



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 3, 2021

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Mary Rose Rutikanga, City Administrator
Gerard J. Fuccillo, City Engineer

SUBJECT: Greenley Road Extension Priority Regional Road Improvement

RECOMMENDATION

Consideration to adopt Resolution No. 05-03-2021-A Greenley Road Extension as a Priority Regional Road Improvement for the City of Sonora and urge the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) to prioritize funding for the project.

DISCUSSION

On February 22, 2021, the City Council approved the 2021 City Goals and Objectives which included the objective **“Ensure formal adoption of the Greenley Road Extension as a priority for the City and Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC)”**. The subject implementation measure was approved for the City’s goal to plan for the future of the community and for enhancement of the quality of life. The Greenley Road Extension, in one form or another, has been on a list of Regional Road Improvements in the Tuolumne County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) since the 1975 plan, and in every adopted RTP since then to the present 2016 RTP.

The City is presently being impacted with severe traffic congestion on State Route 49, and other City streets through the downtown area with increasing accident rates, and stop and go backups on Washington Street on both the State portion and City portion on a daily basis, especially during the tourist season. Construction of the Greenley Road Extension would have the following beneficial effects to the downtown area:

1. Reduced traffic congestion in the downtown area with reduced traffic on SR 49, Washington Street, Elkin Street, Stewart Street, Lyons Street, and Mono Way (Restano Way to Greenley Road).
2. Reduced greenhouse gases due to less fuel use with a smoother flow of traffic.
3. Safer conditions for pedestrians and vehicles due to less traffic congestion and driver frustration.
4. Better economic development with less through traffic in the downtown area and better access to parking.
5. The provision for an alternate evacuation route, as well as a firebreak around the downtown area.

If one considers the improved access to medical and emergency facilities along Greenley Road, access to shopping and the Law and Justice Center, the Greenley Extension should be considered a very necessary project for the future.

There is a recent study by Caltrans of the Congested Corridor of Highway 108/49 from Jamestown to Sonora which was presented to the City Council at the meeting of September 21, 2020 in its draft form. This draft study highly rates the Greenley Road Extension as an effective way of reducing congestion in the corridor. The draft study (approx 270 pages) is online at the following Caltrans link:

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/district-10/documents/system-planning/sr49cs07082020-final-drafta11y.pdf>

The 108/49 Congested Corridor Study final report is under final review by Caltrans staff and is expected to be approved by 6/30/2021. This study has been done under the SB-1 Congested Corridor funding, and all or a major portion of the construction funding, could potentially be funded under the SB-1 funding program. The subject project has also been a part of the City/County Traffic Impact Program, and there may be some funding from the City and County mitigation fee funding available but not enough for a major part of the project.

It should be noted that Greenley Road, beginning 500' north of Mono Way, is a Tuolumne County Road, and the extension would also be a Tuolumne County Road and would be built under County supervision. In order to get it funded with state funding, it would take the combined advocacy of the City, County, and Tuolumne County Transportation Council.

Attachments to this report include: a 2020 City Street Map with the 1987 adopted Greenley Road Extension route sketched on it, a copy of City of Sonora Resolution 5-18-87-B urging the Board of Supervisors to proceed with the Greenley Road Extension, and a copy of a Union Democrat article of May 10, 1989 when 4 of the 5 City Council Members appeared before the Board of Supervisors to urge that the Greenley Road Extension remain at the top of the County's priority list.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact to the General Fund is unclear at this point. The project would require City, County and TCTC advocacy to determine eligibility of state funding to offset City costs.

ATTCHMENTS

- Resolution 05-03-2021-A
- 2020 City Street Map with 1987 adopted Greenley Road Extension Route
- Resolution No. 5-18-87-B
- May 10, 1989 Union Democrat Article