



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: 07/10/07
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 60 minutes total
(10 minutes staff)
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Interim Public Works Director 568-3010
Director
Contact Info: Dace B. Morgan, Interim Deputy Director–Transportation 568-3064

**SUBJECT: Departmental Hearing for the Opening of Onstott Road to Through Traffic,
Fourth Supervisorial District.**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That your Board open Onstott Road to through traffic in the Fourth Supervisorial District (Departmental Hearing Estimated Time: 10 minutes staff; 60 minutes total).

Summary Text:

Onstott Road travels east-west in the Mission Hills area of the Fourth Supervisorial District. On the west end, Onstott Road terminates at Harris Grade Road and on the east end, it terminates at Rucker Road. The roadway is designated as a collector in the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Circulation Element. Onstott Road has homes fronting the roadway on both the north and south sides. Currently, Onstott Road is closed except for emergency vehicles between Pellham Drive and Buckthorn Lane. A request has been made by residents to open the road to through traffic in the summer of 2006. The conditions of the Bluffs at Mesa Oaks development project required that the issue of opening Onstott Road be brought to the Traffic Engineering Committee for a recommendation prior to being brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

On September 13, 2006 the item went to the Traffic Engineering Committee (TEC). The members voted 5 to 1 with 2 members abstaining to recommend that the Board of Supervisors open the road with the condition that Public Works Staff look at various safety improvements for the area. Some members of the public that attended the TEC meeting also requested that County staff and the TEC look at possible safety improvements if Onstott Road was opened to all traffic. Some of the suggested

improvements are street lighting, sidewalks or pathways for pedestrians, parking restrictions, traffic calming treatments, and relocating school bus stops. Many of these suggestions cannot be evaluated until the road is opened to traffic. If the Board of Supervisors elect to open Onstott Road, the Public Works Department will begin to monitor the operations of the roadway and will recommend to your Board any warranted improvements and how they will be funded in the future if needed.

Background:

When the Bluffs at Mesa Oaks development was approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 12, 2002, a condition of the development was added to have Onstott Road closed to all traffic except emergency vehicles at the border of the new development. The developer installed a speed table with a row of plastic delineators at this location to prevent normal traffic from passing but to allow emergency vehicles through with minimal delay. At this time, the developer has satisfied all the Public Works road conditions of approval and the County is maintaining the road closure treatment.

County Counsel has reviewed the approved Environmental Impact Report for the Bluffs at Mesa Oaks and found that the document satisfied the CEQA requirements for opening Onstott Road to all traffic. This item is now being brought to the Board of Supervisors to make a determination if Onstott Road should be opened to all traffic and the current speed table and barricade be removed. If it is decided to leave Onstott Road closed, then the current barricade will continue to be maintained.

In the Comprehensive Plan Circulation Element approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 22, 1980 Onstott Road is identified as a collector and was intended to carry a fair share of traffic entering and exiting the neighborhood at the east and west end of Onstott Road. Currently with the closure the traffic volumes at the west end of Onstott Road is 500 vehicles per day, at the closure is 0 vehicles per day, and at the east end is 1300 vehicles per day. If the closure was removed the forecasted volumes are at the west end 800 vehicles per day, in the vicinity of the closure 400 vehicles per day and at the east end 950 vehicles per day. On the east end of Onstott Road vehicle volumes will be noticeably reduced. Traffic on Courtney Drive is also expected to be reduced by 200 vehicles per day. With the development of the parcel to the west of Harris Grade Road, Onstott is intended to connect to Highway 1 at the existing signalized intersection at Highway 1 and Hancock Road. A future development to the west of Harris Grade Road will be conditioned to install a signal at Onstott Road and Harris Grade Road. This will reduce travel time for Mesa Oaks residents traveling to Vandenberg Village by approximately 4 minutes and provide a safer route than detouring to Burton Mesa Boulevard or Purisima Road. Opening of Onstott Road will benefit the traveling public. Currently vehicles from Mesa Oaks traveling to Lompoc must use Burton Mesa Boulevard to Harris Grade Road or Rucker Road to Purisima Road. With the opening of Onstott Road vehicles can travel directly to Harris Grade Road saving 2 to 3 minutes of travel time. Opening Onstott Road will reduce travel time for motorists who have the added benefit of less stress on the overall traffic system and less pollution generated by vehicles. Emergency response time will also be improved and a reduction in travel has been shown to have a positive influence on lowering overall speeds. It is anticipated that speeds will remain similar overall or slightly decrease.

Currently the barricade is being maintained by the County. Vandalism is requiring county staff to routinely inspect and replace damaged or missing delineators. Vandals have also been placing rocks on top of the delineators to damage cars that violate the road closure. This action puts at risk emergency response personnel if the need to travel through the Onstott Road closure occurs.

The Fourth District Supervisorial office did a mailing poll of the residents in the area during August 2006 to September 2006. Letters were mailed to the community of Mission Hills asking if they would like to see Onstott Road open to all traffic. Out of the 228 letters sent, 92 were returned, 46 were in favor of opening Onstott Road and 46 were against opening Onstott Road.

County Staff recommends opening Onstott Road to through traffic to comply with the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Circulation Element and to provide better circulation for the neighborhood and the community.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other: Road Fund			\$ 2,000.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00

Narrative:

Approximately \$2000.00 will be required and is available in Department 054/02/04, Program 2200, Org 0008, and Account 7121 for the removal and disposal of the barricade and associated signage.

Special Instructions: Please provide a certified, stamped copy of the minute order approving the recommendations for pick up to the attention of Kathleen Dowd, Public Works Department Traffic Section.

Attachments: #1: Vicinity Map

Authored by: Charles W. Ebeling, C.E., T.E., Transportation Manager 568-3232 _____

c: Gary Smart, County Traffic Operations Supervisor