

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 8/22/05
Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 9/20/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery- Director
Director of Public Works

STAFF CONTACT: John McGray- Road Maintenance Manager
568-3336

SUBJECT: Roadway Enhancements to the Transportation Partnership Program
All Supervisorial Districts

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the Roadway Enhancement Partnership Program which creates an “Adopt a Highway” style program for the County of Santa Barbara;
2. Approve two pilot projects which will provide the foundation for implementing the program and authorize the Director of Public Works to include future projects based on community interest;
3. Approve a “Rural Street Tree List” to be utilized with pilot projects and future Roadway Enhancement Partnership Program projects.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community and Goal No. 5.A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The County of Santa Barbara, like many local agencies throughout the State of California, is experiencing increasing shortfalls between revenues and maintenance backlog. With that in mind, the Public Works Department created an innovative program to share the costs of repairing hardscape damage in the

unincorporated County. Hardscape infrastructure includes curb, gutter, sidewalks and driveway aprons and the majority has been damaged due to inappropriate street trees planted when developments were constructed in the 1960's. Through this program the department has been able to address more street tree problems than it would have under previous practices.

The Partnership Program created by the County of Santa Barbara has successfully provided a choice for the public. It has benefited both the County and the residents of the community affected. In a time when the County's revenues do not match the transportation infrastructure needs, it has been imperative that a program be developed that meets the needs of the Department and the desires of the community. Through this program, our common goal of public safety and the preservation of the urban forest can be achieved.

At this time Public Works recommends that your board approve the Roadway Enhancement Partnership Program (REPP) to expand the successful existing Partnership Program. This expansion will allow the department to continue to be responsive to the communities desire to improve public assets. Public Works will be able to accept voluntary donations of time, material and funding that will promote betterments on the County's Road Right-of-Way (ROW) and allow staff to be proactive in promoting voluntary enhancement to the County's maintained roadways. The REPP will be the equivalent of "Adopt a Highway" programs currently being utilized by other public agencies throughout California. Enhancements to the ROW in order to promote safe travel with a cleaner environment and improved visual experience will be the baseline for project approvals. This program will be controlled by Public Works by issuing a REPP Encroachment Permit which will describe the enhancement activity and provide special instructions for the applicant. The permit will allow the volunteers to work within the maintained ROW as described in the County's inventory of maintained roadways with the limits controlled by the permit itself. The permit will be valid for 2 years. Examples of the types of activities that may be undertaken by volunteers are:

- ✓ Tree planting and maintenance
- ✓ Trash pick up and debris removal
- ✓ Graffiti Removal
- ✓ Drainage repairs
- ✓ Landscaping projects
- ✓ Painting
- ✓ Roadway surface treatments
- ✓ Concrete repairs
- ✓ Other Appropriate Enhancements

Safety training by Public Works staff will be provided for all volunteers and will cover the risks associated with working within the County's ROW. Personal safety equipment such as hi-visibility vest and hardhats will be provided by the department; all other materials required to perform the voluntary service to the County will be provided by the volunteers themselves. The volunteers will also have the option of requesting the County to install two signs around their adopted area to notify the traveling public of their commitment to their community.

The Pilot Programs for the REPP include a variety of enhancements to the County's maintained roadways in the First and Third Supervisorial Districts. The following descriptions define the scope of these projects:

- ✓ The Pilot Project in the First Supervisorial District was developed through contacts with local cycling groups who desired the upper 3 miles of Gibraltar road to be resurfaced. The group volunteered to fund the project and work with a local contractor to produce the new roadway surface. The surface will be new paving, designed to be durable and lasting for 20 years when placed on a preventive maintenance schedule. The County provided assistance in making contact with local contractors, facilitating meetings between the responsible parties and defined the scope of the surface treatment required based on existing condition of the roadway. Upon completion of an agreement between the cyclists and the contractor, the County will provide the REPP Encroachment Permit for the cyclists to perform the work. To insure quality control measures are met Public Works will provide construction inspection services for the work performed by the cyclists. The County will finalize this project by accepting the contractors work as completed, updating the MicroPaver/section inventory listings and placing this stretch of roadway into the County's Pavement Preservation Program.
- ✓ The Pilot Project in the Third Supervisorial District, as opposed to the pilot project mentioned above, will be located in multiple locations throughout the Santa Ynez Valley. These locations include, but are not limited to, Alamo Pintado Road and Armour Ranch Road. Through the efforts of the Third District Supervisor's office, these Pilot Projects will be completed with the assistance of local community organizations. The projects involve the planting of County approved vegetation on or along the County's maintained roadways. A REPP Encroachment Permit will be issued to these local community organizations to allow for encroachment onto the ROW for the approved planting project. The permit will provide the criteria that will be required for the planting of any trees to ensure the safety of the traveling public and limit future maintenance needs.

In order to remain consistent with the current County street tree policy, Public Works requests Board approval of a list of trees acceptable for rural planting (Rural Street Tree List). Currently the Rural Street Tree List contains 2 proposed trees; Live Oaks and Valley Oaks. The department hopes to expand this list in the future as volunteers come forward to participate in the REPP for other sections of County maintained roadways.

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These Pilot Project Enhancements are indicative of the program vision. The REPP will also accept the traditional tasks of other agency programs, such as, trash cleanup, and graffiti removal, but will also review all REPP applications for their alignment with the mission of the Transportation Division to provide a clear path, smooth ride and a safe trip.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Approval of this action will allow the Department to be responsive to the needs of the community, insure safe roadways are maintained and allow for an enhanced driving experience for our traveling public.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The Department proposes to utilize the expertise of existing Maintenance Section staff members within the Transportation Division to implement these pilot projects. Additional costs will be negligible.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a certified Minute Order to Public Works-Transportation Division, attn: Cecelia Barnes, ext. 3064.

Concurrence:

County Counsel
Risk Management

Attachments:

REPP Encroachment Permit Application
Rural Street Tree List
REPP Brochure