



CITY OF SALINAS

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DATE: JULY 9, 2020

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

FROM: ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER

TITLE: TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT CONSTITUTION BOULEVARD AND LAS CASITAS DRIVE

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion recommending that City Council approve plans and specifications for the traffic signal at Constitution Boulevard and Las Casitas Drive.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the City Council the approval of plans and specifications for the traffic signal at Constitution Boulevard and Las Casitas Drive.

BACKGROUND:

At its August 29, 2017, City Council approved a Resolution (No. 21244) approving the 2017 Traffic Signal Priority List. The intersection of Constitution Boulevard and Las Casitas Drive was selected as one of four top priorities for traffic signal or roundabout improvements, along with North Boronda Road at Sanborn Road, Williams Road at Garner Avenue, and Alvin Drive at Linwood Drive. Furthermore, at its June 2017 meeting, the Traffic and Transportation Commission reviewed and made recommendations to Council, for the 2017 Traffic Signal Priority List.

Two intersections on the priority list; East Boronda Road at North Sanborn Road, and Constitution Boulevard at Las Casitas Drive, were evaluated for both a traffic signal and roundabout in a study known as an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) analysis (Attachment 1). The intersection of Constitution Boulevard at Las Casitas Drive was approved for a traffic signal concept, while the intersection of East Boronda Road at North Sanborn Road was selected for a roundabout option (Resolution No. 21511).

The Public Works Department has developed plans and specifications for the traffic signal project, and these are ready for Council approval. Staff will be bidding the project and anticipates award in the Fall, 2020. Materials for construction can take several months to secure and construction could be expected as early as Spring, 2021.

Other Traffic Signal Priorities:

Alvin Drive at Linwood Drive- The intersection was the top ranked priority on the priority list. The signal design is complete, and plans are approved. The project is being constructed in conjunction with the Alvin Drive/Linwood Drive Safe Routes to School CIP Project 9219. City Council has awarded the project for construction and construction is projected to commence this summer.

Boronda Road at Sanborn Road- This intersection was evaluated for a roundabout option through an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) analysis. The ICE analysis is a standard procedure for comparing a roundabout or traffic signal at an intersection by applying various benefit costs metrics. City Council approved a roundabout option at this intersection via Council Resolution 21511, with the understanding that this concept was not fully funded, and the planning and design phase would require more time. The North of Boronda Future growth areas are now changing the travel demand forecasting for this intersection. The capacity and design of this intersection is being planned in coordination with the future development environmental studies.

Williams Road at Garner Avenue- This intersection is in the design phase and has been slowed by design challenges and future considerations. Design challenges at this location include physical constraints such driveway density and narrow sidewalks, grading and both overhead and underground utilities. Furthermore, Williams Road is planned for a median and utility undergrounding project. The future configuration of the roadway should be finalized before the traffic signal design can be completed in order to avoid throw-away costs.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Installation of traffic control devices on a City street is exempt under CEQA 15301, Class 1(c) since the actions consists of operation and minor alteration of an existing City street.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This action supports the Council's initiative of Public Safety.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The total estimated construction cost for the traffic signal improvements Constitution Boulevard and Las Casitas is \$829,000, as summarized below. Sufficient funding is available in CIP 9094 – Traffic Signal Priorities, however two traffic signal projects are currently being bid. In the event both bids exceed the available budget the traffic signal at Constitution Boulevard and Las Casitas will take priority and the signal at East Alisal Street and Murphy Street will be postponed until full funding can be secured.

Estimated Construction Costs	\$690,519
Construction Support (10%)	\$ 69,052
Contingencies (10%)	\$ 69,052
Total Costs(Rounded to the nearest \$1000)	\$828,623

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Constitution Las Casitas Intersection Control Evaluation