Title: Accept Conceptual Plans and Approve Categorical Exemption for the D.W. Babcock School Access Improvements Project (T15166200)

Location: El Camino Avenue at Albatross Way, Albatross Way, Woolley Way, and Cormorant Way, District 2

Recommendation: Pass a Motion: 1) accepting the conceptual plans for the D.W. Babcock Elementary School Access Improvements Project (T15166200); and 2) approving the Categorical Exemption for the D.W. Babcock Elementary School Access Improvements Project (T15166200)

Contact: Qasid Mehirdel, Associate Civil Engineer (916) 808-6842; Nick Theocharides, Engineering Services Manager (916) 808-5065, Department of Public Works

Presenter: None

Attachments:
1-Description/Analysis
2-Location Map
3-Conceptual Plans
Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: The D.W. Babcock School Access Improvements Project (T15166200) proposes to implement pedestrian improvements and safety improvements near the D.W. Babcock Elementary School in North Sacramento. The project limits include the intersection of El Camino Avenue at Albatross Way; Albatross Way, Woolley Way and Cormorant Way.

The purpose of this project is to improve safety and enhance pedestrian access near the school. The high volumes and relatively high speeds on El Camino Avenue, along with the lack of sidewalks on connecting streets, renders the roadway a barrier for the community, particularly for students walking to and from school.

Proposed improvements include signalizing the intersection of El Camino Avenue at Albatross Way and constructing sidewalk and curb ramps along Albatross Way, Woolley Way, and Cormorant Way. These improvements will provide continuous pedestrian facilities, closing sidewalk gaps that impede walkability. The conceptual plans show the improvements.

Approval of the Categorical Exemption is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to allow staff to complete the design and proceed to construction.

Policy Considerations: The actions requested herein are consistent with the City’s goals of improving and expanding public safety, creating walkable communities, and enhancing overall livability. Specific goals the project addresses are as follows:

M1.2.1 – Multimodal Choices: The City shall develop an integrated, multimodal transportation system that improves the attractiveness of walking, bicycling, and riding transit over time to increase travel choices and aid in achieving a more balanced transportation system and reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

M1.3.2 – Eliminate Gaps: The City shall eliminate “gaps” in roadways, bikeways, and pedestrian networks.

This project is also consistent with the City’s Vision Zero efforts, the goal of which is to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries (Resolution No. 2017-0032). El Camino Avenue is on the High Injury Network.

Proposed improvements will enhance pedestrian safety and mobility in the D.W. Babcock Elementary School communities.

Economic Impacts: None
Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) / National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): The Environmental Planning Services Manager has determined that the proposed improvements, which consist of the operation, repair, and minor alteration of existing public facilities that would result in no expansion of use is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to Guidelines Section 15302. There are no unusual circumstances that might lead to a significant effect, and any cumulative effects of the project have been evaluated in the City’s Master Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which was prepared for the 2035 General Plan.

Because the project has federal funding, the project will be reviewed for NEPA compliance by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Sustainability: The project is consistent with Sustainability Master plan goal of promoting walking by developing a universally accessible, safe, convenient, integrated and well-connected pedestrian system.

Commission/Committee Action: None

Rationale for Recommendation: The acceptance of the conceptual plans and approval of the Categorical Exemption are necessary to proceed with the next phases of the project.

Financial Considerations: The total estimated cost to complete Preliminary Engineering: Environmental Documentation and Design is $547,000. Sufficient funding is available in T15166200 to complete this phase of work.

Upon completion of Preliminary Engineering, staff will request allocation of federal funds that have been programmed by the state for right of way and construction and will return to the City Council for appropriate action.

There are no general funds planned or allocated for this project.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.
Conceptual Plans for the D.W. Babcock School Access Improvements Project - T15166200

New sidewalk (gap closure), re-stripe crosswalk

New sidewalk with bulbout, ADA-compliant ped ramps, new crosswalks

New signalized intersection, ADA-compliant ped ramps, new crosswalks

D.W. Babcock Elementary School

Babcock Park

Silica Ave

Highway 80

El Camino Ave

Alhambra Way

Woolley Way

Comorant Way

Silica Ave

PROJECT SCOPE