

# Capitola City Council

## Agenda Report



**Meeting:** October 9, 2025

**From:** Public Works Department

**Subject:** Transportation Safety Updates – Local Roadway Safety Plan and Bay Avenue Corridor

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**Recommended Action:** Receive an informational report on the City of Capitola's Local Roadway Safety Plan initiative and the Bay Avenue Corridor Project.

**Background:** In February 2025, the City Council reviewed the Bay Avenue Corridor Study and endorsed Alternative 2, a roundabout-based design, as the preferred concept for long-term improvements at key intersections. At that time, Council directed staff to pursue opportunities to fund the corridor improvements so the City could move the project forward into design and construction phases.

Following Council's direction, the City prepared and submitted an application to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) under the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to fund the final design of the Bay Avenue Corridor. A final funding decision by the RTC is expected in November 2025.

In addition, staff begin work on a Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP). An LRSP is intended to be a data-driven, high-level safety plan that positions the City for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grants and strengthens the City's competitiveness for a range of state and federal funding opportunities.

Staff has also advanced the Bay Avenue Corridor Project through additional technical analysis and stakeholder outreach.

**Discussion:**

**Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP):** The Local Roadway Safety Plan is a planning tool encouraged by both Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration. It enables local jurisdictions to identify crash patterns, evaluate roadway and behavioral risk factors, and develop actionable safety improvements consistent with the Safe System Approach promoted by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Adoption of an LRSP is now a prerequisite for eligibility for Highway Safety Improvement Program funding.

The Capitola LRSP will review five years of citywide crash data, analyze trends, and identify emphasis areas such as speeding, impaired driving, and collisions involving vulnerable road users. It will also incorporate an equity assessment to highlight transportation safety challenges facing disadvantaged populations. The plan will recommend both general countermeasures and targeted priority locations, including Bay Avenue, for implementation.

Although the LRSP is primarily a data-driven process, community engagement is planned to ensure resident perspectives are reflected. A community meeting to discuss the LRSP and the Bay Avenue Corridor Project will be held on October 28, 2025, at New Brighton Middle School. At this meeting, staff and the consultant will introduce the LRSP effort, present top safety challenge areas, and invite residents to participate in an online survey that will launch in early October.

A second public outreach effort will occur later in 2025, where staff will summarize survey and meeting feedback and present preliminary countermeasures and recommended priority corridors. This information, combined with crash data analysis, will shape the Draft LRSP. The Draft LRSP will be completed in early 2026, followed by a Final Plan, which will be presented for Council adoption. Adoption will establish the City's eligibility for HSIP grants and provide a roadmap for future safety-related funding.

**Bay Avenue Corridor – Progress and Outreach Launch:** Since February 2025, staff has advanced the Bay Avenue Corridor Project into concept refinement and stakeholder engagement. Work to date

includes new traffic data collection during school drop-off and pick-up periods and a summer festival weekend, right-of-way analysis at the Bay/Capitola and Bay/Hill intersections, and refinement of CAD layouts showing potential roundabout designs and complete street improvements.

In September 2025, focused stakeholder meetings were held with businesses and property owners near the Bay/Capitola and Bay/Hill intersections. A separate meeting with the Bay Avenue Senior Housing community is planned but has not yet been scheduled. The discussions to date have provided input on access needs, traffic operations, and corridor safety priorities.

The next step is a public meeting to discuss the Bay Avenue Corridor Project and the LRSP, scheduled for October 28, 2025, at New Brighton Middle School. At this event, staff will present the refined Bay Avenue Corridor layouts alongside the LRSP findings, allowing residents to see the connection between the citywide safety plan and this specific corridor project. Public input will also be collected through an online survey and social media outreach.

Completion of this outreach phase will provide refined corridor concepts that are “shelf-ready,” positioning the project to advance into design and construction when funding becomes available. This readiness is especially important, considering the pending RTC grant application and anticipated future opportunities.

Fiscal Impact: Both the LRSP and Bay Avenue Corridor outreach and refinement efforts were budgeted in FY 2024–25 and rolled over into the current fiscal year. The RTC grant application is pending. No additional budget action is required at this time.

Attachments:

1. Bay Avenue Corridor Public Outreach Plan
2. LRSP Public Outreach Plan

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