



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Ophir and Bennet Circulation Improvements - Project Introduction

CEQA: N/A - Administrative Discussion

Recommendation Motion: That Council: 1) receive a presentation on proposed roadway circulation improvements on Ophir and Bennett Streets, and 2) provide direction to staff whether to proceed with further outreach and implementation work.

Prepared by: Bjorn P. Jones, PE, City Engineer

Council Meeting Date: 1/9/2024

Date Prepared: 12/28/2023

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information: At the Council meeting Engineering Staff will present a proposal for intersection and roadway modifications on Ophir and Bennett Streets. The concept involves constructing a permanent barrier at Ophir St and Colfax Ave to prohibit vehicular traffic from turning from Colfax Ave onto Ophir St in the northbound direction. Southbound traffic from Ophir onto Colfax would still be permitted.

With the heavy reliance on navigation apps, more and more motorists are unnecessarily using Ophir to Bennett St as the default route from Colfax Ave to Highway 49 and areas to the north. This has led to an increase in traffic on the more residential portion of Bennett St and a subsequent increase in truck traffic for a roadway that was not designed to handle heavy loads. Additionally, Engineering has seen a notable rise in the number of traffic calming requests received for Bennett St, as well as added speeding and safety concerns at the Ophir and Colfax Ave intersection. Baring the turning movement from Colfax onto Ophir will eliminate use of Bennett St as a quick “cut through” and diminish the sense of Bennett St as a main thoroughfare. It would also greatly alleviate traffic congestion at the Ophir and Bennett intersection which currently operates at a failing level of service at certain times of day.

The second component of the proposal would be to enact a weight limit restriction on Bennett St, to prohibit heavy truck traffic. Staff would work with Platt Electric Supply and Durham School Services to ensure that deliveries and normal operations would not be adversely affected, but would seek a suitable weight limit to remove overweight vehicles from this primarily residential roadway.

Staff will request Council’s guidance on the proposed modifications and if in concurrence would seek to pursue further design work and then outreach efforts with the local community and stakeholders in the coming months.

Council Goals/Objectives: The Ophir and Bennett St Circulation Improvements Project executes portions of work towards achieving/maintaining Strategic Plan - City Infrastructure Investment.

Fiscal Impact: The project is fully funded in the FY 23/24 CIP Budget with Traffic Impact Fee Program funds.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: 300-406-TBD

Reviewed by: City Manager