



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Public Works



**Date:** February 10, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** April 28, 2015  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

**Subject:** Plans and Specifications for the Reconstruction of Lucky Avenue and Liberty Park Avenue - West Menlo Park area [County Project No. RW508; Project File No. E4929000]

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works to proceed with:

- A) Using the approximate center of the existing road as the center of the minimum road improvements that are proposed to be constructed on Liberty Park Avenue from Lucky Avenue to Cloud Avenue; and
- B) Preparing plans and specifications for the reconstruction of Lucky Avenue, from Avy Avenue to Sharon Road, and Liberty Park Avenue, from Alameda de las Pulgas to Cloud Avenue; and
- C) Advertising for bids for the above defined road reconstruction project.

**BACKGROUND:**

Your Board has previously adopted resolutions authorizing the use of a “streamlined” process to shorten the required time to award a contract in order to ensure compliance with specific funding or construction deadlines for projects that do not have long lead times for design, are not considered controversial requiring specific property owner input, and do not require state or federal grant approvals.

On August 19, 1997, your Board adopted Resolution Nos. 061312 and 061313, which established minimum road standard options and a priority list for road improvements in the West Menlo Park area.

On May 18, 1999, your Board adopted Resolution No. 062821, which adopted procedures to be used by the Department to determine if property owners want

minimum road improvements constructed on a specific street and the minimum road standard to be used in the design of the road improvements.

On January 7, 2003, your Board adopted Resolution Nos. 065763 and 065764, which revised the type of curbing to be used in conjunction with minimum road standards in the West Menlo Park area and revised the procedures for determining minimum road standard options, respectively.

**DISCUSSION:**

Lucky Avenue, from Avy Avenue to Sharon Road, and Liberty Park Avenue, from Alameda de las Pulgas to Cloud Avenue, are the next streets on the West Menlo Park area road priority list for improvements. The Department surveyed all property owners along the streets to determine if they were in favor of road improvements and if so, which minimum road standard design to use for the improvements. Based on the results of the property owner surveys, the following standards are to be used:

- Lucky Avenue from Avy Avenue to Liberty Park Avenue – 11-foot wide travel lane with 3-foot wide valley gutter on one side off the street (north side). The existing curb, gutter and sidewalk on the opposite side of this street would remain and the project would conform to those existing improvements.
- Lucky Avenue from Liberty Park Avenue to Sharon Road - two 9-foot wide travel lanes with 3-foot wide valley gutters on each side.
- Liberty Park Avenue from Alameda de las Pulgas to Lucky Avenue - 11-foot wide travel lane with 3-foot wide valley gutter on one side of the street (east side). The existing curb, gutter and sidewalk on the opposite side of this street would remain and the project would conform to these existing improvements.
- Liberty Park Avenue from Lucky Avenue to Cloud Avenue - two 9-foot wide travel lanes with 3-foot wide valley gutters on each side.

The initial survey results from the property owners on Lucky Avenue, from Avy Avenue to Liberty Park Avenue, did not support construction of minimum improvements. After the survey results were mailed to all of the property owners, the Department received requests from some property owners on this block of Lucky Avenue expressing their desire to have their block re-surveyed. The Department evaluated their request and agreed to re-survey only this block (Lucky Avenue between Avy Avenue and Liberty Park Avenue) to confirm whether road improvements should be constructed and if so, which minimum road standard design to use for the improvements. The proposed road standard for this block of Lucky Avenue is based on the results of the second property owner survey.

Based on the work completed by the Department to date, this project is not considered controversial as there has been significant engagement with the property owners to explain the project and address their concerns. The Department placed spray paint markings on the ground to approximate the road improvement locations, conducted two

property owner surveys regarding the options, and held two public meetings to provide information, answer questions related to each road improvement option, and explain any impacts the improvements may have. The deadline for responding to the two property owner surveys was also extended to ensure property owners had ample time to understand the options and submit their surveys.

### **Road Alignment**

Per Board adopted policy, proposed road improvements are to be centered over the road right-of-way. Generally, existing roads are centered over the road right of way, however, the existing road centerline of Liberty Park Avenue from Lucky Avenue to Cloud Avenue is offset by approximately 4 ½ feet from this location. A significant amount of existing private improvements and landscaping on one side of the road and within the road right-of-way would be impacted based on the adopted Board policy.

The majority of the property owners on this section of Liberty Park Avenue have requested that the approximate existing centerline of the road be used as the centerline of the proposed improvements. The Department has evaluated this request and determined that it would result in a road that more closely matches the existing road footprint, minimizes impacts to the existing drainage patterns, improves conforms at the adjoining properties, and minimizes impacts to private improvements within the road right of way. The Department is recommending that the proposed road be centered based on the approximated center of the existing roadway for this section of Liberty Park Avenue.

### **Streamlined Advertisement/Award Process**

The Public Contract Code provides that projects over \$175,000 must be formally advertised and then awarded by the governing body based on competitive bids. Typically, the formal bid process involves two separate actions by your Board for a project: a resolution adopting plans and specifications and calling for sealed bids; and a resolution awarding a contract to the low bidder. Authorizing the Director of Public Works to prepare the plans and specifications and advertise for sealed bids for this project now reduces the staff time required to proceed through the contract bid and award process. In a subsequent Board action, we will present plans and specifications for your Board's adoption and recommend awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder for said project once bids are received and confirmed. We are recommending that this project follow the streamlined process.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Approval of this action will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Livable Community by improving our roads for use by the traveling public to support livable connected communities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost of constructing road improvements centered on the existing road for Liberty Park Avenue from Lucky Avenue to Cloud Avenue will be somewhat less expensive

than constructing on the center of the County road right-of-way, as we believe the cost of conforming to the adjoining properties will be less. The cost of improvements will be financed with Road and Road Mitigation Fee Funds.

There is no impact to the General Fund.