



DATE: September 26, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Complete Streets Commission
FROM: Aruna Bodduna, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: El Monte Walkway Gap Closure Project Update (TS-01038)

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive update on the El Monte Walkway Gap Closure Project (TS-01038) between Almond Avenue and Clark Avenue

BACKGROUND

El Monte Sidewalk Gap Closure project between Almond Ave and Clark Ave is a Safe Routes to School project, intended to improve pedestrian safety for the many local school children traveling along El Monte Avenue as they walk to and from school. The project limits extend between Almond Avenue to the north and Clark Avenue to the south.

The project includes the addition of a five-foot wide decomposed granite (DG) walkway with pressure treated wood header on the west side, revamped raised crosswalk at Clark Avenue, storm drain improvements, curb bulb-outs at northwest and southwest corner of Almond Avenue intersection, ADA compliant curb ramps, high visibility crosswalks, advanced yield markings with signage and rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at Almond Avenue and Clark Avenue. All the proposed improvements are in the public right-of-way.

On February 22, 2017, Staff presented 35% design plan with the project elements listed above, to this Commission for review and feedback. The staff report indicated impacts to parking on the west side of El Monte Avenue between Almond and Higgins Avenues. Parking in this area will be eliminated as part of this project. The parking analysis summary indicated that with the proposed improvements, there is a net reduction of approximately eight (8) parking spaces within the project limits.

DISCUSSION

The members of the public in attendance of the February 2017 meeting emphasized the importance for the walkway for school aged children accessing Almond Elementary, and overwhelmingly supported the project. The Commission members agreed that it is important to fix the walkway gap. Additionally, they had questions and comments regarding addressing speeding issue, delineation between bike lane and parking area, landing area at the rear-entrance to school, consideration of new crosswalk at Mills and landscaping issues.

Based on the feedback received at meeting, design has been revised to include new crosswalk at Mills Avenue with RRFB assembly, add striping to delineate bike lane from parking, improvements to the landing area at the back-entrance to school at Clark. There are landscape impacts in some areas, however, the project improvements will be within the public right-of-way.

Furthermore, with the 2017 pavement rehabilitation project on El Monte Avenue, the width of the travel lanes was reduced to 10' and striping for existing bicycle lanes in both directions were revised to buffered bike lanes with green paint at conflict zones. The reduction of lane width, improvements to the existing raised crosswalk at Clark Avenue will help in lowering the speeding concern.

The estimated construction cost for this project is \$600,000. The City had an opportunity to pursue a federal grant funding, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), in Spring 2018. The project competed successfully and secured this grant for construction in the amount of \$330,000.

A public meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2018 at Community Chambers, City Hall from 6-7pm. All the current information is posted on the project website, including staff report and minutes from previous Commission meeting. The meeting notice was sent to property owners/residents within 500 feet of project area, schools in the vicinity of the project, posted on Nextdoor, City Manager updates, emails sent to School staff and PTA representatives.

At the time of this staff report, Staff received feedback back from some members of the community via email and twitter/nextdoor with interest and support for the proposed improvements.

Staff will present the details of the design at the Complete Streets Commission meeting. Consultant will incorporate any comments from the public and commission meetings, as appropriate, for final design. The city anticipates the construction of this project to occur during Fall 2018.

Attachments:

None.