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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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AGENDA: FEBRUARY 15, 2000

February 3, 2000

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, California 95060

**SUBJECT: CABRILLO COLLEGE - SOQUEL DRIVE AND CABRILLO COLLEGE DRIVE
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

Members of the Board:

On October 6, 1998, your Board approved an application to seek Transportation Equity Act Funds for the 21 st Century (TEA 21) grant funding for the construction of 2,400 lineal feet of infrastructure improvements on Soquel Drive along the frontage of the Cabrillo College campus. The proposed improvements on Soquel Drive would provide significant safety and operational improvements along the roadway, including the construction of much-needed pedestrian improvements that meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, the reconstruction of the median islands with new landscaping with an irrigation system, the construction of on-street transit improvements on Soquel Drive and Cabrillo College Drive, significant on-street drainage improvements, bicycling improvements, and other miscellaneous transportation improvements. The County was awarded \$750,000 in TEA 21 grant funds, and Cabrillo College has agreed to match this grant with approximately \$900,000 in additional funding to complete the \$1,650,000 frontage improvement project on Soquel Drive. Attachment 1 from the Cabrillo College Facilities Master Plan provides a conceptual schematic of the proposed improvements along Soquel Drive.

In working with representatives from the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees and their planning and engineering consultants, it was determined that additional pedestrian and vehicular operational improvements could be accomplished through the realignment of Cabrillo College Drive. The 1,250-foot realignment of Cabrillo College Drive is proposed to begin at the southeast corner of the Cabrillo College playing fields (at the north end of the Twin Lakes Church property) and would terminate at Soquel Drive approximately 250 feet east of the present intersection. The new intersection of Soquel Drive and Cabrillo College Drive would directly connect with a new

student services complex, and pedestrian and vehicular movements would be controlled through a new traffic signal. The traffic signal at the existing Soquel Drive and Cabrillo College intersection would be salvaged for the realigned intersection. The existing alignment of Cabrillo College Drive would be abandoned as a roadway and then converted to a utility easement and a pedestrian urban plaza. Within the next several years a second pedestrian overcrossing is proposed to be constructed at the present intersection location of Soquel Drive and Cabrillo College Drive, and it would connect the urban plaza with the upper campus. Attachments 2 and 3 provide conceptual schematics of the proposed realignment and the proposed new Cabrillo College roadway improvements. The realigned portion of Cabrillo College Drive would include the construction of pedestrian improvements, new on-street bike lanes, and landscaping improvements in conformance with County Design Criteria standards.

Representatives from the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees propose to fund the realignment of Cabrillo College Drive at an estimated cost of \$980,000. Public Works has reviewed the proposed improvement project on a preliminary basis and believes that the pedestrian and vehicular operational and safety improvements will greatly benefit the County as well as Cabrillo College. The realignment of Cabrillo College Drive will allow pedestrians to directly access the lower and upper campus through the new student services complex that will be designed to meet ADA standards. In addition, there will be a reduction in pedestrian/vehicular conflicts on Soquel Drive and Cabrillo College Drive.

Two other significant improvements that are proposed include the construction of a second signal at Cabrillo College's western access road at Soquel Drive at an estimated cost of \$150,000, and landscaping improvements on Soquel Drive, Cabrillo College Drive, and within the Cabrillo College campus at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000. These improvements will be funded by Cabrillo College. Signal warrants are currently met for the proposed new signal at the western access road and this signal is proposed to be coordinated with the signal at Cabrillo College Drive and Soquel Drive to insure safe and efficient vehicular movements in the Soquel Drive corridor.

Public Works proposes to work with the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees and their consultants to develop a draft agreement for future consideration by your Board. The purpose of the agreement is for coordinating the infrastructure improvements on Soquel Drive, abandoning the existing Cabrillo College Drive, converting the abandoned section of Cabrillo College Drive to a utility easement (pedestrian urban plaza), accepting 1,250 feet of realigned Cabrillo College Drive and the associated infrastructure improvements into the County maintained roadway system.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works:

1. To develop a draft agreement with representatives from Cabrillo College to:
 - a. coordinate the expenditure of the County's \$750,000 in TEA 21 grant funds for infrastructure improvements on Soquel Drive, including the construction of pedestrian improvements, and the reconstruction of the median islands with landscaping, transit improvements; and
 - b. coordinate the activities related to the realignment of Cabrillo College Drive, the installation of two traffic signals, and landscaping improvements on Soquel Drive and Cabrillo College Drive.

2. Return to your Board with the **draft** agreement between the County of Santa Cruz and Cabrillo College for approval on or before April 4, 2000.

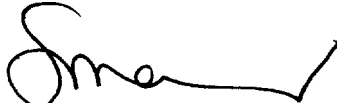
Yours truly,

for - Thomas Bolich
JOHN A. FANTHAM
Director of Public Works

JJP:mg

Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

copy to: Public Works
Cabrillo College

CABM

Soquel Drive
Conceptual Improvement Plan
Department of Public Works
February 2000

