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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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AGENDA: APRIL 17, 2001

April 5, 2001

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

**SUBJECT: PLAN LINE PROPOSAL FOR CALABASAS ROAD
BUENA VISTA DRIVE TO BRADFORD ROAD**

Members of the Board:

This letter describes and recommends approval of the proposed plan line for Calabasas Road between Buena Vista Drive and Bradford Road. Calabasas Road is a collector street that parallels Freedom Boulevard in the Pajaro Valley Planning Area. This road serves several urban area residential streets and the Calabasas Elementary School and then becomes a rural road with primary access for rural residential and some commercial agriculture uses.

Aerial photographs indicating the proposed plan line have been forwarded to the Clerk of the Board for your review. Attachment 1 is the location map indicating the roadway segment to be considered for plan line recommendations.

The plan line segment presented for your approval has been initiated by the Department of Public Works to begin preliminary design of transportation and roadside improvements on Calabasas Road.

BACKGROUND

Calabasas Road is designated as a collector street in the County General Plan. The ideal route concept for collector streets in the urbanized area is two travel lanes, two bike lanes, on-street parking on both sides, and a separated sidewalk on both sides. The Board of Supervisors approved a route concept in 1989 that allowed for sidewalks and bike lanes on Calabasas Road for the purpose of serving the elementary school and neighborhood residents.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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The Department of Public Works has acquired sufficient funding at this time, including funding from Transportation Enhancement Act and Surface Transportation Program grants to move forward with the design and construction phase of the Calabasas Road Improvement Project.

EXISTING ROADWAY

Calabasas Road is currently striped with two travel lanes with some unimproved shoulder parking on the north side. The south side has a substandard asphalt paved bike path and is signed to restrict parking. A sidewalk exists adjacent to Calabasas Elementary School along the corner of Barbara Way, along the southeast corner of Bradford Road, and along the corner store at Buena Vista Drive. The intersection of Calabasas Road and Bowker Road is a multi-way stop sign-controlled intersection with crosswalks. A mid-block school crosswalk is located just east of the intersection of Bradford Road and leads directly into the middle of the school grounds.

The existing right-of-way is 50 feet from Buena Vista Drive to Barbara Way. From Barbara Way to the elementary school the right-of-way narrows to 40 feet due to a five-foot offset in the right-of-way on both sides of Calabasas Road.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Department of Public Works hosted a neighborhood meeting in July 2000 to discuss alternative plan lines proposed for Calabasas Road. Public Works' staff presented the basic collector street standard with bike lanes, on-street parking on both sides, and separated sidewalks on both sides. The collector standard would require 66 feet of right-of-way and was deemed inappropriate for this roadway. Staff then presented a plan line with bike lanes, parking on the north side only, and sidewalks on both sides. While a number of attendees supported the bike lane proposal, some residents that live on Calabasas Road preferred to have on-street parking instead of bike lanes. It was determined that another public meeting would be held to provide an additional plan line alternative to the residents, which included parking on both sides but no bike lanes.

The Calabasas Elementary School principal and several school site council members attended the second meeting on February 21, 2001, and voiced their support for the bike lanes, as did residents with children attending the school. The residents that live on Calabasas Road preferred the alternate plan line with parking on both sides. Although the reactions were mixed regarding the plan line with bike lanes, Public Works' staff believes the best interest of the community would be served if bike lanes were included.

Some of the objections and concerns voiced by other residents at the public meeting had to do with speeding and lack of enforcement of the "No Parking" zones during the school drop-off and pick-up times. In order to address these speeding and "no parking" zone concerns, the design of the project will include traffic calming measures such as bulb-outs to help reduce the incidents of speeding. Another potential traffic calming device that could be installed are road bumps. Although Calabasas Road is not currently eligible for road bumps since it is a collector street, it could be considered in the future by your Board through a separate action. Many of the residents have requested road bumps due to the vehicle speeds along Calabasas Road, including the area in front of the school. In addition, the standard curb and sidewalk improvements and the bike lane striping should help delineate and formalize the "No Parking" zones along the entire roadway for better enforcement purposes.

PROPOSED PLAN LINE


The recommended plan line that has been submitted for your Board's consideration consists of two 11-foot travel lanes, two 5.5-foot bike lanes, four-foot sidewalks adjacent to the curb on both sides, and a six-foot on-street parking shoulder on the north side. The total curb to curb width will be approximately 39 feet, except for the road segment between Barbara Way and the elementary school, which is reduced to 35 feet due to constraints of an existing embankment and retaining wall. On-street parking will not be allowed along this portion of Calabasas Road.

Most of the improvements will be accommodated within the existing right-of-way (50 feet) with additional easements needed for overhead utility lines and driveway/sidewalk conforms. An additional five feet of right-of-way will be required on the south side of Calabasas Road for the segment between Barbara Way and Bradford Road where 40 feet of right-of-way currently exists. Attachment 2 indicates the proposed typical cross-sections for the plan line segments.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

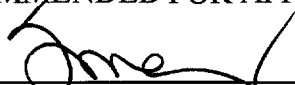
1. Approve the proposed plan line for Calabasas Road between Buena Vista Drive and Bradford Road.
2. Direct the Department of Public Works to ink the approved plan line onto the aerial photo mylars, and to include the plan line for this segment of Calabasas Road in the Master Plan Line file.

Yours truly,


THOMAS L. BOLICH
Director of Public Works

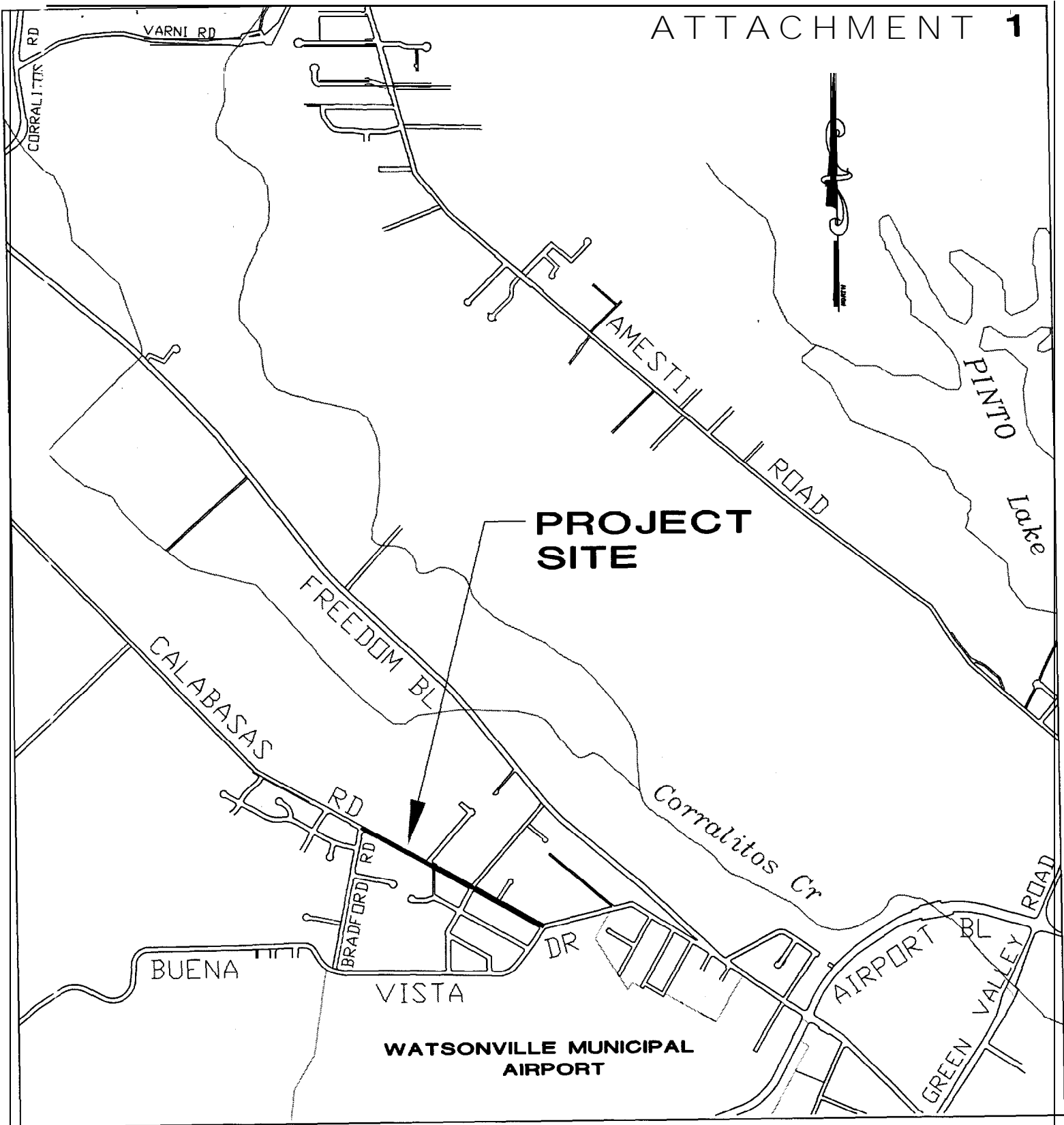
JRS:mg
Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer
Copy to: Public Works
PLNM

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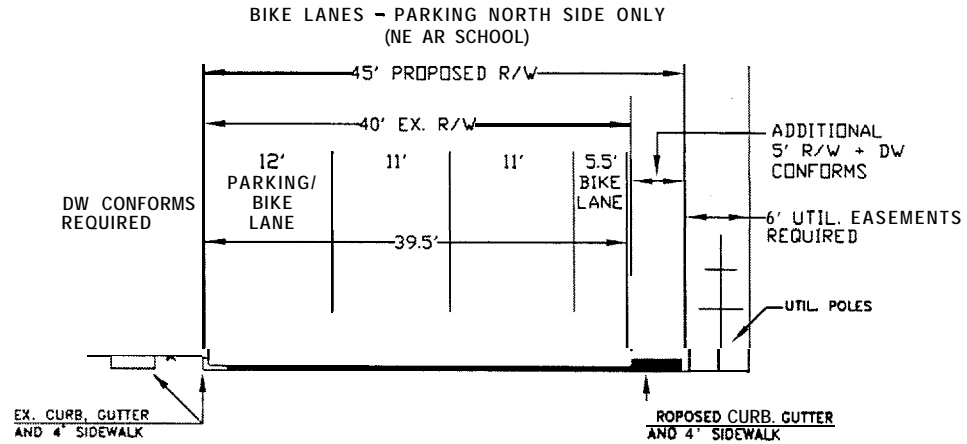


**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
 CALABASAS ROAD
 PROPOSED PLAN LINES
 VICINITY MAP**

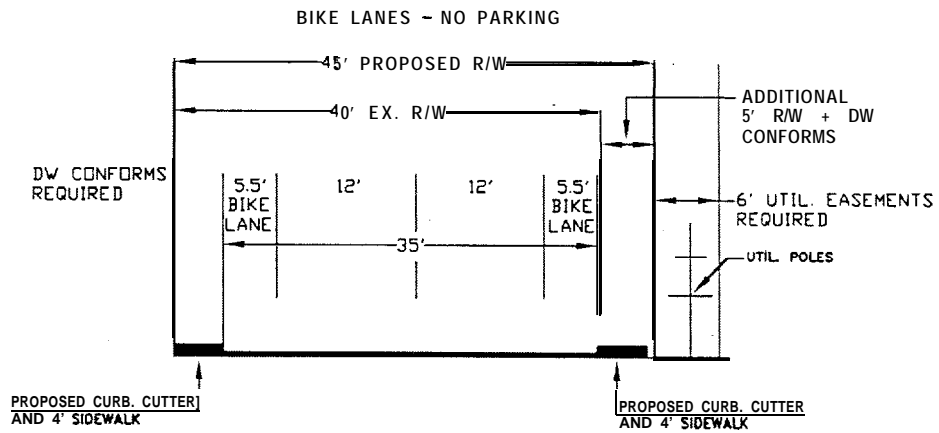
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From Bradford Road to Buena Vista Drive

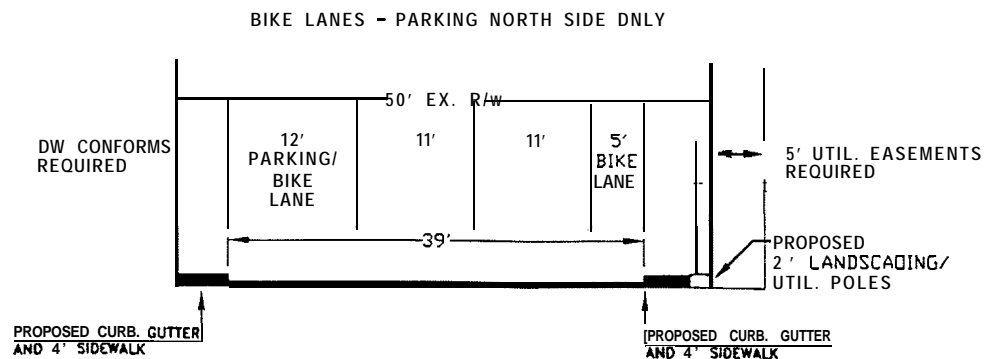
CALABASAS ROAD PROPOSED PLAN LINES



BRADFORD RD.(STA. 11+50) TO STA. 16+51



STA. 16+51 TO STA. 19+15



STA. 19+35 TO BUENA VISTA DR.