



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 12/18/2018

ITEM NO: 8

DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2018

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: LAUREL PREVETTI, TOWN MANAGER

SUBJECT: PROJECT 813-0231 - BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (BLOSSOM HILL ROAD):

- A. APPROVE THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (BLOSSOM HILL ROAD) AND AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ADVERTISE THE PROJECT FOR BID.
- B. AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD AND EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$550,032, INCLUDING CONTINGENCIES.
- C. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXECUTE POTENTIAL CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THE CONTRACT AWARD AMOUNT.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Town Council:

1. Approve the plans and specifications for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project (Blossom Hill Road) and authorize the Town Manager to advertise the project for bid.
2. Authorize the Town Manager to award and execute a construction agreement in an amount not to exceed \$550,032, including contingencies.
3. Authorize staff to execute potential change orders in an amount not to exceed fifteen percent of the contract award amount.

BACKGROUND:

Within the Fiscal Year 2018/19 – 2022/23 Capital Improvement Program budget, the Town Council allocated funding for Bicycle and Pedestrian improvement projects in the Town. At the

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Assistant Parks and Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, Finance Director, and Parks and Public Works Director

BACKGROUND (continued):

October 17, 2017 Town Council meeting, the Council approved a prioritization of Bicycle and Pedestrian projects within the Town's approved Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to be funded within the allocated CIP budget. The Blossom Hill Road (Blossom Hill Road) bicycle and pedestrian improvements were identified as the highest priority CIP projects.

After Council's October direction, staff began working on the design which included the following:

- Class IV bike lanes on Blossom Hill Road (Blossom Hill Road) between Roberts Road East and Oak Rim Way
- Right turn lane and Class I multiuse path on the eastbound approach of Blossom Hill Road at Roberts Road East
- Fisher Middle School frontage striping improvements on Roberts Road East

Class IV bike lanes are bike lanes separated from vehicle traffic with a physical barrier. Class I multi-use paths serve both bicyclists and pedestrians on a pathway that is physically separated from vehicle traffic and the street.

At the October 16, 2018 Town Council meeting, Council accepted two grants previously authorized for submittal by the Council for the project, including \$242,000 from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) and \$39,500 from the County Program Manager Fund.

The plans and specifications for the project have been completed and are available for review on the PPW capital improvement webpage at www.losgatosca.gov/108/Capital-Improvement-Program. A plan exhibit is provided in Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION:

The Town completed an online Student Study Travel Survey to solicit parent and student input on what improvements would most benefit school students who walk and bike to school. The survey results from 1,100 respondents showed that the improvements that would most likely change student transportation decisions are biking and walking facilities with physical separation from vehicular traffic. Additionally, parents noted they would be more likely to encourage their children to bike or walk to school if these types of separated facilities were in place.

DISCUSSION (continued):

The Blossom Hill Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project would be the first Class I and Class IV separated bicycle facilities along a major Town arterial roadway. This section of Blossom Hill Road experiences a high volume of school traffic and often experiences vehicular congestion from traffic to and from Fisher Middle School and Van Meter Elementary School. As highlighted by the survey, installing new separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities may encourage more students to bike and walk to school, which would reduce congestion on this corridor and create a safer environment for all bicyclists and walkers.

In addition to the design scope noted in the Background section of this report, the design will also include traffic signal modification at the intersection of Blossom Hill Road and Roberts Road East, lane striping changes, parking removal along Blossom Hill Road to allow for the new improvements, and a relocation of the westbound Blossom Hill Road merge point towards Los Gatos Boulevard. During the design development, staff conducted a traffic pilot project related to the change of the merge point and attended a special Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) public outreach meeting to discuss the design and roadway changes related to the project with the public. The pilot traffic project and special BPAC meeting are discussed below in more detail.

Blossom Hill Road Westbound Merge Pilot Project

Parks and Public Works staff implemented a morning lane closure on westbound Blossom Hill Road between Los Gatos Boulevard and Roberts Road East on May 30, 2018. The project moved the westbound Blossom Hill Road traffic merge point at Roberts Road East closer to the Los Gatos Boulevard intersection to simulate changes that would be made with the Blossom Hill Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project. During the morning school drop-off period, traffic was initially impacted for a 20-minute period, causing some cars to wait an extra signal cycle to cross the Los Gatos Boulevard intersection. Staff will mitigate this impact by extending the westbound green time on Blossom Hill Road at Roberts Road and by extending the left turn pocket from Blossom Hill Road to Roberts Road East.

During the pilot closure, it was also observed that westbound cars attempting to bypass Highway 85 to reach Highway 9 changed their driving behavior and turned north on Los Gatos Boulevard. Change in driver behavior once the project is constructed will help disperse traffic from this area of Blossom Hill Road and typically drivers will acclimate to roadway changes within a few months. These adjustments are expected for the lane changes that will be implemented with the Blossom Hill Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.

DISCUSSION (continued):

Special BPAC Public Meeting

The BPAC held a special meeting on November 8, 2018 to discuss the design for the upcoming Blossom Hill Road bicycle and pedestrian project. Residents living within 300 feet of the project limits were mailed letters regarding the meeting. In addition, information about the meeting was provided in the Los Gatos Unified School District's newsletter, on Nextdoor, on the Town What's New website, and on the newly developed Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Project webpage www.losgatosca.gov/BikePedImprovements. The meeting was attended by five BPAC members and eight members of the public.

Staff explained the key details of the conceptual design (Attachment 1). This included a discussion on the new westbound right turn lane onto Roberts Road East, the new Class I (widened sidewalk) bike lane at this same location, and the new Class IV (barrier) bike lanes from Roberts Road East to just west of Los Gatos Boulevard. Additionally, staff talked about parking changes for the project that require removal of approximately ten parking spaces (out of 29) on Blossom Hill Road for bicycle safety and to obtain the needed roadway width. Staff noted the exact number of spaces removed would be determined during the final design of the project. Based on the final design, 12 spaces will be removed. Staff also discussed the relocation of the westbound lane merge point on Blossom Hill Road.

Residents in attendance were excited and supportive of the project. Questions from the public revolved mainly around project logistics, such as public education, maintenance, and project funding. The presentation provided at the meeting and proposed project layout are included on the project webpage. Staff encouraged residents at the public meeting and through other forms of notification to sign up for the Notify Me option on the project's webpage to stay up to date on the project.

Next Steps

Should Council approve the plans and specifications and authorize project bidding, the following is the anticipated project schedule:

Project Bid Opening	January 24, 2019
Construction Contract Award	March 2019
Construction Start	June 2019
Construction Complete	August 2019

CONCLUSION:

The proposed project continues to advance the priorities identified by the Town’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the Traffic Around Schools study.

COORDINATION:

This project has been coordinated with the Town’s BPAC and through community outreach as highlighted in this report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements Project 813-0231		
	Budget	Costs
GFAR	\$ 538,550	
TFCA Grants	\$ 281,500	
Traffic Mitigation	\$ 34,028	
Total Budget	\$ 854,078	
FY 18/19 Prior Commitments		\$ 53,866
Project Construction (Including Contingencies)		\$ 550,032
Total Expenditures		\$ 550,032
Remaining Balance		\$ 304,046

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is a project as defined under CEQA but is Categorically Exempt (Section 15301c). A Notice of Exemption was previously filed.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Plan Exhibit