



CITY OF SALINAS

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2018

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS

FROM: JAMES SERRANO, TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

TITLE: DRAFT EAST ALISAL CORRIDOR CONCEPTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive report from City staff and provide comments on proposed improvement concepts from the East Alisal Corridor for the DRAFT East Alisal Corridor Plan.

SUMMARY:

The City of Salinas received a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant from Caltrans to develop a Complete Streets Corridor Plan. Plan development included a public outreach effort that included a charette, pop-up events and community updates beginning in Fall, 2017. The DRAFT Plan is anticipated to be completed by December 2018, City of Salinas staff would like to get feedback from the Traffic and Transportation Commission on corridor concepts proposed for the Corridor Plan.

The East Alisal Corridor is an approximately 5-mile major east-west major arterial street that crosses the City from Blanco Road to Front Street. The segment provides connection to County Roads; and within the downtown area the corridor has links to State Route 183 and State Route 68.

The roadway is currently a 4-lane undivided arterial up to Main Street in downtown Salinas. From Main Street to Skyway Boulevard, the corridor has some form of left turn channelization with two-way left turn lanes or left turn pockets. There are median islands in some segments. From Skyway Boulevard to the City limits, the corridor is 2-lane arterial street with bike lanes with sidewalk only on the north side of the street. The corridor is characterized in public meetings as unfriendly to bicycle and pedestrians, favoring vehicular roadway users. There are no bicycle facilities for most of the segment.

The City is completing design on a related project along the West Alisal Corridor. The segment from Blanco Road to Front Street has received funding from federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) to make complete street improvements. Construction of improvements for the West Alisal Street segment begins in 2019.

With the west corridor firmly on schedule for construction, the East Alisal corridor plan therefore focuses on the remaining segment beginning at Front Street to Alisal Road. The conceptual plans for the East Alisal Corridor are divided into three segments:

Segment one: West Segment (Front Street to Kern Street)

The existing four-lane street configuration is proposed to be converted to a two-lane facility with a two-way left turn lane and 6-foot wide buffered bike lanes on both sides of the street. The buffer is 3 feet separation from the adjacent travel lane. Fifteen-foot sidewalks are proposed instead of the existing 8 feet. Pedestrian crossing enhancements are proposed at all existing crossings. Narrow vehicle lanes (11 feet) are proposed. There are no parking zones on this segment. Exhibit A shows proposed concept for this segment.

Segment 2: Central Segment (Kern Street to Skyway Boulevard)

This segment extends the road diet east from Kern Street. Therefore, the proposed facility reduces vehicle travel lanes from a four- to two-lane street (Exhibit B.1 shows proposed concept for this segment). However, parking is retained throughout the segment. While existing parallel parking is kept on the south side of the street, back-in diagonal parking is proposed on the north side of the street. A sub-segment of the Central Segment is an area of high pedestrian activity. Pedestrian facilities are proposed for enhancements such as highly visible crosswalks. The attached Exhibit B.2 shows a four-block segment with additional detail.

Segment 3: East Segment (Skyway Boulevard to Bardin Road).

The recommended concept for this segment is to keep the street's two way configuration and proposes a new two-way cycle track south of the existing street. The City has existing right of way south of East Alisal Street that would accommodate a Class IV facility. At the east end of East Alisal Street, the City is planning to install a roundabout that is part of a Safe Routes to School Project. There is existing sidewalk on the north side of the street but no sidewalk on the south side. A new sidewalk or pedestrian path is proposed south of the cycle track.

The City Community Development Department had taken the lead in the development of the corridor plan. As previously stated, there has been much work with through community engagement and encouraging residents to participate in the planning of facilities they would like to see implemented. Representatives of businesses along commercial areas also participated in the community meetings. The plan therefore represents the desires of community members who participated in the planning events.

City staff anticipates completing the plan in the next month with City Council approval before February 2019. The Plan will help with grant applications to fund implementation. The Public Works Department will be following up with implementation phase including funding the proposed improvements, environmental approval, design and construction. As projects develop during the implementation of the Corridor Plan, updates will be provided to the Traffic and Transportation Commission.

DEPARTMENT COORDINATION:

The Public Works Department obtained a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant from Caltrans to develop a Complete Streets Corridor Plan. The Community Development Department and the Public Works Department, along with partners developed the DRAFT East Alisal Corridor Plan together. Community Development Department is concurrently developing the East Alisal Vibrancy Plan and lead development of the Complete Streets Corridor Plan in order to ensure consistency across both planning level documents.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The DRAFT East Alisal Corridor Plan is a planning document and consequently does not require a CEQA analysis to estimate potential environmental impacts. If the plan progresses to a “project” level further CEQA analysis will be required to address potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The proposed DRAFT Alisal Corridor Plan supports City Council’s goal of Well Planned City and Excellent Infrastructure.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

No significant impacts to the City’s General Fund are anticipated with the receiving the DRAFT Alisal Corridor Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A – Segment 1: Western Segment Concept
Exhibit B – Segment 2: Central Segment Concepts
Exhibit C - Segment 3: Eastern Segment Concept