



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: October 15, 2014
Board Meeting Date: October 21, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: North Fair Oaks Community Council via Supervisor Warren Slocum

Subject: North Fair Oaks - Middlefield Road Redesign Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the recommendation of the North Fair Oaks Community Council for the Middlefield Road Redesign Project between Pacific and 5th Avenues and direct staff to proceed with the next steps on this project.

BACKGROUND:

In November of 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted the North Fair Oaks Community Plan. A major component of that plan is the re-design of Middlefield Road between Pacific and 5th Avenues to create a safer, more attractive street that is more pedestrian and bike friendly.

To incorporate the most current thinking of the community into the redesign, a seven month community outreach campaign was conducted. Community meetings were held. Surveys were conducted. Posters, flyers and door hangers were used to spread the word about the opportunity to comment. Over 2,100 people participated in the outreach process and over 500 written comments were received including 1,300 people who responded to the survey. All materials were available in both Spanish and English and all community meetings included concurrent translation services and child care.

On August 21, 2014, the North Fair Oaks Community Council held a study session on re-design options. At that session, the Council reviewed the community comments, went over the relevant sections of the North Fair Oaks Community Plan, asked questions of the traffic engineers and planners and listened to comments from law enforcement. After considering all this information, the Council unanimously adopted the following recommendation for the redesign of Middlefield Road at their regular monthly meeting on August 28, 2014.

- Develop a preliminary design for the reconstruction of Middlefield Road between 5th and Pacific Avenues that includes three traffic lanes, parallel parking, bike lanes and sidewalks wide enough to accommodate street amenities including: benches and other seating, greenery, street and pedestrian lighting, trash and recycling receptacles, street art and public spaces.
- Develop three additional reports for the Council, to be prepared concurrently with the development of the draft design: a signalization and traffic management plan for the project area, a parking solutions report and a local business sustainability plan

The Council also wants to review and comment on the preliminary Middlefield Road design and the initial drafts of the three reports prior to these documents being finalized

On September 23, 2014, the recommendation was also shared with the community at a public meeting.

Public Works is currently developing a request for proposals for consultants to do the traffic study and will develop a time line as part of the contract negotiations. On the parking study, a consultant has completed an initial draft that is under review by the North Fair Oaks Parking workgroup. Planning and will work with Public Works to coordinate the traffic, signalization and parking recommendations. Real Property has completed an initial draft of the business sustainability plan which is currently under review by County Counsel, Planning and Housing. We expect to present this report to the Council by the end of the year.

DISCUSSION:

Approval of this recommendation is a key step in a multi-part design process. As noted in the recommendation, developing a high level street layout and preparing the associated reports are the first steps. The Council and Board of Supervisors will have multiple future opportunities to comment on the initial design and then once that is finalized, comment on the detailed design which will include the street amenities and other details.

FISCAL IMPACT:

A total of \$12.5 million in Measure A funds were appropriated in the FY 2013- 2015 adopted budget for the Middlefield Road re-design project. Funds for both the staff time and the consultants needed to develop the preliminary design and the requested reports will come from the Measure A allocation for this project.