



# CITY OF SAN MATEO

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## Agenda Report

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**TO:** Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission

**FROM:** Brad Underwood

**PREPARED BY:** Public Works Department

**MEETING DATE:** December 9, 2020

**SUBJECT:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**BACKGROUND:**

Roadway improvements to reconfigure the SR 92/SR 82 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. 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.

A public online survey was conducted from September 15, 2020 to October 25, 2020 to obtain feedback on the landscaping design concept options for the interchange and soundwall screening. The survey was advertised via the City's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Nextdoor), the City and Public Works Department webpages, and the City's electronic newsletter 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, and preferences on plant palette (Attachment 1). Further, the survey presented two options for landscaping the soundwall (Attachment 2) as well as an open comment section. Reminders about the survey were posted on the same advertisement channels a week prior to closing the survey in order to maximize response and opportunity for feedback.

The landscape survey received 173 responses. The majority of respondents are residents who see the interchange frequently or almost every day in passing. Respondents generally showed preferences for colorful flowering plants over simple greenery and commented about the importance of native trees that require little maintenance and low water usage.

The design team continues to refine the design with comments received. In addition to the survey, a special notice was mailed to residents and businesses within the vicinity of the project (Attachment 3) to provide another opportunity for

input at or prior to the Sustainability & Infrastructure Commission meeting. The current proposed landscape concept and plant palette will be presented at the meeting, and feedback is requested from the Commission and the public to supplement the survey results since the SR 92/SR82 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 – Plant Palette

Att 2 – Options for Soundwall Landscaping

Att 3 – Vicinity Map

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