



SAN RAFAEL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Department: Public Works

**Prepared by: Bill Guerin,
Director of Public Works**

City Manager Approval: _____

TOPIC: THIRD STREET IMPROVEMENTS

**SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE THIRD STREET REHABILITATION AND
THIRD STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS**

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the City Council accept the informational report.

BACKGROUND: In 2004, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) established the Measure A Expenditure Plan (Plan), a voter-approved sales tax providing funds for major roadway projects in Marin County. Plan projects were prioritized based on roadway condition, traffic volumes, transit frequency, and existing bicycle and pedestrian access. In 2016, San Rafael received \$11 million from Measure A and an additional \$1.5 million from the State Local Partnership Program for the purpose of making significant infrastructure improvements along Third Street.

Starting in 2017, City staff and the BKF Engineers design team (contract awarded on April 17, 2017) conducted community outreach to receive public input and conceptualize which elements should proceed to construction. The conceptual plans that were included in the feasibility report presented to the City Council at the June 3, 2019 meeting are available online at <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/third-st-rehab>.

In 2018, the City applied for federal funding through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) administered by Caltrans. Upon favorable review, the City was awarded \$1,575,000 in funding for Third Street between Lindaro Street and Union Street. As project delivery utilizing federal funds can be complex and impact timelines, staff subdivided the entire Third Street corridor into two projects. The environmental and design phase went through a qualifications-based selection process and the contracts were awarded by Council as follows:

1. Third Street Rehabilitation Project – Miracle Mile to Lindaro Street (Rehabilitation Project) awarded to CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering group on November 18, 2019.
2. Third Street Safety Project – Lindaro Street to Union Street (Safety Project) awarded to Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. on March 2, 2020.

ANALYSIS: The Third Street Rehabilitation and Safety Projects consist of roadway, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements, including but not limited to, street resurfacing, curb ramps, sidewalk, raised intersections through the downtown core, storm drain, traffic signal upgrades, adding bulb-outs for improved pedestrian visibility, shortening crossing distances at key locations,

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Council Meeting:

Disposition:

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narrowing travel lanes, adding trees, and reconfiguring the roadway between West Street and Shaver Street to allow room for an eight-foot-wide Class IV cycle track on the south side of Second Street.

In addition, the Rehabilitation project will be a joint effort with Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) and San Rafael Sanitation District (SRSD) for pipeline replacement work. Combining these three projects into one will provide a cost savings for all parties by sharing construction management resources, improving coordination among different types of work, and by reducing construction impacts and the overall project timeline for residents and businesses.

On September 23, 2020, City staff hosted its first virtual community meeting of the design phase to discuss and receive feedback on project elements. To disseminate information on the community meeting, Public Works staff used various social media channels, the City website, homeowner's association contacts, fliers on cars, mailers, and changeable message signs located near the project. In addition to the approximately 65 participants in the community meeting, staff has received over 50 emails providing written feedback on the projects.

Prior to the community meeting, a letter was mailed to residents on Second Street between Hayes Street and West End advising them of one design alternative which would reduce on-street parking along Second Street, to ensure their input was received.

The community raised several issues for consideration including: access to the parking lot adjacent to Walgreens on Third Street at Lindaro Street, maintaining the left turn pocket from Third Street onto Lindaro Street, providing a complete bicycle facility from Shaver Street to West End, continuing to provide on-street parking along the south side of Second Street between Ida Street and West End, and maintaining the eastbound left turn pocket at East Street into the shopping center that includes the Jack-in-the-Box, Best Buy Outlet and the West End Center.

City staff has worked with residents and business owners to review the key issues presented at the September community meeting. Based on the feedback we received, staff has made a number of changes to accommodate the concerns identified. At the Lindaro Street intersection, the Safety Project will narrow vehicle lane widths on Third Street to maintain the existing left turn pocket from westbound Third Street onto southbound Lindaro Street, while still reducing the crossing distance for pedestrians. We still recommend that the parking lot entrance to Walgreens from Third Street be closed, so the Walgreens driveway on Lootens Street will be widened to provide better access in and out of this parking lot.

On the south side of Second Street between Shaver Street and West Street, Public Works and the Rehabilitation Project design team have created a concept design that achieves the goals of all the users along this section of road. The revised layout includes a sidewalk, Class IV bicycle facility and parking on the south side, while maintaining two travel lanes in each direction, sidewalk on the north side, and a left turn pocket into the shopping center at East Street. This is achieved by using all the available City right-of-way, narrowing vehicle lanes, and providing minimum widths for the bikeway and sidewalk.

The improvements to the Fourth Street-Miracle Mile-Marquard Avenue intersection that includes the final connection of the bikeway between West End and West Street falls outside the current budget available for these projects. The City is exploring possible funding sources to include these improvements with a concurrent project.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Public Works and the consultant teams have held several meetings and outreach events over the last three years to receive feedback from community members and key stakeholders for the Third Street projects. Meetings held include:

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- July 2017: Technical Working Group Meeting
- October 2017: Community Working Group Meeting
- November 2017: Community Meeting #1 - Feasibility Study
- February 2018: Community and Technical Working Group Meeting
- March 2018: Community Meeting #2 - Feasibility Study
- June 3, 2019: Feasibility Study Report Presentation at City Council
- July 15, 2020: Technical Working Group Meeting
- August 5, 2020: City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- August 23, 2020: Community Working Group Meeting
- September 23, 2020: Community Meeting #3
- October 8, 2020: Economic Development Subcommittee Meeting
- October 21, 2020: Association of Neighborhoods Meeting

In addition to these meetings, Public Works has maintained an updated project website and met with residents and business owners virtually and onsite to discuss key issues.

FISCAL IMPACT: As an informational report, there is no fiscal impact associated with this action. When a construction contract is ready for award in Spring 2021, staff will return with this item before the City Council for action.

OPTIONS: The City Council has the following options to consider relating to this matter:

1. Accept the informational report as presented.
2. Do not accept the informational report.
3. Direct staff to return with more information.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the report.

ATTACHMENT: