



MORAGA

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Town approves Moraga Road Drainage Improvement Project



Image Provided

port from Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Senior Civil Engineer Farah Khorashadi, "The desired engineered solution would contain the runoff and channel it to existing or new storm drain inlets without constructing improvements in Laguna Creek on the east side and possible seasonal wetlands (low areas of open space or shoulder) along the west side of Moraga Road, that are considered habitat for possible endangered species." By designing drainage improvements in the existing Moraga Road area the town will cut down on expenses.

The consultant's costs will include a Research and Data Review (collecting various reports and information); Site Investigation and Surveys (field investigations to assess existing conditions); Utility and Public Coordination (consult with various utility companies in the event that relocation of utility equipment is necessary); Plans, Specifications and Estimates (are due to the town for construction advertisement by July 2022); and Construction Support (assist the town during the construction bid process).

By Vera Kochan

In anticipation of a normal year of rainfall, Moraga's Public Works Department is attempting to stave off the Moraga Road flooding that occurs as a result of the runoff from the Painted Rock open space area. An approximately 500-foot length of the street near Rheem Boulevard experiences the runoff causing an inconvenience to drivers and cyclists.

The town council unanimously approved awarding a professional services agree-

ment for engineering design services to CSG Consultants (Pleasanton, Calif.) in the amount of \$57,500, including a 15% contingency of \$7,500, during its Feb. 23 meeting. The Fiscal Year 2021-22 Adopted Budget includes this project which will involve improving drainage on the east side of Moraga Road between Dolores Court and Hansen Court. The project is expected to take two years to complete with an estimated budget of \$303,500 coming from Fund 770 Storm Drain Impact Fees.

According to a staff re-

Local Road Safety Plan in the works

By Vera Kochan

The State of California is federally required to have a Strategic Highway Safety Plan aimed at reducing traffic accident fatalities and serious injuries on its public roads. To that end, Moraga's town council unanimously approved the hiring of Pleasanton-based TJKM Transportation Consultants to develop a Local Road Safety Plan.

During its Feb. 23 meeting, council members agreed to award \$51,355 (which includes a 15% contingency of \$6,698) to TJKM to create the plan. Funding for the study is within the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Adopted Budget of \$85,000. The Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant (Fund 005) will provide \$40,000 toward costs with Measure J (Fund 210) taking care of the rest.

According to the staff report by Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Senior Civil Engineer Bret Swain, "The SHSP, and a LRSP, are developed to address the 4 E's of traffic safety: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Services. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) establish guidelines for the preparation of a

LRSP."

TJKM has broken up the project into tasks. Task 1, Visioning, Project Initiation, and Management, will entail the development of a vision statement for the LRSP; include attendance at 3-5 virtual stakeholder meetings; include attendance of 2-3 town council meetings; attendance at community engagement meetings; preparing materials for all meetings; and provide budget and work progress updates.

In Task 2, Document Review, TJKM will review pertinent documents designed to help establish goals for improved safety accommodations for motorists and pedestrians. Much of the review will pertain to guidelines set forth by Moraga's General Plan, Caltrans, SHSP, the United States Department of Transportation and FHWA.

The third Task is Data Collection, in which TJKM will examine the latest available five-year collision history in order to investigate before identifying potential countermeasures. They will also conduct a field review in order to get a grasp of Moraga's roadway network and collect roadway characteristics such as travel patterns, roadway width, speed (posted and actual), traffic volumes, curves and roadway classifications.

Task 4, Collision and

Roadway Data Analysis, will involve the review of data with regards to predominant collision types and the roadway features that may have been in place. The characteristics will be reviewed to determine if there were flaws in the roadway designs.

In Task 5, Propose Ordinances and Policies, TJKM may offer suggestions as to new ordinances and policies in order to enhance local road safety.

Task 6, Countermeasure Selection, involves proposing countermeasures based on the information gathered in various scenarios dealing with collisions identified, roadway design and conditions. Countermeasures could include signals at intersections, roadway segments and the use of crash reduction factors.

Developing Safety Projects is Task 7. TJKM will create a prioritized list of safety projects and will include cost estimates, mapping and a cost/benefit ratio of proposed safety improvements.

Lastly, Task 8 is the presentation of the administrative Final Local Roadway Safety Plan to town staff and Caltrans for comments and revisions.

It is hoped that TJKM completes the LRSP in time for the town council's July 13 meeting for adoption.

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Town Council:
 Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission:
 Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:
 Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Tuesday, March 8, 6 p.m.
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