



## **CITY OF SALINAS**

### **TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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**DATE:** JANUARY 10, 2019

**DEPARTMENT:** PUBLIC WORKS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

**FROM:** ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER  
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**TITLE:** DOWNTOWN COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

#### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

There is no recommended motion. The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to receive a project update on the Downtown Complete Streets Project.

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#### BACKGROUND:

At its March 2015 meeting, Council approved the Salinas Downtown Vibrancy Plan. An element of the Downtown Vibrancy Plan is the West Alisal Street segment. Additionally, at its June 2014 meeting, Council approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and other central coast agencies to support complete streets improvements along the Marina-Salinas Corridor, including West Alisal Street. Both plans support the implementation of a complete streets project along the West Alisal Street corridor.

#### What are complete Streets?

The United States Department of Transportation defines complete streets as “streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users. Those include people of all ages, regardless of whether they are travelling as drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, or public transportation riders.”

The California Department of Transportation has a complete streets program, providing guidance for cities and counties to adopt complete streets principles when designing streets and roads. The State defines a complete street as “a transportation facility that is planned, designed and operated, and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and motorists appropriate to the function and context of the facility.” Caltrans adopted Deputy Directive 64 in 2014 that incorporates the complete streets concept in all aspects of the State’s transportation functions from early planning, design, and construction, through operations

and maintenance. The directive ensures the State's complete streets policies are embedded in the agency's function towards developing and maintaining California's transportation system.

As mentioned, the regional transportation agency, TAMC has adopted policies for complete streets and published a guidebook to help member agencies in planning their transportation network. The West Alisal Corridor, being part of the regions Multi-modal corridor has been envisioned as a complete streets corridor with benefits for all users. TAMC held several community-wide public meetings on the Marina-Salinas Corridor, two of which were held in Salinas.

The City General Plan's Circulation element includes policies for providing a balanced transportation system that provides for a walkable community, safe bicycle travel, public transportation improvements, and safe travel for all modes of transportation.

Staff applied for and received two different grants, one Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and a Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) to fund the Downtown Complete Streets projects. The Downtown Complete Streets project included improvements on the West Alisal Street corridor from Front Street to Blanco Road and on Lincoln Street from West Alisal Street to Market Street. Council approved a resolution accepting grant funds on August 16, 2016, and December 5, 2017.

The project's overall benefits are summed in the message: SAFE, EFFICIENT and COMPLETE. The Downtown Complete Streets project aims to reduce collision potential along the West Alisal corridor between Blanco Road and Front Street by implementing the complete street design. The final design implements complete streets elements on West Alisal Street from Front Street to Blanco Road, accommodates all road users and improves safety. The benefits of complete streets include:

- Improved safety for all users;
- Improved transit access;
- Support a dynamic economy and our downtown;
- Livable communities;
- Encourage more walking and bicycling, fostering a healthier, more active community;
- Reduce greenhouse gas production and improved air quality; and
- Improved safety for all users.

The design concept for the Downtown Complete Street complete streets project were included in the Downtown Vibrancy Plan community discussions. Staff held a community meeting at Hartnell College in January 2017 to inform members of the community about the project. Discussion of the Downtown Complete Streets project continues at meetings regarding the Vibrancy Plan. Details of the Downtown Complete Streets project are as follows:

- **Complete Streets:** Roadway restriping to reduce the number of vehicle travel lanes on Alisal St from 4 lanes to 2 travel lanes and 1 center lane (turning lane) between Blanco Road and Front Street.
- **Class II Bike Lanes:** Installation of buffered bike lanes to provide access to an alternative mode of transportation.

- **Traffic Signal Improvements:** The traffic signals along this segment will be enhanced to provide protected left turns to reduce the risk of broadside and head-on collisions. Traffic signals will be modernized to improve the operational efficiency and traffic signal communications.
- **Bulb-outs:** The construction of bulb-outs at selected locations will increase sight visibility and reduce crossing distances.
- **Crosswalks:** This project will install high visibility crosswalks at all existing crosswalks throughout the project area.
- **ADA Compliance:** The existing pedestrian access ramps at signalized intersections will be upgraded with ADA compliant pedestrian access ramps.

By implementing a complete streets design on the roadway and adding the above-listed improvements, the safety for all road users will improve.

The Traffic and Transportation Commission and Council has received several updates on the Downtown Complete Streets Projects in the past as the project meets many of the City’s objectives. Transportation staff is providing this update to Commissioners since the project is moving towards construction.

#### NEXT STEPS:

Caltrans is currently reviewing the project’s design documents. Once the Caltrans review is complete and funding allocated to construction, the project may be ready to begin construction as early as summer of 2019. A Community outreach meeting is planned for January 24, 2019 to update and inform project stakeholders well before the project goes to construction.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Implementation of the Downtown Vibrancy Plan is an objective of the City’s strategic plan. The Downtown Complete streets project is one of the projects outlined in the Downtown Vibrancy Plan.

#### FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Grant funds for the project has come from past allocations of RSTP funds and federal funds from the HSIP. In addition to grant funds, \$300,000 City Gas Tax and Measure X funds will be allocated to the project for City programs for sidewalks and American Disability Act (ADA) pedestrian ramps.

#### **Grant Funding**

RSTP	\$ 310,000
HSIP	\$2,340,090
<u>RSTP</u>	<u>\$2,970,000</u>
Total	\$5,620,090

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Council Resolutions

Attachment 2: Draft Plans

Attachment 3: Project Traffic Study

