



AGENCY:	City Council
MEETING DATE:	February 24, 2014
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
PREPARED BY:	T. Varga
PRESENTED BY:	T. Varga

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:

RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING MAIN STREET MERGE LANE RELOCATION PROJECT AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF

ISSUE:

Design and engineering for the Main Street Merge Lane Relocation Project is nearly complete. Final issues and concerns are being resolved. The original construction schedule has been changed to accommodate completion of the federal environmental review process. This item is being brought forward to provide an update to the City Council on the status of the project. A brief version of this update was presented at the February 19th meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide direction to staff on the final design of the Main Street Merge Lane Relocation Project.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

Request additional information and continue action to a future meeting.

ANALYSIS:

Last summer, Caltrans took the lead for project environmental review to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This review is presently underway but is not expected to be completed soon enough to allow a timely start for construction in 2014. Therefore, construction will occur in 2015 instead.

At the December 9, 2013 City Council meeting, staff presented the latest iteration of the design for the Main Street Merge Lane Relocation Project which generated input from the community and the City Council members. As a result of the discussion, direction from the City Council was provided on a number of items for staff to follow up on. The status of these items is as follows.

1. Ownership of street lights along Main Street

The Council directed that the City should take ownership of the new street lights thereby allowing for the display of banners and enabling the provision of electric outlets on the light standards. In January, a meeting was held with PG&E, the Design Engineer and City staff to discuss responsibilities and design. Service points for these lights are being developed in conjunction with PG&E.

2. Main Street medians

Council directed that raised medians should not be constructed on Main Street between Alder Street and Redwood Avenue and painted medians or stamped asphalt medians should be used instead. Since that meeting, additional questions have been raised by Caltrans regarding the suitability of this modified design. Presently, a dual left-turn lane provides for left turns into driveways on both sides of side of the street (e.g. Bank of America, Cowlick's, etc.). The median was intended to eliminate such turning movements in conjunction with the relocation of the "merge"

to this block. Caltrans pointed out that a median without a curb, (not raised), will be difficult to enforce against drivers making illegal left turns into or out of these parking lots. From an engineering standpoint, medians are effective, passive traffic control devices to prevent these left turns when traffic is congested. In addition, a variety of automobile collisions are prevented when medians separate traffic flow. The medians can be designed to be mountable to allow for passage by emergency vehicles. The two annual parades that utilize Main Street would need to adjust to the presence of the medians.

3. Establish a project schedule and bid the project; consider night work, a short week and/or a split construction season.

Staff surveyed local businesses to better understand how the construction schedule might impact them. Unfortunately, there were no clear indications of which option would be the least disruptive. Options presented included a split construction season, four- ten hour working days (excepting Friday through Sunday), or five- eight hour days (excepting only weekends). Given these results, a construction schedule that avoids the busy summer season, (July 1st through August 15th), and normal work days over five week days is recommended. Night work would only be of limited value as the bulk of the construction is rather noisy and should be avoided at night.

4. Widen sidewalk in front of the Company Store and disposition of the adjacent southbound right turn pocket on to Redwood Avenue

As directed by Council, the southbound turn pocket will be removed but provisions will be made to restore it should traffic needs require it. Next to the Company Store, the sidewalks will be widened as much as possible without reducing the flexibility to restore the southbound turn pocket. On-street parking would continue to be provided, but may be eliminated in the future to accommodate the southbound right turn onto Redwood.

5. Chief Celeri Drive Improvements

Repairs to Chief Celeri Drive will be made as directed by Council. These will consist of structural repairs, as needed, and a seal coat.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Once final changes in design are completed, design and construction costs will be finalized as well. The final figures will come back before the City Council for authorization. Because construction has been moved to 2015, a time extension for expending the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) grant funds will be submitted. The California Transportation Committee (CTC) will consider the request at its meeting of May 5, 2014. Given that the delay is due to Caltrans, the extension request is expected to be granted.

IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:

Staff is continuing to resolve all outstanding issues for the Main Street Merge Lane Relocation Project to ensure that it is shovel-ready, and can be expeditiously bid and constructed as soon as the environmental review is completed.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Improvement Plans (partial)

NOTIFICATION:

1. Distributed by email lists to downtown business owners

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Agency Action ☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Approved as Amended

Resolution No.: _____ Ordinance No.: _____

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Vote: _____

☐ Deferred/Continued to meeting of: _____

☐ Referred to: _____