



CITY OF SALINAS

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 14, 2017

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC DIVISION

FROM: ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER

TITLE: West Alisal Street Road Diet and Pedestrian Crossings

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to review and provide feedback on the draft concept for the West Alisal Road Diet Project and approve changes to the Pedestrian Crossings.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Concept plan for the West Alisal Road Diet Project is nearing finalization. Minor changes can be made in the details of the design and staff is recommending changes to pedestrian crossings on West Alisal Street. The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to review and provide feedback on the draft concept for the West Alisal Road Diet Project and approve changes to the pedestrian crossings.

BACKGROUND:

Council approved the Salinas Downtown Vibrancy Plan in March 2015 of which the Downtown Complete Streets Project is an element. On August 16, 2016 the City Council accepted a federal grant from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for \$2.34 Million for Phase I of the Downtown Complete Streets Project. In April 2017, the Council approved a Memorandum of Agreement with TAMC and other central coast agencies to support complete streets improvements on the Marina-Salinas Corridor that includes West Alisal Street and Lincoln Avenue.

The project proposes to reduce incidences of collisions along the West Alisal corridor between Blanco Road and Front Street. Staff has therefore been working on plans that include right-sizing West Alisal Street in order to accommodate all road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and drivers. Portions of the planned improvements are in downtown Salinas. Consequently, the design concepts on Alisal Street were included in community discussions for the Downtown Vibrancy Plan. Staff also held a community meeting at Hartnell College in January 2017 to inform other members of the community about the project. The Downtown Complete Streets project has been discussed at continuing meetings regarding the Vibrancy Plan.

The West Alisal Road Diet project is nearing final design. The original design concept from the grant application accepted by City Council has been further developed and refined into engineering drawings ready for construction. Changes to pedestrian crossings are being considered before the project enters final design. At every pedestrian crossings located along the West Alisal corridor crossings are being enhanced using, triple-four pavement markings, warning signs, reduced crossing length or some combination of the aforementioned.

Proposed Crosswalk Removals

In addition, two existing uncontrolled crosswalks are proposed for removal as part of this project, with the enhancement of the adjacent crosswalks. The intent is to guide pedestrians to the safest place to cross where vehicular traffic is most likely to expect, see and react to pedestrians.

The existing uncontrolled crosswalk at Amherst Drive and West Alisal Street is proposed for removal. This crosswalk is located at the end of a horizontal curve on West Alisal Street. The curvature of the roadway can result in obstructed sightlines, which reduces a driver's ability to react and stop when pedestrians enter the crosswalk. The adjacent crosswalk further away from the curvature was recently enhanced with rectangular flashing beacons and this crossing planned for enhanced striping as part of the West Alisal Street Road Diet project.

The existing uncontrolled crosswalk at Lorimer Street and West Alisal Street is requested for removal. This crosswalk is located between two adjacent crosswalks approximately 300 feet in either direction. Federal Highway Administration design guidelines state that "Marked crosswalks should not be installed in close proximity to signalized intersections (which may or may not have marked crosswalks); instead, pedestrians should be encouraged to cross at the signal in most situations." The intersection of Homestead Avenue and West Alisal Road is signalized and the two adjacent crossings are planned to be enhanced with warning signs and triple-four pavement markings.

The proposed removal of this crosswalk will return to the Traffic Commission within the next two months to confirm this recommendation. No action on these is requested at this meeting but staff would appreciate any comments on the overall project.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The City's Traffic Calming Policy supports Council goals of a safe, livable community.

ATTACHMENTS:

75% Signing and Striping Plans