



UPDATE FROM THE MAY 20, 2014 ALMOND GROVE REHABILITATION PROJECT COMMUNITY MEETING

The Town of Los Gatos held a second community meeting on the Almond Grove District Rehabilitation Project on May 20, 2014. The Town Parks and Public Works staff and the Town's project design consultant presented a PowerPoint presentation on the project that is available on the Town's website at www.LosGatosCA.gov under the Parks and Public Works Capital Improvement Project (CIP) section. Due to concerns regarding traffic speeds during the first community meeting in the fall of 2013, traffic calming measures such as bulb-outs, raised crosswalks and street narrowing were proposed as part of the project. Bulb-outs calm traffic by constricting the roadway width and raised crosswalks act as speed humps, slowing traffic. The purpose of the second community meeting was to gauge public sentiment regarding the proposed traffic calming and aesthetics of the project.

During the course of the meeting, several questions came up in regards to the selection of streets for the phase I and phase II projects. The initial street selection for the phase I project was based on functional classification (collector streets, which have more traffic, were selected over residential streets) and on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of the streets (lower PCI streets, which have greater pavement deterioration, were selected over higher PCI streets).

Several residents were interested in understanding why utilities would not be undergrounded with this project and why traffic circles had not been included in the project scope. Utility undergrounding, though desirable, was cost prohibitive for the project. Grant provided Rule 20A funding is available for undergrounding of utilities, but only on streets that are used most by the general public such as major collector or arterials roadways. The use of traffic circles was reviewed but ultimately viewed as infeasible due to the requirement for additional right of way from property owners adjoining intersections where they would be placed and the inability to install current ADA compliant accessibility ramps.

Comments from the meeting were recorded and comment cards collected to ascertain the desires of the neighborhood. These comments, which include resident views on narrowing of the streets, traffic calming, park strip aesthetics, and effects on the Cat's Hill Bicycle Race, as well as other comments, will be tabulated and considered as the design continues. Staff will also present a preliminary design to the Town's Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) in the near future. Once determined, the HPC meeting date will be posted on the Town's website under the CIP section. Staff intends on holding a follow up meeting for the neighborhood as the design progresses. If you have further questions regarding the project, please contact the Town Engineer, Lisa Petersen, at (408) 399-5773 or lpetersen@losgatosca.gov.