



Meeting Date: August 17, 2020

Agenda Item: 8.1

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San Lorenzo Creekway Master Plan update

Executive Summary:

The Board of Directors will receive an update on the San Lorenzo Creekway Master Plan project.

Financial Impact:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive the update on the San Lorenzo Creekway Master Plan project.

Description of Item:

The presentation summarizes progress to date on the San Lorenzo Creekway Master Plan. Based on community input for more than a decade, HARD and Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (ACFCD) are proposing to transform the County's existing maintenance road along the San Lorenzo Creek (SLC) channel into an approximately five (5) mile long, multi-use, pedestrian and bicycle facility starting at the Bay Trail along the shoreline in San Lorenzo/San Leandro and running through Ashland, Cherryland, Hayward, and further east into the East Bay Regional Park District eventually connecting to the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Phase 1 of the San Lorenzo Creekway is generally determined to be from the Hayward Shoreline through the referenced unincorporated communities to the Japanese Gardens in Downtown Hayward. A key component in the development of Phase 1 is the preparation of a joint grant application to Caltrans' Active Transportation Program (ATP) as a potential funding source for the design and construction of the project. The purpose of ATP is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation by achieving the following goals:

- Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking
- Increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users
- Advance the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction goals, pursuant to SB 375 (of 2008) and SB 341 (of 2009)
- Enhance public health
- Ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program
- Provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users

The applications for this very competitive funding opportunity were originally due on June 15, 2020, but the deadline has been extended to September 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. A separate funding opportunity through the California Natural Resources Agency's Urban Greening Program is being sought by staff for Phase 2 of the Creekway which continues from the Japanese Garden area on up to the Don Castro Regional Recreation Area and beyond.

Background:

HARD staff is working closely with Wallace, Roberts and Todd (WRT) the consultant the District selected on April 6, 2020 to lead the process to advance a series of Trail and Open Space master planning efforts, but in this case, the ATP grant funding opportunity for the San Lorenzo Creekway. The San Lorenzo Creekway planning effort began with a project team kickoff meeting in HARD's offices on January 21, 2020, in which District staff and members of the Consultant team discussed vision, project scope and schedule, data and document needs. The team met on March 3

for a tour of the proposed San Lorenzo Creekway trail alignment. The San Lorenzo Creekway tour was combined with a coordination meeting with ACFCD, our partner on the planning and grant application effort.

The site tour helped inform WRT's analysis of opportunities and constraints for each of the trail planning efforts. Meanwhile, HARD formed a Steering Committee for the Trails and Open Space Master Plan and a group of stakeholders to help guide the San Lorenzo Creekway work. The Steering Committee met on March 24 and the Stakeholders Group met on March 31 (remotely in both cases). Committee members introduced themselves, the planning team introduced the projects and presented the analysis of existing conditions, and the groups discussed vision and opportunities for the trails.

Combined Steering Committee/Stakeholder Group

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alison Abbors Alameda County Planning• Mo Sharma City of Hayward• Jim Wheeler HARD – Recreation• Kathie Ready San Lorenzo Village HOA• Carmen Lopez SLzUSD• Cindy Torres Cherryland Community Association• Matt Turner Trails Advocacy At-Large• Tonya Covarrubias East Bay Regional Park District• Susie Hufstader Bike East Bay• Bruce King Friends of San Lorenzo Creek• Chris Costanzo HARD – Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breann Gala RCD Housing• Wesley Lightfoot Trails Advocacy At-Large• Deborah Cox Asm. Bill Quirk, District 20• Mark Oakman HARD – Public Safety• Diana Maravilla SLzUSD• Joaquin Newman REACH Ashland Youth Center• Gale Bleth City of Hayward Police• Joe Delgado AC Sheriff's Office• Brian Centoni Alameda County Fire• Ernesto Sarmiento Downtown Streets Team• Garrett Contreras Hayward Fire |
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Outreach Summary:

Shortly after the kickoff of the San Lorenzo Creekway Project, Shelter-in-Place in California was enacted in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This has presented both challenges and opportunities to be creative with engagement. The project team had to quickly shift to new, uncharted methods for engagement.

Meaningful public engagement is vital for the San Lorenzo Creekway for several reasons. It is not only required by the ATP application but also helps to build support and champions for the project throughout the area. The goal has been to design a public engagement process that captures the public perception of current and future needs for the San Lorenzo Creekway. The team also wanted to involve a wide range of ages, races, ethnicities and hard-to-reach residents by providing multiple ways for the public to engage, including a variety in location, type, and timing of events; and providing opportunities for engagement to happen within the context of a person's everyday activities.

Methods employed for outreach and engagement over the time period from March 31, 2020 and still continuing include:

- Development of a project specific website that is constantly updated
- Online Survey (4/15 thru 7/22)
- Social Media (ongoing)
- Virtual Community Meetings (5/6, 5/9, and 6/23)
- Press Releases and coordination with local newspapers/news organizations through the District Office
- School Engagement aka Virtual Site Tour
- Flyers/Posters in the public arena
- Pop-ups (small events that are situated nearby to key activity centers like schools or senior centers) have traditionally been used in coordination with larger community meetings to target certain groups for feedback.
- Presentations to the Unincorporated Area Services Committee
- Presentations to the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County

- Presentations to the Eden, Fairview (pending) and Castro Valley (pending) MACs
- Presentation to the Unincorporated County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Next Steps:

Submit the grant application on September 15, 2020. The current round of grant funding is anticipated to be awarded around March or April of next year (2021). If the San Lorenzo Creekway is awarded funds, staff expect that design development and environmental documentation will begin promptly, followed by construction. At this time, it is too soon to say when construction on the grant funded portion of the Creekway will be completed.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
San Lorenzo Creekway Plan	8/11/2020	Exhibit