



Staff Report

September 12, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council
FROM: Merrill Buck, Town Engineer
RE: Engineering Division Status Update (Information only)

Update on noteworthy items in the Engineering Division.

PROJECTS IN CONSTRUCTION:

Sierra College Boulevard / Taylor Road Intersection Improvements Project

This project involves the widening of Sierra College Boulevard from Brace Road to Taylor Road from four lanes to six. Clearing and grubbing was completed as the first item of work. The project then experienced a delay waiting for a Department of Fish and Wildlife dewatering permit. This was obtained on September 1st, which has allowed for work to continue. Next items of work will consist of the construction of temporary dikes, grading within the seasonal creek and modifications to the existing storm drain system.

Hunter Oaks Landscaping and Rockery Wall Improvements Project

This project involves the installation of replacement landscaping within the common areas of the Hunter Oaks subdivision. Removal of existing landscaping has been completed. Work is continuing with the installation of a new irrigation system along with new plantings. The rockery wall at the back of the subdivision should be completed by the end of September.

Welcome Sign at Taylor Road and Sierra College Boulevard

This project involves building a sign structure within the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right of way at Taylor Road and Sierra College Boulevard. The project will be completed under two contracts, one for the sign structure and another to install the interior lettering and lighting. Council approved the project at the August Council Meeting. Both contracts have been signed and are waiting for final design approval from the railroad before starting work. This is expected soon, with work starting by the end of the month.

Sunrise Loomis Playground Replacement Project

This project will replace both play structures in Sunrise Loomis Park. A church in Newcastle worked with the Town to take the old play equipment as salvaged material, thereby reducing the cost of demolition. Bids were opened with the low bid in the amount of \$168,000, which was well within the engineer's estimate of \$250,000. Play equipment has been ordered and is expected to arrive the first week of November. Grading and preparation of the site should start before this, with all work anticipated to be finished by the end of the year.

2023 Rubberized Cape Seal Project

The scope of this project includes resurfacing approximately 6.5 miles of residential streets along with the selection of an additive bid item that will resurface Sierra College Boulevard from the northern Town limits to Bankhead Road. Bids were received on August 17, 2023, with the low bid by Pavement Coatings Company. The resurfacing treatment will be placed in a two-step process. The rubber chip seal will go down the last week of September, while the slurry seal, installed on top of the rubber chip seal, will be placed mid-October. Notifications will go out to residents along the streets that are to be resurfaced explaining the process, parking restrictions, and providing specific dates that the work is scheduled. All work, including replacement striping, should be completed by November.

PROJECTS OUT FOR BIDS:

Storm Drain Roadway Culvert Crossing Replacements at Various Locations

Town staff has identified approximately two dozen locations around town where 12-inch to 24-inch diameter corrugated metal pipes are at various stages of failure as they cross under the roadway. Many of the pipes have rusted-out bottoms. Over time, if not fixed, they will create sink holes in the roadway, and become blocked with debris, thereby restricting the flow of water. A project has been advertised for bids that will remove and replace these pipes with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic pipe, so as to be resistant to future corrosion. The project should be ready to recommend an award of contract at the October Council meeting.

Humphrey Road Sidewalks / School Route Improvements

This project will construct curb, gutter and sidewalk to close a sidewalk gap of approximately 250 feet along the east side of Humphrey Road near King Road, along with constructing curb ramps and a rapid rectangular flashing beacon at a crosswalk near H. Clarke Powers Elementary School. The scope of work on this project was included as part of an unsuccessful Active Transportation Program (ATP), Safe Routes to School grant application, yet it is being pursued still, with Town funds. Plans and specifications have been prepared, the project has been advertised for bids, and it is anticipated that it will be ready to recommend an award of contract at the October Council meeting.

PROJECTS IN DESIGN:

On-Call Thermoplastic Striping Contract

Plans and specifications are nearly complete to advertise a project that will address some of the faded paint locations in Town that maintenance crews historically have gone out annually to repaint. Replacing these markings with melted thermoplastic material will make the new markings much more durable, thereby avoid the need to repaint the lines for 7-10 years. As part of this project, an on-call contract will be established that will allow the Town to paint other locations in Town, on an as-needed basis, under individual task orders, over the next three years.

Library Parking Lot ADA Improvements Project

Work involves re-grading the handicap parking stalls in the library parking lot and rebuilding the concrete pathway leading to the library's entrance so that the slopes are ADA compliant. Due to workload capacity issues, this project has been on hold for some time, but the design is nearing completion and should be ready to advertise for bids at the October Council meeting.

Downtown Baskets and Banners

Fall banners are being designed now that will spotlight the Eggplant Festival. Other workload pressures have delayed the installation of flower baskets, with implementation now targeting next spring.

STBG Paving Project (Brace Road and King Road Resurfacing)

The Town received \$318,000 in federal grant funding to resurface Brace Road from Sierra College Boulevard to the I-80 overpass, and King Road from Taylor Road to the I-80 overpass. The design contract for this work has been awarded and is now underway. The plan is to have the plans and specifications completed and ready to advertise by early next year so that the work can be performed in the Spring of 2024, ahead of Costco's opening.

Adopt an Oak Tree Program

Utilizing funding from the Town's Tree Fund, collected as mitigation due to oak tree loss, a program is being developed that will allow Loomis residents to "adopt" an oak tree for planting on their property. An initial funding level of \$30,000 was approved under the FY 2022-23 Capital Improvements Program. This program will be presented at the October Council meeting. Staff is also looking into the possibility of including an oak tree, 50/50 matching grant program that would allow Loomis residents to get assistance on the cost of oak tree pruning on private property, up to some maximum amount, as another way to use tree funds on oak tree preservation.

Depot Shade Structures Project

Design concepts are being developed to implement shade structures at the Depot and Blue Anchor Park. Staff should be ready to make a presentation to Council on this at the October meeting.

2023 Tree Pruning Contract

The Town has completed two rounds of tree pruning contracts, for vehicle clearance along its major arterial and collector streets. One last round remains to be completed with an estimated \$150,000 worth of work. Due to workload capacity issues, this project has had a lower priority, and is now targeting advertisement for later this year.

MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS:

Sierra De Montserrat – Decomposed Granite Shoulder Rehabilitation

Staff is working on a project that will regrade portions of the eroded pathway beyond the edge of pavement. The hope is to have this ready to advertise for bids at the October Council meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

Rule 20A Undergrounding – Sierra College Boulevard (Granite Drive to Brace Road)

PG&E has completed the conduit and pull box installation portion of their work and is continuing with the next phase that will install conductors. This work should finish by the end of September, with a power shut-down, switch-over to the underground system, and removal of overhead poles in October.

Costco Frontage Improvements

As part of the Costco development, there is quite a bit of utility work that needs to be done in order to tie into existing systems, such as storm drain, sewer and water improvements. Costco is looking for opportunities to complete this work concurrently with the Rule 20A contractor, by sharing the right-of-way work zone. After this work has been completed, and the Rule 20A undergrounding work has removed the power poles, Costco can then begin work on the road widening and new intersection improvements. The current schedule calls for frontage improvements to be completed by the end of November, although the warehouse won't be open until early next year.