



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 11/21/2023

ITEM NO: 17

DATE: November 16, 2023
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Receive a Report on Traffic Management at the Shannon Road Repair (CIP Project No 811-0008) Location (Between Diduca Way and Santa Rosa Drive) and Provide Feedback

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a report on traffic management at the Shannon Road repair (CIP Project No 811-0008) location (between Diduca Way and Santa Rosa Drive) and provide feedback.

BACKGROUND:

The northerly travel lane of Shannon Road between Diduca Way and Santa Rosa Drive was in disrepair before the Town annexed the area from the County of Santa Clara. The County completed some repairs prior to the Town's acceptance of the road, but additional repairs are needed.

Staff has been working with a consultant team to develop plans to repair this section of the roadway. The repair will include removal of the failing road base, construction of a retaining wall on the north side of the road, and reconstruction of the pavement, including the installation of guiderails and other necessary safety measures. The design work is complete, but property owner coordination is pending completion.

In July, the Town identified marked deterioration of the travel lane. Options to address this were considered and a one-way alternating traffic pattern with temporary traffic signals was selected as the preferred temporary measure due to the fact that project bidding was planned for the late fall 2023. The temporary measures allow the road to remain open for public use while preventing use of the travel lane, which is considered a hazard due to uneven pavement and at risk of failure.

PREPARED BY: Nicolle Burnham
Parks and Public Works Director

Reviewed by: Town Manager and Town Attorney

PAGE 2 OF 3

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DISCUSSION:

The alternating traffic signal pattern has achieved the goal of preventing use of the deteriorated travel lane. Unfortunately, during the time it has been in place, staff has received numerous reports of drivers not obeying the signal, proceeding through the closure on the red light, and meeting on-coming traffic that progressed on the green light. Staff understands that drivers are impatient due to the length of time it takes for the one-way traffic to travel the distance of the impacted segment; however, drivers should be following basic traffic rules of stopping at a red signal.

Staff is considering three potential mitigation strategies as outlined below. Depending on the length of time required to secure the required approvals for construction, more than one of these may be required.

Strategy 1: Retain the existing traffic control and enhance signage and outreach to drivers and residents about how the lights function (including the fact that wait times could be three to four minutes) and observe if behavior improves.

Strategy 2: Re-evaluate implementing temporary improvements to the travel lane in question. Staff had considered temporary repairs before implementing the alternating traffic pattern. At that time, it appeared that construction would begin in late winter of early spring of 2024 and it was not prudent to spend capital funds for a temporary repair. Depending on how long it takes to secure the approvals, this alternative may be reconsidered.

Strategy 3: Explore a full closure of Shannon Road. This approach would prevent drivers from ignoring the traffic control that is in place; however, staff is keenly aware that this strategy would create significant hardship for the community. If this is Council's preferred option, staff would undertake legal research regarding the Town's authority to close the road. If authorized, the Town would develop a work plan that includes communications to residents and the necessary infrastructure to support the closure.

CONCLUSION:

Staff will discuss the three strategies in more detail at the meeting and receive feedback from Town Council.

COORDINATION:

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Town Manager, Town Attorney and Finance Director.

PAGE 3 OF 3

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Each strategy will require expenditure of capital funds. Staff will provide estimates of these prior to the Council Meeting in an Addendum or Desk Item. The current balance in the CIP project budget is \$3,748,617.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The Shannon Road Repair project is a project as defined under CEQA but is Categorically Exempt (Sections 15301, 15302, 15303 and 15304). A Notice of Exemption has not been filed.