

FAIR OAKS BRIDGE

REHABILITATION



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the purpose of this project?

The City of Sunnyvale (City) is planning to rehabilitate the Fair Oaks Bridge by widening the bridge deck to bring roadway and shoulder widths up to current design standards and improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities while maintaining four travel lanes for automobiles. The east side of the bridge deck will be widened by about 7 feet to accommodate a separated sidewalk and wider-than-existing bicycle lanes.

Further pedestrian improvements are planned for the intersections where the bridge touches down at Kifer Road and at Evelyn Ave. In addition, some of the bridge columns will be relocated to provide additional clearance and visibility to the portion of Hendy Avenue located beneath the bridge. Pedestrian access over the Caltrain corridor will be maintained until construction is complete and the existing pedestrian overcrossing is removed.

Why is this project being considered?

In service since 1967, the Fair Oaks Avenue Bridge is regularly inspected by Caltrans and maintained by the City of Sunnyvale. The bridge is considered safe for driving, but in need of a substantial rehabilitation, primarily related to the condition of the bridge deck. If the bridge remains in service without rehabilitation, significant and costly maintenance and repair will be needed. The project will enhance bridge safety and accessibility, and bring the bridge up to current standards.

Has the final project design already been approved?

Not at this time. The City and Caltrans have begun the preliminary project design and environmental review process which are

anticipated to take place through spring 2014. Once the project environmental review is complete, the City will decide whether to proceed with the project. The project design would only be approved after the final environmental document is released and approved in summer 2014. Project construction is not anticipated until spring 2015 at the earliest, pending the availability of funding.

Who is working on this project and what are their roles?

The City of Sunnyvale is the project sponsor and lead agency for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Because the City will receive federal funding for the project, it is also subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Caltrans will lead efforts under NEPA; the City will lead efforts under CEQA.

How is this project being funded?

The project cost is estimated at \$22 million for preliminary engineering, right-of-way work, and bridge construction. The City anticipates the project will be funded through a mix of federal



and local funds, with approximately 88.5 percent of the federal funds coming from the Highway Bridge Program (HBP), and the remaining 11.5 percent from the City.

What types of impacts to the surrounding area will be considered?

A number of technical studies will be conducted to examine such issues as air quality, noise, visual, hydrology/water quality, geotechnical, and natural resource impacts. In addition, issues such as community character, growth and land use impacts will be reviewed. Because the rehabilitated bridge will be functionally similar to the existing bridge with no increase in vehicle capacity, potential environmental impacts are anticipated to be limited primarily to the construction period.

Who will decide if this project moves forward?

The public, as well as State and local agencies, will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed project when the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is circulated for public review in spring 2014. Opportunities for public comment include a project scoping meeting held in May 2013, a public meeting scheduled for February 19, 2014 and a City Council public hearing is anticipated following publication of the draft EIR. Ultimately, the Sunnyvale City Council is anticipated to make the decision whether to proceed with the project in summer 2014.

What has happened so far?

A Preliminary Environmental Study (PES) was completed in July 2010 as the first step to determine the level of environmental review needed for the project. A project scoping meeting was held in May 2013, to provide information about the project and receive public input on the range of issues to study during the environmental analysis.

What happens next?

The City will hold a public meeting on February 19, 2014 to provide a project update and information about anticipated next steps in the environmental review, project approval, and construction processes. After the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and preliminary bridge design are released for review and comment, a City Council public hearing is anticipated in summer 2014 to decide whether to proceed with the project. Once these documents are finalized and approved by City Council, further engineering work will continue with the anticipation of construction starting in spring 2015.

What other infrastructure projects are happening in the area?

The Hendy Street Improvements Project is a project to reconstruct Hendy Avenue from Sunnyvale Avenue to the Fair Oaks Avenue Bridge. The condition of the roadway in this area is poor with missing

or substandard sidewalks, bikeways, and lighting. The project will reconstruct the entire roadway section to safely accommodate all travel modes, upgrade lighting and streetscapes, and provide additional on-street parking in the vicinity of the Northrop Grumman facility. The project is currently under design with construction anticipated to begin in summer 2014.

In addition, a Utilities Undergrounding Project is currently under preliminary development by PG&E to underground existing overhead utilities along Fair Oaks Avenue, between Evelyn Avenue and El Camino Real.

How can I stay informed or get involved?

Conducting an open project review process that provides multiple opportunities for community involvement is a key goal of the project. A public meeting will be held on February 19, 2014 to provide a project update and information about anticipated next steps in the environmental review, project approval, and construction processes. A City Council public hearing is anticipated in summer 2014 to decide whether to proceed with the project. These meetings will be widely publicized in the community and members of the public are encouraged to attend. In addition to meetings, there will be a formal public review period for the draft environmental document during which the community will be encouraged to review the draft and provide written comments and input.

Will the Fair Oaks Bridge remain open during construction?

Yes. Although temporary lane reductions will be a periodic necessity, the City intends to maintain at least one travel lane in each direction for both vehicles and bicycles during construction. To expedite the overall construction process, the City plans to close the portion of Hendy Avenue below the bridge for up to 6 to 8 months during the early phases of construction.

Will the Fair Oaks Pedestrian Overcrossing remain open during construction?

Yes, pedestrian access over the Caltrain tracks will be maintained until construction is complete. Once the new sidewalk is constructed on the Fair Oaks Bridge itself, the existing pedestrian overcrossing will be removed.

Where can I go for more information?

Project information can be found online at FairOaksBridge.com. Please visit the Upcoming Meetings page for up-to-date information on public meetings, or visit the Contact Us page to be added to the project mailing list. You may also contact the City of Sunnyvale Public Works Department at **(408) 730-7605**.

