive control software for the County of Santa Clara. The system will be activated following completion of the wireless communication equipment along El Monte Avenue.

- Citywide Cellular Backbone Network
The City is deploying a Smart City Signals cellular network that introduces the City with traffic signal monitoring capabilities not previously available to the City. Deployment is 50% complete. The remaining equipment will be installed at traffic signals owned by the City of Los Altos but maintained by the County of Santa Clara. Installation is pending this quarter. The system will also offer the City the ability to introduce citywide app-based detection for bicyclists and pedestrians and traffic signal status data sharing for connected-autonomous vehicles.
- Citywide Traffic Signal Controller Upgrades
The City is replacing the aged traffic signal controllers (25+ years old) in the City. Installation is 50% complete and scheduled for completion this month.
- Citywide Traffic Signal Timing Upgrades
As part of the deployment of new traffic signal controllers the City is also proactively implementing new traffic signal timing citywide. For example, along San Antonio Road, pedestrians are now released 2-seconds prior to vehicle traffic to allow pedestrians an opportunity to enter the intersection prior to vehicle traffic. The City is also evaluating and modifying existing Walk and Flashing Don't Walk times to comply with national and state standards for both pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Carmel Terrace Sidewalk Gap Closure
(TS-01050), \$350,000
This project is deferred until Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- University Avenue & Milverton Road Sidewalk Gap Closure
(TS-01051), \$55,000
This project is deferred until Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- Annual Bicycle/Pedestrian Access Improvements
(TS-01052), \$695,460
This project is being used to fund various projects, including the new Complete Streets Master Plan. Upon completion of that study the City will initiate improvement using funds from this project.
- Fremont Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Rehabilitation
(TS-01055), \$250,000
This project is deferred until Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation
(TS-01056), \$285,000

This project includes pavement rehabilitation and the deployment of Complete Streets Treatments on Fremont Avenue between Grant Road and the Stevens Creek Bridge. Project design is scheduled for completion in the Fall 2020 with construction in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

- In-Road Light System Maintenance (TS-01057), \$75,000

Eight of the City's existing in-pavement crosswalk systems along San Antonio Road and Almond Avenue are in a state of disrepair. The City is completing an in-house design to replace the crosswalk systems. Design completion is scheduled for March 2020 with construction scheduled over the summer.

- Intersection Access Barrier Removal (TS-01058), \$0

This project is currently unfunded. The project is contingent upon the award of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding that is currently unavailable and coming to terms with San Francisco Public Utilities Commission over a complicated encroachment permit agreement they are requiring to implement the improvements in their Hetch Hetchy pipeline right of way.

In addition to the above CIP Projects, the City has the following active projects and programs:

- Complete Streets Master Plan

The Complete Streets Master Plan is scheduled for City Council award on January 28, 2020. This project will consume a significant amount of staff and Complete Streets Commission time during 2020. Upon award of the project to Alta Planning + Design the project will include five project elements:

- Community Outreach
- Bicycle Transportation Plan Update
- Safe Routes to School Assessment with Walking Audits
- Transit Study
- Concept Plan Line Drawings for "Hot Spot" Corridors and Intersections

The City has already completed Concept Plan Line drawings for 9 corridors in the City. Starting in February, the City will hold Open House meetings to solicit input on various project elements. Each Open House meeting will precede Complete Streets Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month through the Fall.

- Citywide Traffic Model

The City completed traffic data collection across the City at approximately 79 locations. The data will be used to help build a new citywide traffic model that will help track

cumulative traffic growth and generate Level of Service (LOS) estimates. The traffic data collection will also advise the Complete Streets Master Plan development as count sites were selected in alignment with the elements of that project.

Staff plans to return to the Complete Streets Commission with an update on the model development by March 2020.

- School Crossing Guard Program

The City School Crossing Guard program operates 28 adult crossing guards throughout the City. The City's crossing guard operator is finalizing the recruitment phase of a new crossing guard that will be deployed at El Monte Avenue & Covington Road pending completion of the recruitment process.

The City does plan to restudy the existing crossing guard location at Foothill Expressway & Arboretum Drive this quarter. The crossing guard and operation company report no student crossing activity at the location and if the analysis recommends removal of a crossing guard at this location, the crossing guard will be redeployed to a different location in the City.

- Pedestrian Flags

Over the past year both residents, City Council, and members of the Complete Streets Commission have expressed interest in the deployment of flags for pedestrians at locations with high school-age pedestrian volume (i.e., El Monte Avenue & Covington Road). The City Risk Manager did analysis on the risk of using such devices within the City this past Fall and recommended against their use.

The Transportation Division has contacted staff from nearby cities using the flags and their input notes a strong local community preference towards the flags but had no formal studies available. Their input did note the use of flags as an operations & maintenance impact because the flags are regularly misplaced and require regular replacement.

Staff is interested in hearing Complete Streets Commission opinion regarding future pilot programs using the Pedestrian Flags.

The City will return to the Complete Streets Commission in April for another update on transportation projects and include an updated discussion on the pavement management program at that time.