



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: April 1, 2014
Board Meeting Date: May 6, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

Subject: Alpine Road Traffic Management Solutions

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works to:

- A) Initiate investigations concerning the installation of traffic signals at Alpine Road and Highway 280 and, if able to obtain Caltrans approval for such improvements, to pursue grant funding opportunities which would allow such construction to proceed; and
- B) Cease work on a truck ban on Alpine Road.

BACKGROUND:

On October 22, 2013, your Board directed the Department of Public Works to initiate steps required for a truck ban on Alpine Road between Highway 280 and the County limits east of the Weekend Acres Estates.

The direction was in response to public complaints about the volume of trucks that utilize this roadway corridor. We have since received feedback from some of the original complainants that they do not believe a truck ban to be practical and that alternate solutions such as a traffic signal at the Alpine Road and Highway 280 interchange would better address congestion and access issues.

DISCUSSION:

Previous traffic modeling performed by the Department indicates that a traffic signal at the 280/Alpine intersection, in lieu of the current four-way stop, would appreciably mitigate congestion experienced along the Alpine Road corridor. Based on current traffic volumes, a traffic signal would greatly improve the level of service (LOS) at the Alpine/280 northbound ramps from an LOS F (extremely poor) to an LOS B (good) during the afternoon commute hours and slightly improve the LOS at this intersection

from F to E during the morning commute hours. In addition, a traffic signal at this location would naturally create traffic gaps, which would improve the ability of residents along this stretch of road to safely exit the Alpine Road side streets onto Alpine Road.

Because installation of a traffic signal would be within Caltrans Highway 280 right of way, Caltrans has authority over any changes within the intersection. However, in the past, Caltrans has allowed adjacent public agencies to sponsor improvements within their right of way. The green bicycle lane improvements constructed at Alpine Road and Highway 280 was an example of improvements within the Caltrans right of way sponsored by the County and permitted by Caltrans.

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

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by collaboratively working with adjoining agencies to address congestion which has a direct effect on people's quality of living.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Preliminary investigative and coordination efforts with Caltrans are estimated to cost up to \$20,000 in staff time.

Should it be determined that a signal project is viable at this location, it is anticipated that more detailed traffic studies and detailed design would need to be performed. These are preliminarily estimated to cost approximately \$100,000.

The installation of traffic signals at this intersection is estimated to cost an additional \$500,000. Should a project be deemed viable, the Department of Public Works would apply for grant funding to support permitting and construction efforts. Matching fund requirements for grant funds received will vary depending upon the type of grant received and will be funded by the Road Fund. No General Funds will be required for this project.