



Staff Report

October 12, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council
FROM: Merrill Buck, Town Engineer
DATE: October 5, 2021
RE: Engineer's Report (Information only, no action required)

Update for the month of October, on noteworthy items underway in the Engineering Division.

Projects:

Boyington Road Paving and Digout Repairs

This project involved the resurfacing of Boyington Road, digout repair to failed sections of Sierra College Boulevard, and reworking portions of Laird Road ahead of the Laird Road Rubberized Chip Seal project. All resurfacing and digout work has been completed. The project remains open in order to complete change order work consisting of the All-Way Stop sign installation at Taylor Road and Walnut Street and new fog lines (edge striping) along Boyington Road. Prior to the resurfacing there was no edge striping on Boyington Road, and the new striping was called out to match existing. But there is evidence of vehicles drifting over the edge of pavement and onto the shoulder backing, particularly at the Del Oro School entrance. The roadway width is slightly substandard at 11-feet from centerline to edge of pavement, so edge striping is a cheap way to help channelize and guide traffic so that they don't drift off the road.

All-Way Stop at Taylor Road and Walnut Street

At the September 20th Council Meeting, the installation of Stop controls for all directions of travel at Taylor Road and Walnut Street was approved. A change order request for this was drafted and sent to the Boyington Road Paving project's Contractor to expedite the completion of the work. The scope includes the use of specialized blinking Stop Signs. Material has been ordered but no delivery or installation date has been established.

Laird Road Rubberized Chip Seal

Under a cooperative agreement with Placer County acting as the lead agency, this project involves the placement of a rubberized chip seal on Laird Road and adjacent portions of Horseshoe Bar Road. Work is scheduled for Friday, October 15, 2021 and will be completed in a single day. Temporary striping will be placed, with permanent striping to occur the week after.

Rule 20A Undergrounding on Sierra College Boulevard

PG&E has ended its Rule 20A program and is only committing to the completion of active projects. Staff at PG&E has indicated that the Loomis project is an active project since the design and bidding of the work has been completed. Work has not yet started; however, as the Town needs to first accept the right of way dedication from Costco and have the frontage grading ahead of the undergrounding work. Costco's Engineer is in the final stages of completing the roadway design and expects to be able to dedicate the right of way by the end of the year.

Tree Pruning Project

Plans and specifications are in development for a tree pruning project that will prune trees to reestablish proper truck clearance height along all the major arterial and collector roadways in Town. The Town Attorney has indicated that funds collected for Tree Mitigation can appropriately be used to fund this effort. Award of contract is anticipated for December, with work beginning at the start of the new year, when many of the trees will no longer have leaves.

Sierra College Boulevard / Taylor Road Improvements Project

In response to traffic mitigation measured identified in the Costco EIR, this project will widen both sides of Sierra College Boulevard from Brace Road to Taylor Road as a capacity increasing measure. The project was also scoped to install a right turn lane for southbound Sierra College Boulevard turning west onto Taylor Road, but the number of improvements necessary to accommodate Union Pacific Railroad and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) made the right turn lane cost-prohibitive. The right turn lane has therefore been removed from the project scope, to be completed as a separate project once a funding source, right of way acquisition, and CPUC design approval have been secured. Design for the road widening portion of the project is complete; however, the project is on hold until Costco moves forward with their construction.

Development:

The Grove (Humphrey Road)

Construction Phase - The developer has requested, and staff has accommodated, his request for a sequenced approval. The first phase approved was for soil mitigation and grading work. This was then followed by approval to do the water and sewer improvements which fall under the jurisdiction of outside agencies and is now about half-way done. The improvement plans for drainage and roadway work are in final review and should be ready to release for construction by the end of the month. The developer then expects to complete all the site work, including streets and sidewalks, by the end of the year. Home construction should start in January and be completed in November 2022.

Hidden Grove (Library Drive extension adjacent to I-80)

Planning Phase - The developer continues to meet with staff to clarify design guidelines and constraints dictated by the General Plan and Town Standards. A formal application has yet to be submitted but is anticipated within the next 6 weeks or so. Approval of EIR and traffic consultant contracts is included as part of the October Council Meeting Agenda.

Green Business Park (Sierra College Boulevard at Bankhead Road)

Planning Phase - Application was submitted on May 13, 2021. Final studies are being prepared and submitted. Approval of EIR and traffic consultant contracts is included as part of the October Council Meeting Agenda.

Administrative Items:

Recology Rate Increase

Under their franchise agreement, Recology has requested a rate adjustment retroactive to July 1, 2021. This will cover a Cost of Living Adjustment and Landfill Adjustment to cover the cost of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), under development and required by State mandates to achieve higher levels of recycling and trash diversion from landfills. The average increase to customers is estimated to be about 11%. Proposition 218 notices will be mailed later this month and the item will be presented for consideration at the November Council Meeting.

Capital Improvements Program Budget

Under development is a 5-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget outlining both funded and unfunded projects. The intent is to not just have a list of projects, but to create a comprehensive document that categorizes projects by funding source with budget allocations over a 5-year period. It is anticipated that this will be ready to present for discussion at the December Council Meeting.

Speed Hump Policy

Requests at two different locations in Town have come in for speed humps. The Town currently has speed humps on some residential streets, but there doesn't appear to be a policy dictating where they're appropriate, the standard that should be used, and the process for having their installation considered. In reaching out to the Fire Marshall at the South Placer Fire District, he has expressed a willingness to help with the development of a policy that could be considered and approved by both their Board and the Town Council, adding that he would not be opposed to the type of speed hump that has gaps in it for wide wheelbase trucks to pass through. To allow time to work with the Fire District in the development of a policy, it will probably be December or January before this is ready to present to Council.