



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: January 22, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: No Vote Required

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director #568-3005
Director

Contact Info: Dacé Morgan, Deputy Director of Transportation: #568-3064

SUBJECT: Receive and File Montecito Walk to School Project Initial Study Report; First Supervisorial District.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors receive the attached Initial Study Report for the Montecito Walk to School Project, First Supervisorial District.

Summary Text:

The Montecito Walk to School Project was established to address concerns of Montecito area residents with children attending Montecito Union Elementary School and Cold Spring Elementary School. The intent of the study was to identify projects around each school that would increase safety for school age pedestrians and bicyclists and also educate the public regarding topics associated with the construction of pedestrian facilities.

Parents and Montecito Union School officials would like to see an improved pathway on the west side of San Ysidro Road from North Jameson Lane to the school property. The report identifies three alternative designs for this pathway along with their advantages and disadvantages. The alternatives included a dirt foot path, a decomposed granite walkway and a concrete sidewalk. Based on public comment, policies, and physical constraints, the decomposed granite walkway was chosen and an application for funding to the State Safe Routes to School Grant program was submitted.

The Montecito Trails Foundation has offered to partner with the County to provide maintenance and care of the San Ysidro Road pathway. Future project steps will include executing an agreement for pathway maintenance with the Montecito Trails Foundation.

In the vicinity of Cold Spring School, several projects were identified based on parent and school concerns. The Department partnered with several parents and Caltrans to complete many small projects that range from vegetation clearing to traffic control have been addressed while larger projects have been identified. These larger projects were prioritized based on public comments. The top two projects were submitted for funding to the State Safe Routes to School Grant Program. These top two projects included a pedestrian landing on the northeast corner of the intersection of Cold Springs Road and Sycamore Canyon Road and a drainage project on the west side of Eucalyptus Hill Road just south of Sycamore Canyon Road.

In addition to the identification of projects in the vicinity of Cold Spring School, the County worked with several parents to produce a brochure that explains how property owners can participate in increasing pedestrian safety by reducing landscaping and vegetation along Montecito's roadways. The reduction of vegetation can help make more room for walking along roads while maintaining the semi-rural nature of the community. The County produced the brochure with input from the parents and the parents circulated the brochure by walking door-to-door.

Background:

Studies have shown that fewer children walk to school today than did 20 years ago. In researching why children do not walk to school it was found that danger from traffic was high on the list of reasons. Based on this research, it would make sense that providing safe pedestrian routes would increase the number of children that walk to school. In Montecito, it is particularly challenging because of the desire to maintain a semi-rural atmosphere as discussed in the Montecito Community Plan.

An administrative draft report was produced and circulated to the Montecito Association, the two schools, and Caltrans. A draft report was then introduced at two public workshops. The workshops were held on October 16, 2007 and October 18, 2007 at Cold Spring School and Montecito Union School. Public comments were then incorporated into a final draft of the report.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions:

Please provide a copy of the Certified Stamped Minute Order for pick up to the attention of Kathleen Dowd, Public Works Department Traffic Section.

Attachments: Montecito Walk to School Project Initial Study Report

Authored by:

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Charlie Ebeling, Traffic Section Manager #568-3232 _____