



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 27, 2019

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

FROM: DAVDI JACOBS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

BY: ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER

TITLE: TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT NORTH MAIN STREET AND CHEROKEE DRIVE INTERSECTION

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to:

- (1) approve the plans and specifications for a traffic signal at the North Main Street and Cherokee Drive intersection based on traffic studies and Council Resolution 21315; and
- (2) approve a Memorandum of Understanding amendment with Salinas Shopping Center Associates Limited Partnership and Harden Ranch Plaza Associates for funding the design and the installation of a Traffic Signal at North Main Street and Cherokee Drive Intersection.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Council approve the plans and specifications for a traffic signal at the North Main Street and Cherokee Drive Intersection and approve a Memorandum of Understanding amendment with Salinas Shopping Center Associates Limited Partnership and Harden Ranch Plaza Associates for funding the design and the installation of said traffic signal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On December 19, 2017 the City Council passed a resolution approving the installation of a traffic signal at the North Main Street and Cherokee Drive intersection; and approving a funding agreement with the Salinas Shopping Center Associates Limited Partnership for the installation of said traffic signal. Since then the Harden Ranch Shopping Center and affiliates have completed designs for a traffic signal and City staff has reviewed and can recommend approval of the proposed design plans and specifications. Harden Ranch Shopping Center and affiliates have also determined the desired project delivery strategy would be through an encroachment permit process, which would eliminate the prevailing wage requirement. Harden Ranch Shopping Center and affiliates are preparing to submit an encroachment permit application and hope to begin construction in early 2020.

BACKGROUND:

Staff received a request to analyze traffic delays and safety concerns at the intersection of North Main Street and Cherokee Drive. Staff has reviewed the traffic analysis of the proposed traffic signal and considered the potential impacts and improvements from the change in access and signalization at the intersection. The conclusions of the traffic analysis show a reduction in overall delay for the intersection and additional reduction of delay on adjacent intersections resulting from a redistribution of trips. However, the traffic signal was not determined to be a priority project, and funding is not available. Harden Ranch Property Group decided that in order to accelerate the construction of a traffic signal that they would privately fund the project.

In October 2017 the traffic signal concept was considered by the Traffic and Transportation Commission and recommended to Council. In December 2017, City Council approved a resolution to install a traffic signal at the North Main Street and Cherokee Drive intersection and approving a funding Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding, Attachment 1) with the Salinas Shopping Center Associates Limited Partnership (Harden Ranch Property Group).

Since then, the Harden Ranch Property Group hired a civil engineering design firm to develop plans, specifications and estimates for the traffic signal project. City staff has reviewed and refined plans. The new traffic signal will be full access allowing movements in all directions. Some additional safety features could be provided at the intersection through signalization. The traffic signal will eliminate the need for turning and merging vehicles to judge adequate gaps in traffic. The signalized intersection provides pedestrians a controlled crosswalk to navigate across North Main Street. The traffic signal will communicate with the adjacent signals at Alvin Drive and Harden Street/Madrid Street for improved synchronization.

City Staff and Harden Ranch Property Group have also discussed various project delivery methods. Whereas it was originally anticipated that City staff would manage this project, both parties have now agreed that Harden Ranch Property Group will implement the traffic signal through an encroachment permit. The City will not use any public funds or waive fees to sponsor this project, and by doing so, the project is not subject to prevailing wage. Both parties have agreed to amend the Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 2) to reflect the new conditions.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission was presented a report on this item as an informative item, on August 8, 2019. The Traffic and Transportation Commission was not requested to make a recommendation.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15301, Class 1(c). The proposed improvements constitute a minor modification to an existing facility as defined by the CEQA Guidelines to improve public safety. All work will be completed within the existing public right-of-way.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The proposed traffic signal at North Main Street and Cherokee Drive supports the Council goal to safely and efficiently manage the infrastructure.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Harden Ranch Property Group will fund the traffic signal project. The City will not use public funds or waive fees for this project. The cost to the City would be accrued through the added cost to operate and maintain a traffic signal approximately \$10,000 per year.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: Memorandum of Understanding and Council Resolution 21315

Attachment 3: Memorandum of Understanding Amendment 1