



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: April 15, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Tyler Summersett, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Agreement with Tuolumne County Transportation Council to maintain Transit Stop portion of the Stockton Washington Corridor Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Tuolumne County Transportation Council to maintain the Transit Stop portion of the Stockton Washington Corridor Improvement Project. Pending Review by Legal Counsel.

BACKGROUND:

The Stockton Washington Corridor Improvement Project was a component of the Vision Sonoma plan that was adopted by the City Council in 2013. Although the project was adapted to fit the funding available and the final location of all the improvements, the goals of the project were substantially accomplished. Below are included some excerpts from the document (p.36):

"B. Stockton Street – West Gateway Corridor (Washington Street)

8. Enhance the entry into downtown. Improve the pedestrian environment and sense of arrival through improvements around the intersection of Stockton Street and South Washington, as illustrated in the plan view diagram **Figure 3-19** and sketch **Figure 3-20**.

a. Widen sidewalks and create diagonal parking. Widened sidewalks on the north side of Stockton are intended to extend the pedestrian-oriented downtown atmosphere onto this street by converting underutilized roadway width into usable space for pedestrians. These extensions buffer pedestrians from moving vehicles and slow the turning movements of cars as they enter and exit the driveways. Diagonal parking could add two on-street spaces while calming traffic. Refer to **Figure 3-21** for the existing and proposed street cross section at this location.

b. Improve trail access. Use striping to make pedestrian crossings more visible and facilitate trail access at Green Street. Install directional signage at the trailhead.

c. Create formal plantings of street trees. From the narrow point of Stockton to Washington, the parkway should have a more formal character than along the rest of Stockton. Install street trees and landscape.

d. Improve the Stockton & Washington intersection. Create a formal entry into downtown by installing a low rock wall / entry monument and landscaping in front of the Marengo Building, using special paving materials to extend the pedestrian area into the current no-parking zone. Create seating to encourage people

to use this space. Install curb extensions at the northwest corner of the intersection to make pedestrians more visible while discouraging right turns on red. Consider removing or trimming landscaping around the Sonora Dome to make the Dome visible from Stockton approaching Washington.”

Partners in delivering the project include Caltrans (as owner of Stockton/Washington road, State Route 49) and the Tuolumne County Transportation Council.

Purpose Statement for the Project:

The project will improve pedestrian and traffic flow and provide much needed transit facilities in downtown Sonora. The transit stops will accommodate the local Sonora (Trolley) bus service, the YARTS service and regional tour bus operators. The project will improve the vibrancy of downtown whilst maintaining the historic character. It will also create a gateway element to Sonora's downtown through streetscape and hardscape improvements.

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS:

State Route 49, as the name belies, is a corridor that is owned and operated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). As a result, the City entered into an agreement with Caltrans as part of this project to take responsibility for maintaining:

“CITY is responsible for the bus shelter, bus pad, median with hardscape, sidewalk, ADA curb ramp, hardscape, brick band, cobblestone treatment, concrete retaining wall with tubular hand railing, concrete stairway, precast concrete pot with tree, bench, drainage system (collectively the “IMPROVEMENTS”) placed within State Highway right of way on State Route 49”

The City in turn is entering into agreement with the Tuolumne County Transportation Council to take fiscal responsibility for portions of the project that they will use on a day to day basis.

The MOA will go to the Tuolumne County Transportation Council on May 9th.

The MOA was reviewed by City legal counsel.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The MOA is a cost recovery mechanism for the City that defrays the overall impact of the downtown improvement by sharing responsibility for long term maintenance with the Transportation Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum of Agreement

City Responsibility Areas (Maintenance) Exhibits 2-8