West Capitol Avenue Road Rehabilitation and Safety Enhancement Project

Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting #1
Friday, August 24, 2018 | 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.
West Sacramento City Hall
1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento
Meeting Summary
Businesses and properties represented at the first West Capitol Avenue Road Rehabilitation and Safety Enhancement Project focus group meeting included:

- El Rancho Mobile Home Park
- Fremont Motel
- Margaret McDowell Manor
- West Sacramento Community Church
- Washington Unified School District
- Clayton Homes

Meeting Objectives
- Provide an overview of the project objectives;
- Review the project schedule; and
- Obtain stakeholder input about existing conditions, access points, and potential challenges and opportunities along West Capitol Avenue

Project Background
The 2007 West Capitol Avenue Streetscape Master Plan identified key urban design strategies that supported the goal of creating a revitalized corridor with a healthy pedestrian environment.

West Capitol Avenue is envisioned as the City of West Sacramento’s Downtown – a central core with a vibrant main street that takes advantage of its prime location, provide an attractive setting for a variety of land uses. These land uses include the Civic Center, Community Center, transit hub in addition to residential, commercial, and urban parks that are accessible via multiple modes of transportation.
The City has improved West Capitol Avenue east of Jefferson Boulevard and is now targeting the existing corridor west of Jefferson Boulevard. The West Capitol Avenue Road Rehabilitation and Safety Enhancement Project will rehabilitate the deteriorating pavement along Jefferson Boulevard and West Capitol Avenue and improve safety and mobility along the corridor. Proposed improvements include separated bike lanes, reduced vehicle travel lanes, and enhanced street lighting and improved mid-block crossings for pedestrians. Infrastructure improvements include replacing an existing water line from Jefferson Boulevard to Westacre Road, installing a new water line from Enterprise Boulevard to Northport Drive, and installing fiber optic cabling for traffic signals along West Capitol Avenue.

The project is anticipated to begin construction in Summer 2019.

**Stakeholder Discussion**

*Existing pedestrian and bicycle traffic along the corridor*

- Many residents walk and bike nearby the El Rancho Mobile Park to go to the grocery store and other facilities.
- When children ride their bikes around the area, most of them ride on the sidewalk because the street is not safe.
- Kids ride their bikes to the market on Poplar.
- A Class IV bike lane in front of the El Rancho Mobile Park may be an issue. Most residents have two cars, and there is constant traffic coming in and out of the park. If it wasn’t for the third street lane, traffic in and out of the park might block other traffic on West Capitol Avenue.
- There is senior housing on Merkley Avenue. Most of those residents travel on their scooters, and they choose to jaywalk across West Capitol Avenue because the closest crossing is too far away. They travel from the senior housing driveway across the street to the shopping center.
- Several senior residents walk to Golden Days on Merkley Avenue. They will walk at the crossings, but they don’t make it to the other end of the crosswalk before the flashing hand stops. They do not have enough time to walk across Jefferson Boulevard at Merkley Avenue.
- Westmore Oaks students often cross West Capitol Avenue on Poplar Avenue or West Acre Road. These elementary school students are usually unescorted.
- A lot of the El Rancho Mobile Park children walk to and from school.
- A lot of pedestrians walk on the street instead of on the sidewalk.

*Existing motor vehicle traffic along the corridor*

- When drivers are turning from West Capitol Avenue onto other cross streets, they do not look for pedestrians – especially nearby the freeways. Pedestrians don’t look for cars when they cross, either.
- Both lights on Merkley Avenue for the two unprotected left turn lanes are on the same timing. This is confusing for drivers or introduce the fear of head-on collisions. Maybe consider separating those lights’ timing so they go one at a time and make drivers feel safer.
Transit

- There is a bus stop in front of the El Rancho Mobile Park. It would be better if the bus stop could be moved further west down the street, away from the main entrance and towards where this is a well-lit crosswalk. Currently the bus will pull past the stop and take an entire lane, so it is hard for residents to turn into the park driveway. Sometimes the bus drivers will take their 15-minute breaks at this stop as well.
- El Rancho Mobile Park needs access to its two fire gates. Sometimes buses park in front of these.
- Washington Unified School District has a bus stop by the apartments near TOGO’s located at 2455 W Capitol Ave #100, West Sacramento, CA 95691. The buses need to stop right next to the sidewalks in order to operate the ramps properly. If there is a physical barrier, such as a bike lane in between the bus and the sidewalk, that would be a problem.
- Bus stops may need to be temporarily relocated during construction, especially if the City demolishes the existing curbs.

Pavement conditions

- Previous street improvements have led to soil settlement in some locations along the corridor. As heavy trucks drive on West Capitol Avenue, you can feel some buildings shake.

Potential improvements

- The stoplights at Merkley Avenue and Jefferson Blvd. do not give pedestrians enough time to cross the street.
- The sidewalk pavement along West Capitol Avenue is not level. A senior resident in a scooter tipped over one time, because there was a large bump on the sidewalk.
- Sidewalks along West Capitol Avenue need to be safer.
- Bicyclists need to be more visible to fast moving vehicles along West Capitol Avenue.
- The trees along West Capitol Avenue need to be maintained. When they are not trimmed regularly, some trees block the lighting that is on the corridor.
- Many of the driveways along West Capitol Avenue are not maintained well. Drivers have to slow down when they turn, more than normal, so their car does not dip too low when they enter a driveway.
- The stoplight at the I-80 off-ramp, towards Jefferson Avenue, is difficult for drivers to see. Everyone who is driving from the off-ramp runs that light, because they don’t see it until it is too late for them to stop. A newer LED light may help with visibility.

Construction

- There is currently construction taking place on West Capitol Avenue, and crews have blocked off one of the nearby streets. Will construction on the West Capitol Avenue project take place at the same time as the existing construction?
Project team response: No. The current construction is expected to be complete in four months. Construction on the West Capitol Avenue project is anticipated to begin in Summer 2019.

- During construction, there needs to be signage for road closures and detours.
  - Project team response: The City and project team will coordinate closely with businesses and place signage around the construction areas.

Water line improvements

- This project includes improvements to the water line. Is the City expecting a lot of housing developments past Interstate 80?
  - Project team response: The primary purpose of the improvements to the water pipes is to improve the hydraulic capacity of the area. Some places around the project area do not get adequate water for fire flows. These improvements are a part of the City’s Water Master Plan for a new water pipe facility. In the past when PG&E was replacing the gas lines, they would touch a water pipeline and it would burst. Then nearby mobile home parks, residences, and businesses would be out of water for seven or eight days.
- The delivery of water to the El Rancho Mobile Park is weak. Even though the park invested in an expensive improvement, the water pressure is still not very good.
- Will construction on the water pipes impact traffic on Merkley Avenue?
  - Project team response: No, we do not anticipate it will at this time.

Appendix

- Meeting Agenda
- Project Fact Sheet
- Project Limits Map
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Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Project Overview

3. Proposed Project Improvements & Schedule

4. Group Discussion

5. Next Steps
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Road Rehabilitation & Safety Enhancement Project

The City of West Sacramento is proposing to rehabilitate the deteriorating pavement along Jefferson Boulevard and West Capitol Avenue and improve safety and mobility along the corridor.

Safety Improvements Include:

- Rehabilitate deteriorating pavement
- Reducing vehicle travel lanes to add separated bike lanes
- Enhancing the mid-block crossings for pedestrians
- Improved lighting

Infrastructure Improvements Include:

- Replacement of an existing 8" water line from Jefferson Boulevard to Westacre Road
- New 12" water line from Enterprise Boulevard to Northport Drive
- Fiber optic cabling for traffic signal interconnect along West Capitol Avenue

Questions? Contact Candido Ramirez: candidor@cityofwestsacramento.org • (916) 617-4611

Visit the project webpage at bit.ly/westcapitol
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