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Work to begin for safer intersection this summer

By Vera Kochan



The intersection at Canyon Road and Camino Pablo during rush hour, with bicyclists and cars driving north, south and east. Photo Vera Kochan

flash beacons, improved intersection lighting and a speed feedback sign in the northbound direction.

During the Jan. 23 town council meeting, Public Works Director Edric Kwan requested and received approval for the Moraga Road/Alta Mesa Intersection Improvements Grant. This intersection is the second most dangerous for pedestrians since 2011 with 27 accidents, three of which involved trips to the hospital for pedestrians.

Kwan stated, "Twenty-two other agencies are vying for the OBAG funding. We need to contribute local funds by matching 50 percent of their grant funds to have a more competitive application." He assured the council that the town's funding of the Moraga Road/Alta Mesa project "has already been included in the budget and will not detract from another project.

"We will make sure that any improvements are safe," Kwan added, "but within our budget." He anticipates construction to begin in 2020.

When asked by the town council if Kwan has received negative public feedback about the intersection, he confirmed that he has received quite a few phone calls. Moraga Chief of Police Jon King interjected, "I get a lot of complaints about the crosswalk; a lot of near misses."

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