

From: [Jim Wing](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 07 Meeting Date 04/12/2022
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 9:09:40 AM

Council Mayor Enander and Distinguished Council Members,

Council 4/12/2022 Meeting Agenda Item 7, Mid-Year Budget Review

Please remove CD-01017 First Street Streetscape Design - Phase 2 from budget. This very old CIP project that is no longer needed because character of First Street from Main to San Antonio /Cuesta has changed from food service /retail / personal care / animal care to high density residential housing. Main purpose of original CIP was enhancing pedestrian / cyclists experience to encourage access to food service, retail / personal care and animal care. Now half are gone [32 to 16 with 11 in Draeger's block]! Staff has already requested design bids and that effort should be stopped to save precious engineering staff time.

Due to encouragement of Council and Staff, First Street from Main to San Antonio has seen many positive changes since CIP projected was approved with more to come:

- 475 First Office building developer added pedestrian enhanced streetscape at San Antonio entrance to First Street.
- Los Altos hardware relocated main entrance to allow wider sidewalks.
- All west side high density housing developments [4] are providing 50% landscaping in their building 10 ft. setback from street property line.
- Draeger's has Council approved plans for streetscape and removal of easement for parking trucks on First Street in their Phase 2 store remodel.
- All electrical and internet utilities are now underground.
- New housing developers providing sidewalk night lighting at resident's entrance and parking driveway.
- Pedestrian crossing bulb-outs provided by housing developers and Draeger's.

Based on what was learned during design and construction of Phase 1 First Street Streetscape Main to Edith, a successful Phase 2 Streetscape design has many difficult challenges:

- Los Altos right-away is very narrow and traffic travel lanes must accommodate very large trucks for access to Safeway and Draeger's. Lyell to San Antonio section must allow for VTA Bus.
- Eighteen driveway cuts are safety hazards for pedestrians and cyclist. It is not a pleasant experience to walk, always watching for cars crossing sidewalk.
- What little retail that is left, needs street parking and only way to plant trees is remove street parking.
- High density housing needs delivery van parking space that is not blocking travel lanes.
- Water and sewer lines need replacement due to age and capacity increase.
- Several man-months of staff time required to handle issues with property owners, public outreach, and Commission / Council support time during design approval.
- There may be "surprises" like underground Southern Pacific Railroad abandon fuel tanks under the street that require hazardous removal.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jim Wing, Milverton Road, Los Altos

