



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Planning and Building



Date: November 24, 2015
Board Meeting Date: December 15, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Steve Monowitz, Community Development Director

Subject: Resolution authorizing the submittal of a San Mateo County Transportation Authority Measure A Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant Application to fund the Montara Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project and committing matching funds in the amount of \$51,700

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Community Development Director, or his designee, to submit an application to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Measure A Bicycle and Pedestrian Program seeking \$517,000 to fund the design, permitting and construction of the Montara Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project.

BACKGROUND:

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Study (Study) were adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2009 and 2012, respectively. The Study, which was developed with extensive community input, focused on identifying measures that would improve vehicular, pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility along the Highway 1 corridor throughout the Midcoast.

In May 2012, the Planning and Building Department applied for, and received, \$1.5 million in San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) Measure A Highway Improvement Program funds to plan, permit and design a series of pedestrian crossings, raised medians, left turn lanes and acceleration lanes (the Projects) as conceptualized in the Study.

Specifically, the Projects include:

- Pedestrian crossings at Mirada Road in Miramar, Virginia Avenue in Moss Beach, 16th Street, 7th Street and 2nd Street in Montara, and at Gray Whale Cove to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility;

- Raised medians at Virginia Avenue in Moss Beach and 2nd Street in Montara to slow vehicular traffic and better manage traffic movements; and
- Left turn lanes and acceleration lanes at Cypress Avenue in Moss Beach, 7th Street in Montara, and at Gray Whale Cove to improve throughput and reduce traffic accidents.

In order to implement these Projects, the County and TA executed a Memorandum of Understanding allocating Project Management responsibilities to the TA and community engagement responsibilities to the County. The first step toward implementing the Projects was the completion of the Preliminary Planning Study (PPS). The PPS evaluated the feasibility of project alternatives and their ability to relieve congestion, improve throughput and enhance safety. The alternatives consisted of varying designs and styles of pedestrian crossings, raised medians and traffic calming devices. During the development of the PPS, the County held four public workshops, provided four presentations to the Midcoast Community Council and offered three opportunities to provide comments through online forums. After evaluating multiple alternatives at each project location, community input was used to identify a preferred alternative at each location.

The PPS was finalized in August 2015 and will be presented to the Planning Commission in January 2016.

DISCUSSION:

Upon completion of the PPS, the community identified a Preferred Alternative at 16th Street which includes high visibility painted medians for traffic calming and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at the crosswalk. The high visibility painted medians will act as a traffic-calming feature to slow approaching vehicles from both northbound and southbound. At the crosswalk, the on-demand RRFBs will provide an additional level of safety for crossing pedestrians. RRFBs consist of on demand flashing lights that notify drivers of crossing pedestrians. The flashing lights are activated when a pedestrian presses the button. Together, these features have a low impact on the natural environment while providing a safe opportunity for crossing pedestrians.

The TA determined that the pedestrian crossing at 16th Street is strictly a bicycle and pedestrian improvement and that the crossing improvements are therefore ineligible to proceed using Measure A Highway Improvement Program funds. For this reason, the Planning and Building Department is seeking authorization to submit a grant application for TA Measure A Bicycle and Pedestrian Program funds to fund the final design, permitting and construction of the pedestrian crossing at 16th Street. Based on the findings by AECOM, the consultants who developed the PPS, the pedestrian crossing at 16th Street will cost \$140,000 to design and permit, and \$377,000 to construct; totaling \$517,000. The County is proposing a 10% local match of \$51,700.

If constructed, the crossing at 16th Street will be the only designated pedestrian crossing between Devil's Slide and Capistrano Road in El Granada. Currently, there is no

designated pedestrian crossing in this six-mile stretch of scenic coastline. At this location, the crossing will serve as a link for two segments of the Coastal Trail, provide a safe crossing for students walking and bicycling to Farallone View Elementary School, and provide a safe crossing for people accessing the Moss Beach and Montara town centers, Montara Lighthouse Hostel and Montara State Beach.

The County will continue to work with the TA to design and permit all Projects arising out of the PPS. Once designed and permitted, the County's Department of Public Works will work with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to construct the Project. The County is working to ensure that the final improvements, which will be located entirely within the Highway 1 right-of-way, are owned and maintained by Caltrans.

The 16th Street pedestrian crossing contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Livable Community by increasing pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility in the community of Montara.

Fiscal Impact

The net County cost is \$51,700; or 10% of the total requested funds. There is only a net County cost if grant funding is received.