



CITY OF SAN MATEO

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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 1

Section Name: {{section.name}}

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TO: City Council
FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager
PREPARED BY: Public Works Department
MEETING DATE: January 19, 2021

SUBJECT:

State Route 92/State Route 82 El Camino Real Interchange Landscape Improvements Project – Informational Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an informational update and provide feedback for the conceptual design of the State Route 92/State Route 82 El Camino Real Interchange Landscape Improvements Project.

BACKGROUND:

Roadway improvements to reconfigure the State Route (SR) 92/SR 82 El Camino Real highway interchange were completed in August 2018 as part of a joint project between the City of San Mateo, San Mateo County Transportation Authority, and California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The agencies now desire to complete the next phase of the project, which involves restoration of landscaping within the interchange limits (Attachment 1). The City is currently under contract with BKF Engineers to design and develop construction documents for the landscape project.

The purpose of the landscaping project is to create an attractive interchange that meets Caltrans requirements and minimizes the resources needed to maintain it. The landscaping project includes clearing and grubbing, light grading and contouring, ground cover and tree planting, and irrigation improvements. The City is also proposing landscaping along the sound wall in the northeast portion of the cloverleaf that faces the Hayward Park neighborhood. The proposed landscape design will prioritize safety and security, ease of maintenance, and provide an inviting landscape screen for the sound wall.

Public Works staff implemented a multipronged outreach approach to obtain feedback on the landscaping design concept options for the interchange and soundwall screening. Outreach began with a public month-long survey posted on the City's various advertisement channels (i.e. NextDoor, webpages, etc.) in order to reach the general public, business owners, and residents. The survey asked respondents to identify which neighborhood they lived in, how often they saw the interchange, preferences on landscaping, and other comments. Survey reminders were posted on the same advertisement channels a week prior to closing the survey in order to maximize response and opportunity for feedback.

With 173 survey respondents, the majority were residents who see the interchange frequently or almost every day in passing. Respondents generally showed preferences for colorful flowering plants and commented about the importance of native trees that require little maintenance and low water usage.

In addition to the survey, a special notice was mailed to residents and businesses within the vicinity of the project to provide another opportunity for input at or prior to the December 9th, 2020 Sustainability & Infrastructure Commission (SIC) meeting. The proposed landscape concept guided by survey responses was presented at the SIC meeting, and input was requested from the Commission and the public to supplement the survey results.

Overall, the SIC provided positive feedback regarding the conceptual design, especially related to the incorporation of Caltrans guidelines, survey response preferences, and maintenance needs and limitations into the plant selection.

The design team is in the final stages of concept refinement in keeping with the project schedule and to proceed with construction drawings. The proposed landscape concept (Attachment 2) will be presented at the City Council study session for further feedback since the SR 92/SR 82 highway interchange serves as a gateway to the City of San Mateo.

Staff anticipates completing design and advertising for construction in Fall 2021. Completion of the project is anticipated Fall 2022.

BUDGET IMPACT:

There is no budget impact associated with this informational update.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

This action of receiving informational updates and providing feedback is not a project subject to CEQA, because it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).)

The landscape restoration received environmental clearance when the project level initial study and negative declaration for the highway improvements project was approved in May 2014. Environmental clearance for the landscape work will be re-validated during the design phase.

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Project Location Map

Att 2 – Proposed Landscape Concept

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