

Moss, Julia

From: Janet Edwards <bsjedwards@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:32 PM
To: City Council; Mozumder, Kailash
Subject: Capitola Road Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

City Council of Capitola

My name is Janet Edwards and I am a member of the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (ED&D TAC) which is part of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC). We look at all rehabilitation projects to make sure that they meet with the needs of Elderly & Disabled people, so that if there is a need to make an improvement to a crosswalk or signal button it is covered in a project. This is done so that it can be done within a scope of project when funding is available.

This project was presented at our bimonthly meeting in April and there was a community member that was there to complain about a person in a wheelchair that was having trouble with signal crossing buttons, especially the one at Capitola Road and Clares St. this is from the minutes of that meeting

"Marianne Ahern, Member of the public, presented intersections in Capitola that are hazardous to individuals with disabilities. She identified intersections where pedestrians were struck by motorists in the past 6 months. The intersections include Clares St. & Capitola Rd, Capitola Rd & 41st Avenue, Soquel Dr & Carriker Lane, and Captiola Rd & 7th Avenue. Ms. Ahern emphasized the need for safe pedestrian crossings that are ADA accessible at hospitals and shopping centers. Specifically, at Capitola Rd & Clares St. individuals using a wheelchair are unable to reach the pedestrian push button to cross the street."

Shortly after that meeting I met with Kailash Mozumder, from your public works and we "walked" (I am in a wheelchair) around the entire mall and reviewed the curb cuts and the signals buttons at all of the corners. I need to make sure that these have been incorporated into the plans for this project. From the drawings included in the packet I can not tell if this has been done. The package said there are more complete drawings available. I received the package on Friday, July 21st and was unable to connect with anyone. Today, I again tried again, the main operator is trying to find someone that can show them to me and where they are being held. As of this hour I have not heard from anyone, apparently there are many people on vacation. I think these signal improvements are very important as they are making life difficult for people in wheelchairs and blind people too. I understand that not all of the things Kailash and I talked about are going to be done at this time, but I would hope that the ones that directly affect Capitola Road should be included.

I request that you do not present this project at this time until I can see that the signals on Capitola Road have been included in this project. I will be happy to remove my request if I get to see the drawings and they are included.

Thanks you for your consideration.
Janet Edwards

Moss, Julia

From: Kahn, Jessica
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:29 PM
To: City Council
Subject: FW: Capitola Road Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Kahn, Jessica
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:28 PM
To: bsjedwards@aol.com
Cc: Mozumder, Kailash <kmozumder@ci.capitola.ca.us>
Subject: RE: Capitola Road Project

Good afternoon Ms. Edwards,

Thank you for your inquiry. As you are aware as a member of the ED&D TAC, the City takes the recommendations of both SCCRTC advisory committees very seriously and makes every effort to incorporate those recommendations into transportation projects.

The plan set attached to the staff report for this project for the July 27th Council meeting is the complete set of plans to be bid for in-roadway work. Generally, a full plan set is not included in the agenda packet, but since this project is fairly limited in scope all pages were published.

<https://mccmeetingspublic.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/capitolaca-meet-36c7913d47d7479f88bddf2dfbc211d4/ITEM-Attachment-001-4c2dd20281e644129a1e7031f81306b8.pdf>

Additional work outside the scope of the roadway contractor for this project includes tree work/removal and electrical work. Staff has found that contracting these services separately with contractors who complete similar work for the City reduces costs for that type of work overall.

Addressing your direct concerns:

- Curb cuts – Sheet 2 of the linked plan set above indicate (with a #1 in a circle) where curb ramps are being replaced to meet current ADA standard.
- Push buttons – As noted above, electrical improvements are not included as part of the roadway improvement contract. This work will be scheduled with the City's traffic signal contractor.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any additional questions. Mr. Mozumder is currently out of the office.

Jessica Kahn, P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Capitola
(831) 475-7300 x 217
jkahn@ci.capitola.ca.us

From: Janet Edwards <bsjedwards@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:32 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Mozumder, Kailash <kmozumder@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Subject: Capitola Road Project

City Council of Capitola

My name is Janet Edwards and I am a member of the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (ED&D TAC) which is part of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC). We look at all rehabilitation projects to make sure that they meet with the needs of Elderly & Disabled people, so that if there is a need to make an improvement to a crosswalk or signal button it is covered in a project. This is done so that it can be done within a scope of project when funding is available.

This project was presented at our bimonthly meeting in April and there was a community member that was there to complain about a person in a wheelchair that was having trouble with signal crossing buttons, especially the one at Capitola Road and Clares St. this is from the minutes of that meeting

"Marianne Ahern, Member of the public, presented intersections in Capitola that are hazardous to individuals with disabilities. She identified intersections where pedestrians were struck by motorists in the past 6 months. The intersections include Clares St. & Capitola Rd, Capitola Rd & 41st Avenue, Soquel Dr & Carriker Lane, and Captiola Rd & 7th Avenue. Ms. Ahern emphasized the need for safe pedestrian crossings that are ADA accessible at hospitals and shopping centers. Specifically, at Capitola Rd & Clares St. individuals using a wheelchair are unable to reach the pedestrian push button to cross the street."

Shortly after that meeting I met with Kailash Mozumder, from your public works and we "walked" (I am in a wheelchair) around the entire mall and reviewed the curb cuts and the signals buttons at all of the corners. I need to make sure that these have been incorporated into the plans for this project. From the drawings included in the packet I can not tell if this has been done. The package said there are more complete drawings available. I received the package on Friday, July 21st and was unable to connect with anyone. Today, I again tried again, the main operator is trying to find someone that can show them to me and where they are being held. As of this hour I have not heard from anyone, apparently there are many people on vacation. I think these signal improvements are very important as they are making life difficult for people in wheelchairs and blind people too. I understand that not all of the things Kailash and I talked about are going to be done at this time, but I would hope that the ones that directly affect Capitola Road should be included.

I request that you do not present this project at this time until I can see that the signals on Capitola Road have been included in this project. I will be happy to remove my request if I get to see the drawings and they are included.

Thanks you for your consideration.
Janet Edwards

Moss, Julia

From: Janet Edwards <bsjedwards@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:49 PM
To: City Council; Mozumder, Kailash; Kahn, Jessica
Cc: veronica edtac
Subject: Capitola Rd project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Capitola City Council

Janet Edwards from the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee part of the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission A followup to my previous email of earlier in the day. I have received a reply from Jessica Kahn from public works.

These are the things that I have a problem with that I believe should be addressed in the repaving process that I can not see in the drawings

1. At 41st Ave and Capitola Rd if you are on 41st Ave (closest to the Wells Fargo Bank), the button to cross from the North to South is far away from the curb cut and it makes it difficult to find - especially for blind people and tough to get back to the curb cut for everyone when it is time to cross.

2. At Clares St and Capitola Rd

A. the button closest to the Dakota is difficult to reach - especially for people with mobility problems

B. Crossing Capital Rd from the same spot is a button in the middle of the street which is not accessible plus the cross walk is set up to go behind the signal light and that is where the button should be not in front of the signal. Of course as it sits right now - it is not in the right place and not accessible from either side.

Other signal buttons have problems in this area, but can be easily changed without a lot of digging. And could be done at a later time.

I object to this project going forward without addressing the problems relating to people with disabilities. These items were brought to the attention of Kailash Mozumder in a "walk" around the mall back in April and need more attention than from the City's traffic signal contractor at a later date.

Thank you so much for your help.

Janet Edwards