



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

September 22, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution of Support for a Proposed Enhanced Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility between McDevitt Drive and Hooper Street

PREPARED BY: Dane H. Schilling – City Engineer

Recommendation

Adopt Resolution No. 39-20 supporting a project proposed by Caltrans for construction of an enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facility between McDevitt Drive and Hooper Street.

Background/Discussion

Caltrans has begun preliminary engineering and environmental efforts on a project to resurface Highway 65 through Wheatland known by Caltrans as the "Wheatland Donut Hole Project – 03-0H370". The Donut Hole Project on Highway 65 will involve digging-out areas of failed pavement, overlaying pavement, replacing most of the pedestrian ramps and new pavement markings.

In the course of the preliminary engineering phase of the project, Caltrans identified the need to make pedestrian crossings improvements at McDevitt Drive and began looking further at the opportunities available to pedestrians and cyclists in that area – particularly students walking and biking to and from schools. Caltrans identified the westerly side of the highway between McDevitt Drive and Wheatland Elementary School as a segment that can benefit from enhanced bike and pedestrian facilities. The improvements would start at the northwesterly intersection at McDevitt Drive (Chevron Station) and end at Hooper Street where the improvement currently under construction end.

Potential improvements may include:

- Adding a crosswalk at or near McDevitt Drive.
- Removing existing sidewalk and paved parking/shoulder along Highway 65.
- Constructing a 10-ft wide Class 1 Bike/Ped bi-directional pathway.
- Provide a separation between highway traffic and bike/ped path (possibly landscaped).
- Provide additional lighting at the McDevitt intersection and crosswalk.
- Rapid flashing beacons for the McDevitt Drive crosswalk.
- Raised medians at the McDevitt Drive intersection to calm traffic and provide areas of refuge for crossing pedestrians.

The proposal would involve the loss of existing on-street parking that was added in recent years. Staff would ensure the preservation of all existing driveways in the project area. It should be noted that bike and pedestrian facilities are not likely to be constructed on the easterly side of the highway due to the lack of pedestrian demand as the area is undeveloped and fronts the railroad right-of-way.



Figure 1- Looking south on Hwy65 from McDevitt Dr. at existing sidewalk, parking and shoulder.

Caltrans has also identified potential sources to fund the project and is requesting letters of support from the City of Wheatland and Wheatland area schools. The letters will be used to help justify the project and assist with obtaining funding. Caltrans' rough estimate of costs is \$800,000.

Alternatives

Alternatively, the City Council may choose to not to support the current project as proposed.

Fiscal Impact

As currently proposed, the City would have no obligation to fund the project improvements. However, the City, under a maintenance agreement with Caltrans, is currently responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalk and landscaping in this area. The City would become responsible for maintenance of any new sidewalk, bikeway and landscaping facilities constructed by the project.

Attachments

1. Resolution 39-20

RESOLUTION NO. 39-20

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHEATLAND IN SUPPORT OF A CALTRANS PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT AN ENHANCED BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITY ALONG HIGHWAY 65 BETWEEN MCDEVITT DRIVE AND HOOPER STREET

WHEREAS, Caltrans has begun preliminary engineering and environmental efforts on a project to resurface Highway 65 through Wheatland known as the "Wheatland Donut Hole Project – 03-0H370"; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans Staff has proposed expanding the Wheatland Donut Hole Project to possibly include construction of an enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facility along the westerly side of Highway 65 between McDevitt Drive and Hooper Street (Bike/Ped Project); and

WHEREAS, the Bike/Ped Project may include a 10-ft wide Class 1 bicycle and pedestrian, bi-directional pathway with a separation barrier between highway traffic and bike/ped traffic; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Bike/Ped Project may eliminate the existing on-street parking where the project would be constructed; and

WHEREAS, City staff is and will continue to be involved in the Project Design Team (PDT) meetings hosted by Caltrans; and

WHEREAS, the City will be able to review and provide comments to Caltrans on the proposed bike/Ped Project; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans staff is seeking letters of support to facilitate the justification and funding of the Bike/Ped Project.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, ORDERED AND FOUND by the City Council of City of Wheatland, State of California, hereby declares its support for Caltrans' efforts to fund and construct certain enhanced bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the westerly side of Highway 65 between McDevitt Drive and Hooper Street.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of City of Wheatland, State of California this 22nd day of September 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Rick West, Mayor

Lisa Thomason, City Clerk