

# Capitola City Council

## Agenda Report



**Meeting:** March 23, 2023

**From:** Department of Public Works

**Subject:** Kennedy Drive Sidewalk Project

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**Recommended Action:** Approve the plans, specifications, and construction budget of \$214,000 for the Kennedy Drive Sidewalk Project; approve the Coastal Development Permit and the findings listed in the Final Local Action Notice; and authorize the Department of Public Works to advertise for construction bids.

**Background:** In 2021 the City of Capitola was awarded \$197,000 in Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) funding for the Kennedy Drive Sidewalk Project from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC). The project has been designed to fill in a gap in the City's existing pedestrian facilities and address the City's General Plan Mobility Element, which calls for a complete network of sidewalks. This project was identified during the public scoping sessions for McGregor Park, a multi-use park located approximately ¼ mile east of the intersection of Kennedy Drive and Park Avenue.

**Discussion:**

*Project Description*

Kennedy Drive from Sir Francis Avenue to Park Avenue is a primary pedestrian accessway from the Cliffwood Heights neighborhood to New Brighton State Beach and McGregor Park. Current conditions on this section of roadway consists of parking along both sides of the curb line, forcing pedestrians to walk next to traffic. Primarily a pedestrian safety project, the Kennedy Drive Sidewalk Project will construct approximately 550 feet of new sidewalk, curb and gutter, minor retaining walls, striping, and ADA curb ramps (Attachment 1). The addition of a sidewalk and uphill bike lane will eliminate conflicts between pedestrians, vehicles, and bicycles. The addition of a sidewalk also necessitates the removal of parking, approximately 18 spaces, on the north side of street. Sixteen spaces will remain on the south side of the street. The loss of parking does not significantly impact the overall parking availability in the area.

As required by the RTIP, Public Works staff will be presenting this project to the SCCRTC Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Advisory Committee for review and comment in April 2023. Although not anticipated, if substantial changes are recommended staff will return to Council for approval. Staff intends on advertising for construction bids in late April with anticipated construction in late Spring 2023.

*Coastal Development Permit*

The project requires approval of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP). The City Council is the approval authority on CDP applications for public works projects that require no other discretionary permit approvals from the City other than funding approval. The proposed project is in compliance with all CDP findings. The required findings for a CDP are included in Attachment 2, the Final Local Action Notice.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption:** The proposed project is consistent with the general plan, any applicable specific plan, the zoning code, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is subject to Section 753.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of

Regulations. Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines exempts the alteration of existing public facilities that involve negligible or no expansion of use. Specifically, 15301(c) exempts projects involving existing streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations. The project involves a new sidewalk, new bicycle lane, and related access improvements to an existing roadway. The project will not create additional automobile lanes and involves a negligible expansion of use. No adverse environmental impacts were discovered during review of the proposed project.

Fiscal Impact: The escalated construction estimate for this project is \$2140,000, \$197,000 which can be funded from the SCCRTC RTIP grant. The Council approved an appropriation of \$25,000 for this project in FY 2021-2022, \$8,000 of which has been expended on project design. There is \$17,000 remaining and available to fund the construction of the project.

Attachments:

1. Project Plans
2. Final Local Action Notice

Report Prepared By: Kailash Mozumder, Public Works Project Manager

Reviewed By: Jessica Kahn, Public Works Director; Katie Herlihy, Community Development Director; Julia Moss, City Clerk; Samantha Zutler, City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager