

STUDY SESSION

Agenda Item #1

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: August 22, 2017

Subject: Foothill Expressway Improvements between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio

Road

Prepared by: Susanna Chan, Public Works Director

Approved by: Chris Jordan, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Conceptual Layout Alternatives 1-3

Initiated by:

City Council

Previous Council Consideration:

April 14, 2015

Fiscal Impact:

The City allocated \$440,000 as a matching fund for the design of the project. The estimated \$2,200,000 construction cost will be funded by the VTA 2016 Measure B Program.

Environmental Review:

As the lead agency of the project, Santa Clara County will conduct appropriate CEQA review for the project as part of the final design

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

• Are the conceptual alternatives consistent with Council's objectives?

Summary:

- City and County staff conducted a public outreach meeting and made presentations to City Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission (BPAC), VTA BPAC, City Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC)
- County staff will present proposed alternatives, summarize comments received, and describe how they will address the comments at the August 22 meeting

Staff Recommendation:

Receive an update from County staff and provide input on proposed improvements on Foothill Expressway between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road



Subject: Foothill Expressway Improvements between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio

Road

Purpose

Receive an update from County staff and provide input on proposed improvements on Foothill Expressway between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road

Background

The Santa Clara County's Expressway Plan 2040 is a long-range comprehensive plan for improvement and maintenance of the County's expressway system. The plan considers the needs of all users and builds on the 2003 County Expressway Implementation Plan and the 2008 Update. The plan is currently under development and is anticipated to be circulated for review in Fall 2017.

The Foothill Expressway improvements between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road have been identified as one of the Tier 1 projects in the Expressway Plan 2040. In April 2015, the City Council allocated \$440,000 to fund the design of the project which allows this project to become "shovel-ready" to compete for outside construction funds.

In November 2016, the voters of Santa Clara County approved a 30-year ½ cent sales tax measure supporting transportation projects and services known as 2016 Measure B. The ½ cent sales tax collection began on April 1, 2017. The Measure B program is divided into nine distinct program categories, including \$750 million over a 30-year period for County Expressways improvements. Tier 1 projects in the Expressway Plan 2040 will be funded by Measure B funds.

Discussion/Analysis

The County is leading the project with assistance from the City. The project is currently in conceptual design phase and will become one of the first Measure B funded projects.

The County conducted public meetings in 2014 and 2015 as part of the Expressway Plan 2040. The community was introduced to the project and had opportunities to express issues that were important to them. Three design alternatives were developed using the input from those community meetings.

As part of the project, the County proposes to widen Foothill Expressway between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road to add auxiliary lanes in each direction. Intersection improvements will also be provided at El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road, including:

- Addition of a second through lane on westbound El Monte Avenue while keeping the dedicated right turn pocket
- Possible third left turn lane from eastbound El Monte Avenue to northbound Foothill Expressway
- Possible addition of a second right turn lane with bicycle accommodations from northbound Foothill Expressway to San Antonio Road
- Possible addition of a second right turn lane with bicycle accommodations from southbound Foothill Expressway to El Monte Avenue

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- Possible third through lane at southbound Foothill Expressway and San Antonio Road approach
- Elimination of right turn islands and slip ramps on selected corners of the Foothill Expressway
 /El Monte Avenue intersection and squaring off the intersection to improve bicycle and
 pedestrian safety
- Road widening, geometric modification, modification of traffic signals, pavement resurfacing, pavement delineation, landscaping and other related improvements

On June 28, 2017, City and County staff presented the project to the City's BPAC. County staff also presented the project to the VTA BPAC on July 12, 2017. Additionally, City staff provided a project update to the PTC on July 20, 2017.

On June 29, 2017, a public outreach meeting was held at the Hillview Community Center where County staff presented the three design alternatives to the members of the public. They discussed the advantages and tradeoffs of each alternative and gathered input on the alternatives from meeting attendees.

County staff will present the proposed alternatives, summarize comments received from various public meetings, and describe how they will address the comments at the August 22, 2017 Council meeting. Comments received from the Council will be used to refine design alternatives.

Recommendation

Receive update from County staff and provide input on proposed improvements on Foothill Expressway between El Monte Avenue and San Antonio Road

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