



DATE: September 30, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Complete Streets Commission

FROM: Jaime O. Rodriguez, Interim Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation – Grant Road to Stevens Creek

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive update on Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation – Grant Road to Stevens Creek project and provide final input on the Complete Streets elements for the project

INTRODUCTION

The City held an online community outreach meeting on September 23, 2020 to reintroduce the Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation – Grant Road to Stevens Creek project, share the results of a recently released online survey for the project, and to solicit input on preferred complete street elements for the project.

This update on the project to the Complete Streets Commission will focus on input received during the community meeting, sharing the results of the online survey, discuss the outreach strategies used to help promote the online meeting, and to finalize the complete street elements of the Signage & Striping plan for the project. The design of the Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation project is at 95% and the Caltrans grant review and permit process are nearly complete. The City plans to release the project for bid in the Fall following the release of the Caltrans permits and a possible presentation of the project to City Council, tentatively proposed for an October or early November 2020 Council meeting. This presentation on the project to the Complete Streets Commission will serve as the final opportunity to review the project and provide input on the design process.

BACKGROUND

The Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation – Grant Road to Stevens Creek project was initiated in the Fall of 2019. Bellecci & Associates is the project design consultant. The project is currently estimated to cost \$2.1M, which is partially offset by a One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) grant in the amount of \$350,000. The OBAG grant requires environmental and permit authorizations from the California Department of Transportation – Caltrans, who oversees the release of grant funding from the OBAG program.

City staff held an initial community outreach meeting in the Fall of 2019, several update discussions with the Complete Streets Commission, administered an online community survey, and hosted a final resident outreach meeting on September 23, 2020.

DISCUSSION

The Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation – Grant Road to Stevens Creek project includes three primary project elements:

1) Pavement Rehabilitation

To repair failed pavement sections to provide a roadway that meets the traffic demands of the community, the City is designing the project with two optional pavement repair treatments:

- Traditional Dig-Out and Overlay
- Cold-in Place Recycling and Overlay

The City can anticipate a 6-8-year useful roadway life using the traditional dig-out and 1.5-inch overlay method. The cold-in place recycling method is a newer treatment unused within the City of Los Altos but proven within the pavement construction industry. The City may expect up to a 12-14-year useful pavement life using the cold-in place recycling method. The longer pavement life with cold-in place recycling method is a result of grinding and repairing the entire roadway to both level and strengthen the pavement base using a binding agent that hardens the grinding of the old roadway back into the roadway. Cold in place recycling is also considered a green construction method because of its recycling methods and elimination of emissions caused from hauling removed asphalt to a distant landfill or asphalt recycling facility. Both projects will provide a 1.5-inch new rubberized asphalt overlay.

2) Complete Streets Signage & Striping

After completion of the pavement reconstruction, the City plans to provide consistent 11-ft vehicle travel lanes (compared to the existing 15-ft lanes) to help encourage slower vehicle speeds, install buffered bicycle lanes (3-ft buffer with 6-ft bicycle lanes), and high-visibility crosswalk markings and signage. Other signage and pavement marking treatments will focus on helping to “KEEP CLEAR” intersections so residents can safely turn left in and out of streets that bisect Fremont Avenue.

The active online Fremont Avenue Resident Survey focused on soliciting preferences for signage and striping treatments to help advise the Signage & Striping plan. Highlights of the survey include preferences for:

- Preservation of the Rural Character of Fremont Avenue
In response to this overwhelming community request, the City is planning to limit green bicycle conflict zones treatments to priority intersections only (Grant Road, Julie Lane, Truman Avenue, Fallen Leaf Drive, and near Stevens Creek).
- Limited Vertical Elements on Fremont Avenue
The City requested resident preferences on the use of delineators within the 3-ft buffer zones of buffered bicycle lanes. Residents overwhelmingly requested no

vertical elements to preserve the rural character of the street. The City is eliminating the use of delineators within the 3-ft buffer zones in response.

- **Maintain Existing Crosswalks on Fremont Avenue**
When the online survey was delivered, the City was trying to understand whether it was appropriate to consider the removal of crosswalks on Fremont Avenue that residents were expressing as redundant or underutilized, specifically elimination of one of the closely spaced crosswalks at either Austin Avenue or Julie Lane. The survey findings show that both crosswalks received equal demand from residents. The City is not planning to remove any crosswalks along Fremont Avenue in response to the resident input. All crosswalks will receive high-visibility pavement treatments and signage to improve visibility. The City is also analyzing opportunities to introduce a new crosswalk near Fallen Leaf Drive.

3) Plan for Future Complete Streets Projects on Fremont Avenue

While the Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation – Grant. Road to Stevens Creek project focuses on pavement restoration and complete streets measure, the City took advantage of the extensive community outreach to help identify and advise future projects. Projects that the City will include within the now active Complete Streets Master Plan project include:

- Pedestrian Pathway Connections along the North side of Fremont Avenue
- Pedestrian-Scale Streetlighting Opportunities
- Traffic Control Improvements at Fremont Avenue & Fallen Leaf Drive

During the Complete Streets Commission meeting, staff is requesting that the Commission provide input on the proposed final Signage & Striping Plan for the project and any additional recommendations that the City should consider for future complete streets projects along Fremont Avenue.